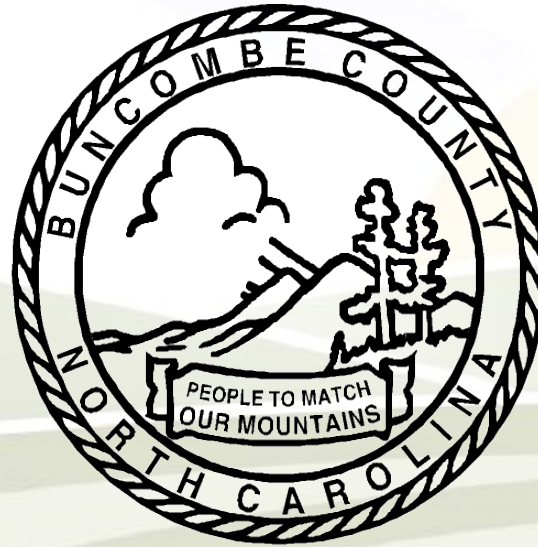


Budget in Brief



FY 2012



2012 Budget Highlights

Commissioner Objectives

- Maintain Core Services
- Protect Jobs
- Maintain Current Tax Rate

State Budget Pressures

- Projected state budget deficit > \$2.5 billion
- Cost shift to NC Counties

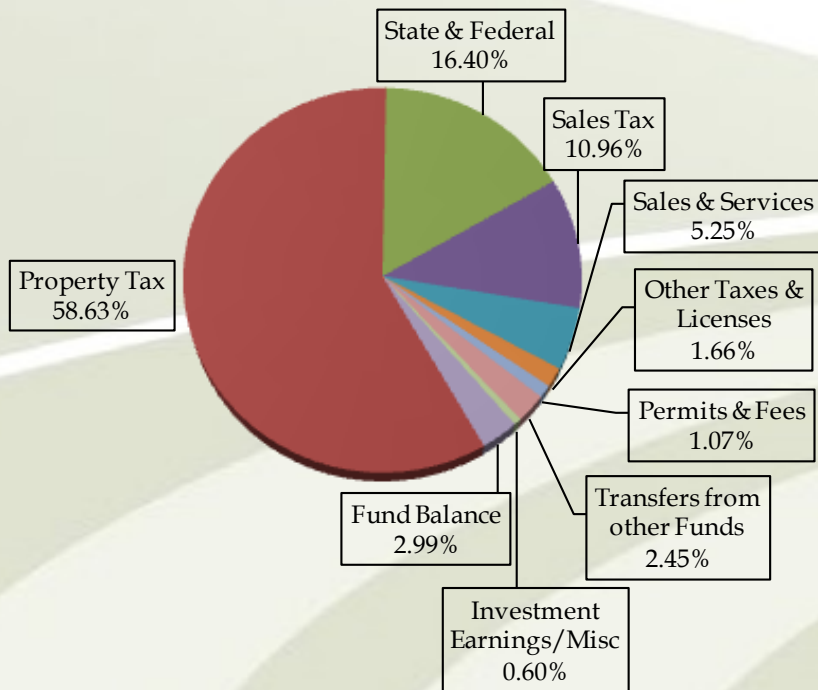
Other Budget Drivers

- Continued economic decline impacting growth related revenues
- Expiration of Federal Stimulus Funds in FY2013

- ✓ The total operating budget for Buncombe County is \$333,668,251. The total General Fund budget for FY12 is \$257,470,263, this is an increase of 1.81% from the FY11 adopted General Fund budget.
- ✓ The FY12 budget maintains the current tax rate of 52.5 cents per \$100 of property value.
- ✓ Funding for our core services – *Education, Public Safety, and Human Services* – is maintained in the FY12 budget. The 2012 budget provides an increase for Education to fund operating costs associated with two new Buncombe County intermediate schools. These schools will accommodate fifth and sixth graders and address overcrowding issues at the elementary and middle school levels.
- ✓ Departmental reduction plans of 3, 5, 7, and 10% were implemented resulting in \$7.9 million in expenditure reductions and the elimination of 93 County positions. These reduction plans contributed to:
 - A leaner, more focused organization
 - Partnerships created with community agencies and private providers to administer transportation services, workforce development programs, and prenatal services
- ✓ Jobs were protected as a majority of the 93 eliminated positions were placed in partner agencies and organizations.
- ✓ The FY12 budget addresses mandates and other needs including increased caseload growth in Social Services, a state mandated retirement system increase, increased health insurance costs, additional salary for temporary positions in the Sheriff's Department, and funding for a compensation study to be completed in FY12.
- ✓ The FY12 budget includes a fund balance appropriation of \$7,692,536. Fund balance appropriation is one means to lower the burden on property tax owners. We appropriate fund balance each year with the challenge to save the appropriated amount; historically we have been able to do this.
- ✓ During the budget process we set property tax rates for 27 other taxing districts – 26 fire, ambulance and rescue service districts and 1 school district. None of these agencies requested an increase in the property tax rate.

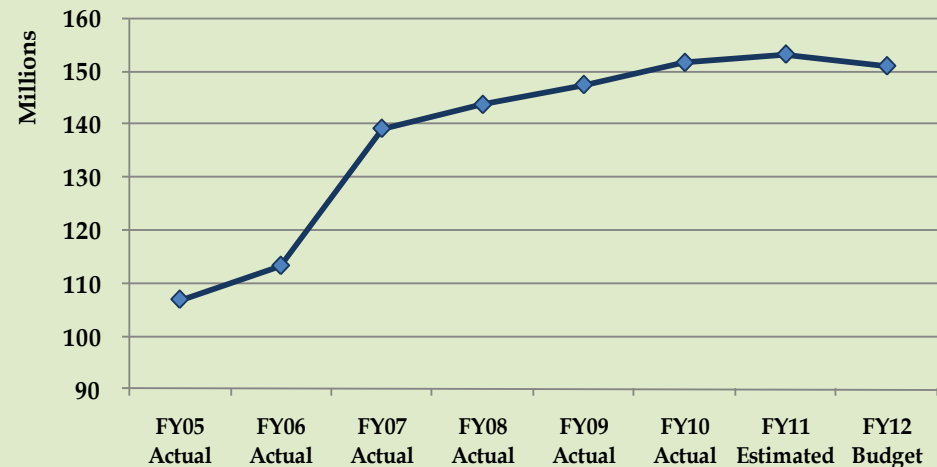
Where Does The Money Come From?

General Fund Revenue Sources	
Property Tax	\$ 150,958,603
State & Federal	42,221,116
Sales Tax	28,213,411
Sales & Services	13,512,216
Other Taxes & Licenses	4,283,783
Permits & Fees	2,749,745
Transfers from other Funds	6,302,705
Investment Earnings/Misc	1,536,148
Fund Balance	7,692,536
Total Revenue	\$ 257,470,263



The General Fund derives its revenue from a variety of sources. The County's largest revenue source is Ad Valorem, or property tax, which accounts for 59% of the General Fund revenues for FY2012. In 2006, Buncombe County conducted its revaluation by the County Tax Department staff. The 2006-07 tax rate was reduced from \$0.59 to \$0.53 per \$100 of property value based on the increase in property values from \$18.9 billion to \$26.2 billion. The tax rate was reduced again in fiscal year 2007-08 from \$0.53 to \$0.525. It has remained at \$0.525 for the 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 fiscal years.

Ad Valorem



(Prior Year Actual/Estimated revenue includes penalties and interest revenue)

Where Does The Money Go?

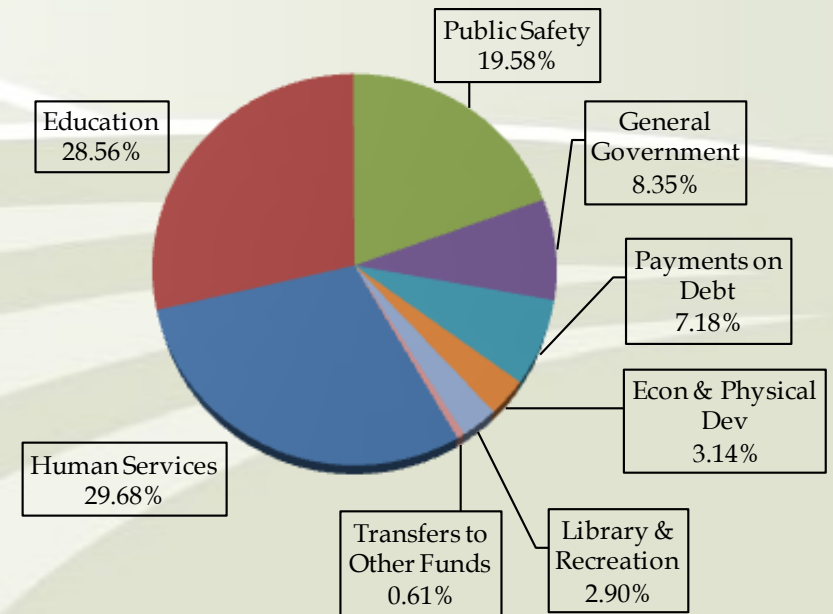
General Fund Appropriations	
Human Services	\$ 76,416,979
Education	73,544,081
Public Safety	50,416,443
General Government	21,501,074
Payments on Debt	18,486,798
Econ & Physical Dev	8,071,935
Library & Recreation	7,464,030
Transfers to Other Funds	1,568,923
Total Appropriation	\$ 257,470,263

Like all North Carolina counties, our core businesses are education, human services, and public safety. Core businesses include: Buncombe County Schools; Asheville City Schools; Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College; social services, health, child care services, youth services, aging programs, mental health; detention center; sheriff operations; homeland security; emergency management; emergency medical services; court support; and juvenile detention.

Core business budgets consume 83% (\$214,325,313) of our FY2012 General Fund Budget Estimate. We generate \$61,707,736 in revenues to cover a portion of these costs; however, it takes all the budgeted property tax to cover the balance of the core service costs.

Buncombe County organizes its expenditures into several different categories, or functions, based on the intended use of funds:

- General Government – provides administrative support for County government, and includes Governing Body, County Manager, Finance, Tax, Elections, Human Resources, Register of Deeds, and Information Technology.
- Public Safety – includes the Sheriff’s Department, Detention Center, EMS, and other departments that work to protect the safety of our citizens.
- Human Services – includes Public Health, Social Services, Youth and Aging Services.
- Economic & Physical Development – includes Planning, Economic Development, Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation, and Recycling.
- Culture & Recreation – includes Parks, Greenways, and Recreation; Buncombe County Libraries; and Arts, Museum, and History.
- Education – includes Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

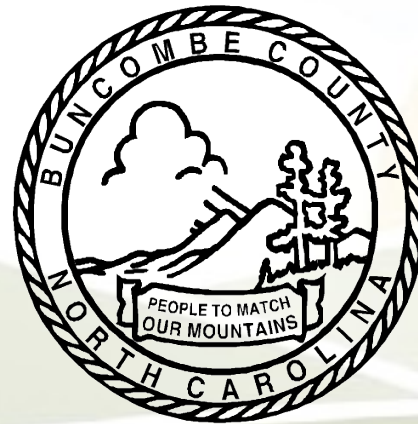
David Gantt, Chairman
William H. Stanley, Vice Chair
Carol Peterson
K. Ray Bailey
Holly Jones

COUNTY MANAGER

Wanda S. Greene, PhD, CPA

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Donna B. Clark



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