



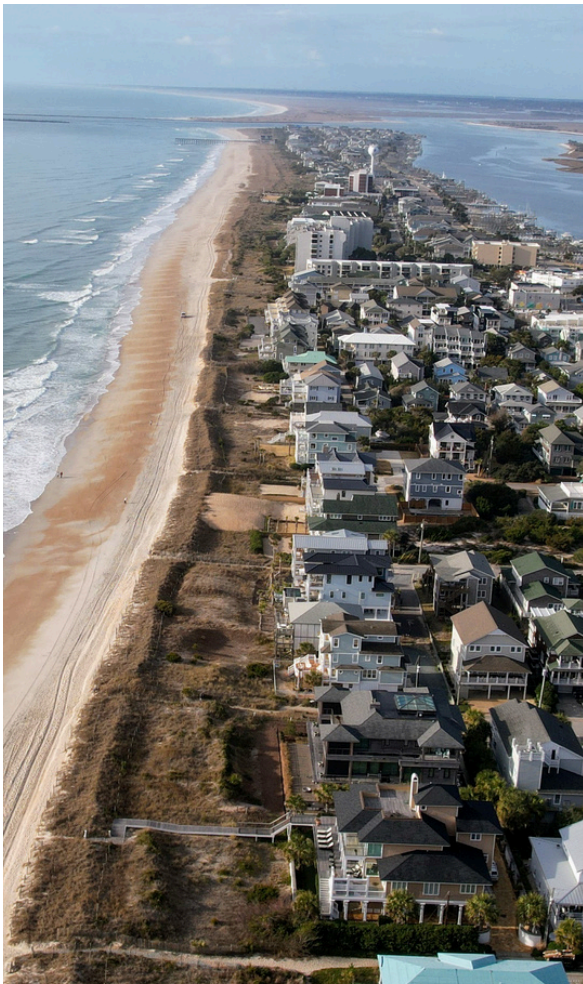
VOICES TO VOTES NC

THE LOCAL LOOP

JULY ISSUE

WELCOME TO THE LOCAL LOOP!

Voices to Votes NC is a nonpartisan coalition working to educate and empower citizens on local government, boost voter participation well beyond the 21% turnout seen in the last municipal election, and build stronger communities by helping **elect leaders who truly listen, care, and prioritize the needs of the people they serve.**



IN THIS ISSUE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT 101

WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

DID YOU KNOW?

NCDOT AND WMPO

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

EDEN VILLAGE

CITIZEN VOICES

NHC STAFF

TAKE ACTION

REGISTRATION REPAIR TOOL

UNDERSTANDING THE TERMS

CRONYISM

Local Government 101

WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Wilmington's City Council includes **six council members and the mayor**, all elected at-large every two years in **nonpartisan** elections.

Council members shape local policy and are responsible for:

- **How We Grow:** Land Planning, Zoning Decisions, Development
- **Safety:** Streets, Police, Fire
- **Environment:** Water Quality, Trash Collection, Tree Canopy, Green Spaces

It's a big commitment — council members spend hours each week in meetings, briefings, work sessions, and on various committees, making **key decisions that impact our daily lives**.



LEARN MORE AT [WILMINGTONNC.GOV](https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov)



Do You Know...



WHO CONTROLS OUR ROADS AND INTERSECTIONS?

Most major roads and intersections in Wilmington are planned and funded by the **North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)**. Smaller streets and neighborhood roads are typically maintained and financed by the city.

NCDOT

NCDOT works closely with the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) to coordinate regional road improvements, manage access for new developments to NCDOT-controlled roads, and oversee related expenditures.

WMPO

WMPO is a federally mandated and funded regional transportation planning agency. Its board includes elected officials from Wilmington and surrounding counties, as well as a representative from NCDOT.

Before new developments receive approval, WMPO reviews proposed plans to evaluate their potential impacts on local roads and intersections. The agency determines whether proposed access points to public streets are acceptable and may recommend or require specific traffic improvements to be completed by the developer as a condition of final project approval.



LEARN MORE AT WMPO.ORG



Celebrate Success

EDEN VILLAGE

Eden Village of Wilmington is a 31-unit, pedestrian-only tiny home community that provides permanent, **affordable housing** for disabled and chronically homeless individuals. Located next to the airport and adjacent to the Salvation Army Complex, residents have access to transportation, job training, and support services.



Each resident pays \$300 per month and must have a source of income, with most receiving about \$1,000 per month from government assistance.

Learn more at edenvillagewilmington.org

Citizen Voices

INTERVIEW WITH LANEY HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR



Laney High counselor Adrienne Vaughan offers a firsthand look at how overcrowded classrooms, rising student anxiety, and teacher burnout are straining our schools.

“Our facilities are stuck in 1976. If the population continues to increase and the tax dollars for the county rise, the money should be invested in education. Students and teachers should be learning in updated facilities.”

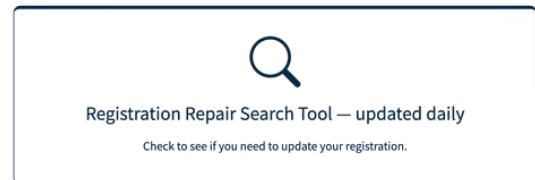
READ THE FULL INTERVIEW



Take Action

2,000+ VOTERS MUST UPDATE REGISTRATION

With the November 4th election approaching, now is the time to start learning about local issues and candidates. The more informed you are, the more confident you'll feel when it's time to cast your vote.



More than 2,000 New Hanover County residents must update their voter registration to remain eligible for the upcoming municipal election. If your registration is missing key information—such as your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number—you'll need to update it to avoid potential issues at the polls.

REGISTRATION REPAIR TOOL



Understanding the Terms

Political jargon can get confusing, but we're here to make it simple.

CRONYISM : the practice where individuals in positions of power favor their friends, associates, or loyal supporters when making appointments or awarding contracts.

Your **voice**—and your **vote**—can help shape **who gets appointed** and **how decisions are made**.

Stay engaged. Demand balance.
Support transparency.

