

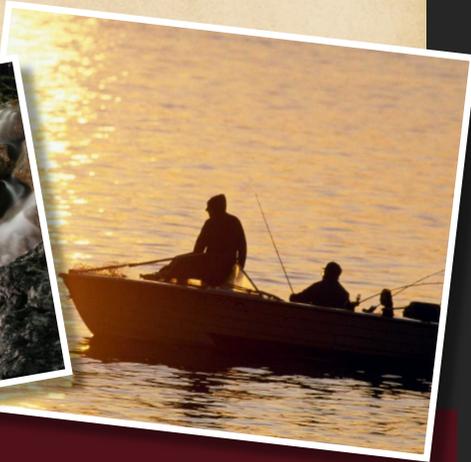
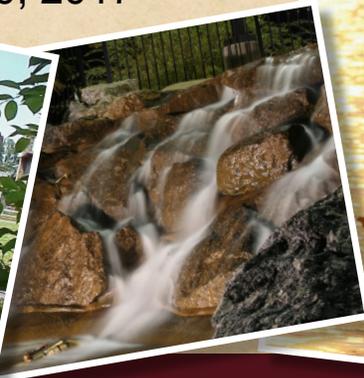
2017



Annual  
**FINANCIAL  
HIGHLIGHTS**  
Catawba County, North Carolina



Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30, 2017



# Board of Commissioners



*Front (l to r): Dan A. Hunsucker, C. Randall Isenhower - Chair  
Back (l to r): Sherry E. Butler, Katherine W. "Kitty" Barnes,  
Barbara G. Beatty - Vice Chair*

## Catawba County Government

In 1937, Catawba County became the third county in the State to adopt the council-manager form of government. The Board of Commissioners is comprised of a five-member board elected at large on staggered terms in a countywide election. The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making and legislative authority for the County. It is responsible for adopting the annual budget, approving zoning and planning issues and other matters related to the health and welfare of the County. The Board makes appointments to various boards and commissions and appoints the County Manager.

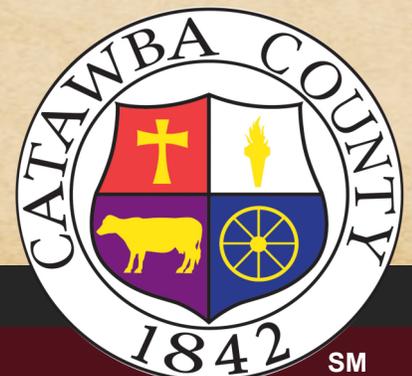
The County Manager is the Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for enforcement of

laws and ordinances, preparation and administration of the annual budget, delivery of services, implementing policies, managing daily operations and appointment of department heads.

Catawba County provides its citizens with a broad range of services that include public safety, environmental protection, health and human services, cultural and recreational programs, community and economic development, and education.

### IN THIS REPORT

Board of Commissioners . . . . .	2
Catawba County Government . . . . .	2
Management's Message . . . . .	3
Community Profile . . . . .	4
Financial Highlights . . . . .	5
Operating Revenues & Expenses . . . . .	6
Accounting Terminology . . . . .	6
Financial Trend Summary . . . . .	7
General Fund . . . . .	8
Long-term Debt . . . . .	9
Capital Investments . . . . .	9
Economic Outlook . . . . .	11
Achievements . . . . .	15



# Management's Message

## Citizens of Catawba County:

We are pleased to present the 2017 Catawba County Financial Highlights. This report is an opportunity to present the financial activity of Catawba County in an open and transparent manner.

In today's complex world of financial reporting, analyzing financial statements can be a challenge—especially for those without accounting backgrounds. This report was designed to address that issue by providing a recap of your County government's finances in an easy to read format.

The financial statements used in this report are simplified and condensed to reflect financial information regarding Catawba County's government-wide information. The County's government-wide financial statements provide information on revenues, expenses, and net position of Catawba County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

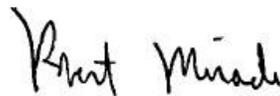
Most of the information in this report is drawn from the financial information appearing in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The CAFR is a more detailed and complete financial presentation prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and was audited by the County's independent external auditors. While the financial data in this report conforms with GAAP, the statistical, economic and demographic data are taken from various sources and are not necessarily GAAP based. Additional financial information can be found in the CAFR, available at Catawba County public libraries and online at [www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/finance/](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/finance/).

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact the Chief Financial Officer at (828) 465-8210, or write to: Chief Financial Officer, Catawba County, P.O. Box 389, Newton, NC 28658.

Sincerely,



Mick Berry  
County Manager



Robert Miracle  
Chief Financial Officer



# About Catawba County



Located in a peaceful valley just east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Catawba

County is conveniently located within a 1-hour drive to Charlotte, Asheville, and Winston-Salem, and affords easy access to both Interstate 40 and Highway 321. The County's mid-Atlantic location is halfway between New York and Miami and includes a land of scenic beauty and diverse cultures with a large industrial workforce. Three beautiful lakes are located within its 414 square miles, and the Catawba River winds along its western, northern and eastern border.

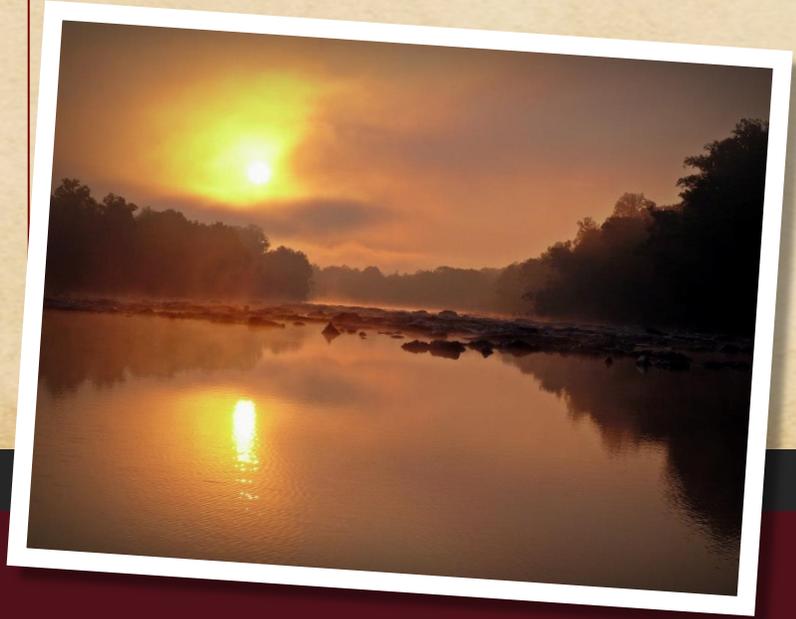
Scotch-Irish settlers who arrived in 1747.

Catawba County was officially established on December 12, 1842 when Lincoln County was divided by an act of the North Carolina General Assembly. The County has eight cities and towns within its boundaries, and is home to a population of 156,182 residents, which positions it as the 17<sup>th</sup> largest county in North Carolina and one of the 27 urban counties with population of 100,000 or more.

Catawba County has it all –beautiful climate, with four seasons that are distinct as they are mild, unique places to work, low cost of living, vast array of recreational opportunities, arts and culture and an unparalleled lifestyle. It is an ideal place to live, work, play, rear a family and retire.



Early Catawbans were German and Scotch-Irish, who initially settled in Pennsylvania and migrated to the south when converging factors of crowding and under-employment evolved. The County is named for the river and the Catawba Indians who settled in the valley and welcomed the first German and

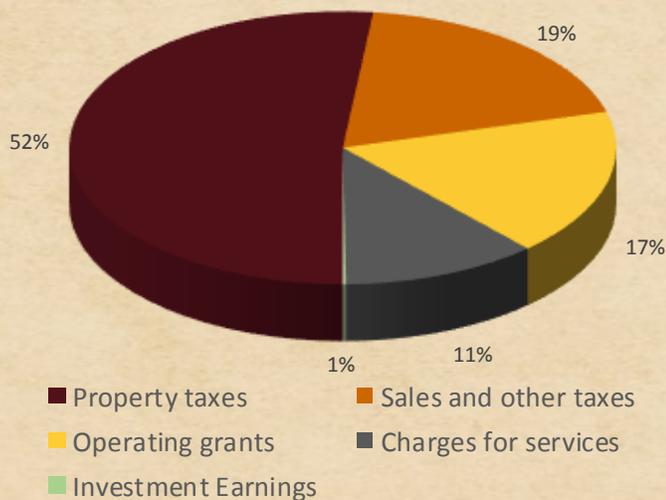


# 2017 Financial Highlights

## REVENUES

Local governments rely heavily on tax revenues for operating governmental and business-type activities. Catawba County is no exception, 71% of the total operating revenue is attributed to taxes, which consist mainly of sales tax and property tax.

**2017 Revenues by Source**  
(General & Program Revenues)



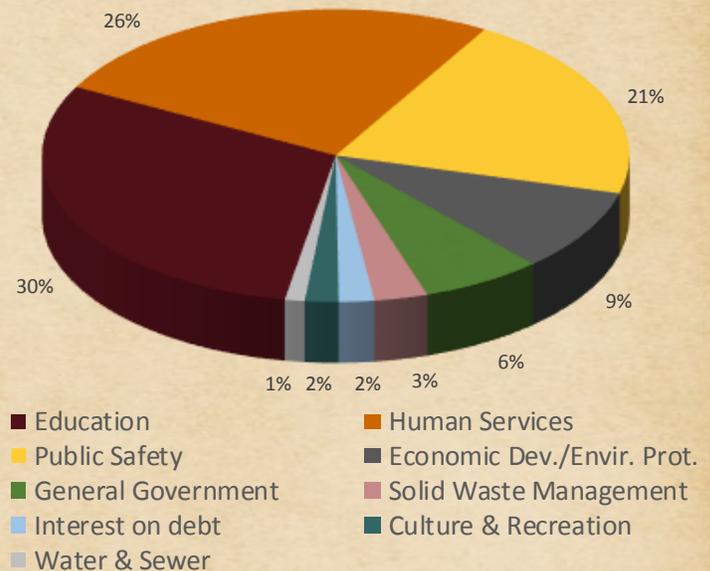
- **Property tax**, the County's largest single revenue source, accounted for \$102.5 million or 52% of governmental revenue. The property tax rate of \$0.575 for every \$100 of value is below the State average of \$0.663 making Catawba County's tax rate the 24th lowest of all 100 counties in North Carolina.
- **Sales tax** accounted for \$37.5 million or 19% of revenue. Catawba County remains a retail magnet. In 2017, taxable sales increased by 9%, on top of a healthy 8% increase the year before. Shopping in Catawba County helps support local business and keeps property taxes low.

**EXPENSES** The County incurs a number of expenses to provide a variety of quality services to its citizens.

- **Education:** Catawba County Schools, Newton-Conover City Schools, Hickory City Schools and Catawba Valley Community College.

- **Human Services:** Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Medical Examiner.
- **Public Safety:** Sheriff, Emergency Services, Fire/Rescue Services, Veterans Services, Animal Control, E911 and Communication Center.
- **Economic Development & Planning:** Planning & Zoning, 3 County Parks, Utilities & Engineering and Facilities.
- **Environmental Protection:** Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation and Forest Ranger.

**2017 Expenses by Function**  
(Government-wide)



- **General Government:** County Management, Board of Commissioners, Legal, Budget, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Board of Elections, Human Resources, Self Insurance, Register of Deeds, Finance and Purchasing.
- **Solid Waste Management:** Blackburn Landfill, Recycling, Convenience Centers, Household Hazardous Waste and Methane Recovery.
- **Culture and Recreation:** 7 County Libraries and other cultural activities.
- **Water and Sewer:** Water & Sewer Management.

### Condensed Financial Statement

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was prepared in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and audited by the County's independent auditors, receiving an unqualified, clean opinion.

Although the financial information in this report come from an audited source, they are presented here in a condensed, unaudited, non-GAAP format and does not represent all of the County's component units.

For a copy of the full 2017 CAFR, which contains more detailed financial information along with the notes to the financial statements, please contact Catawba County Finance at (828)465-8210 or visit [www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov)

# Financial Trend Summary

## Accounting Terminology

**General Fund** The chief operating fund of the County

**Enterprise Funds** Solid Waste Management and Water & Sewer funded by fees charged to users

**Capital Outlay Funds** spent to purchase or construct buildings, machinery, vehicles, etc

**Total Fund Balance** The difference between assets and deferred outflow of resources and liabilities and deferred inflow of resources of a fund

**Nonspendable Fund Balance** The portion of fund balance that cannot be spent because the underlying resources are not in spendable form

**Restricted Fund Balance** The portion of fund balance that represents resources subject to externally enforceable constraints

**Committed Fund Balance** The portion of fund balance that represents resources whose use is subject to legally binding constraints imposed by the County itself

**Assigned Fund Balance** The portion of fund balances set aside by the County for a particular purpose

**Unassigned Fund Balance** The difference between total fund balance and its nonspendable, restricted, committed and assigned components

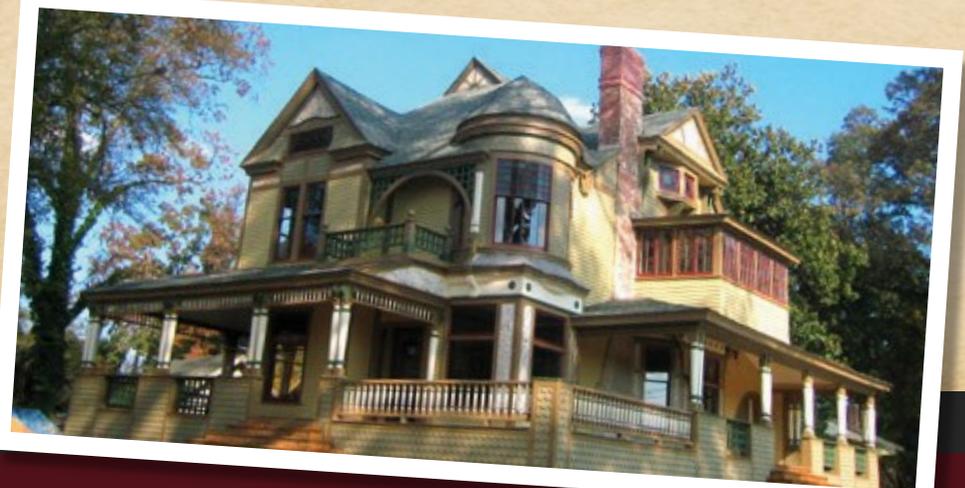
**Government-wide** The County as a whole

**Governmental Activities** The County's basic services such as Education, Human Services, Public Safety, Economic Development, Parks and Libraries

**Net Position** The difference between assets and deferred outflow of resources and liabilities and deferred inflow of resources for the County as a whole

The government-wide financial data below is intended to provide a big picture overview of key financial metrics for the past three years.

	2017	2016	2015
<b>All Funds</b>			
Assets and Deferred Outflows	\$ 433,653,162	\$ 389,981,037	\$ 381,130,960
Liabilities and Deferred Inflows	<u>225,033,238</u>	<u>187,417,308</u>	<u>202,480,494</u>
Net Position	\$ 208,619,924	\$ 202,563,729	\$ 178,650,466
<b>Revenues</b>			
Governmental Activities	\$ 189,403,207	\$ 188,310,805	\$ 182,623,704
Business-type Activities	<u>8,620,651</u>	<u>9,355,430</u>	<u>9,391,249</u>
Total	\$ 198,023,858	\$ 197,666,235	\$ 192,014,953
<b>Expenses</b>			
Governmental Activities	\$ 182,578,388	\$ 166,126,876	\$ 160,811,487
Business-type Activities	<u>7,649,047</u>	<u>7,626,096</u>	<u>7,191,147</u>
Total	\$ 190,227,435	\$ 173,752,972	\$ 168,002,634
<b>Capital Assets - net of depreciation</b>			
Governmental Activities	\$ 122,258,095	\$ 113,584,561	\$ 100,441,500
Business-type Activities	<u>67,731,181</u>	<u>65,452,782</u>	<u>64,149,144</u>
Total	\$ 189,989,276	\$ 179,037,343	\$ 164,590,644
<b>Long-term Debt Outstanding</b>			
Governmental Activities	\$ 159,727,269	\$ 136,732,524	\$ 147,260,210
Business-type Activities	<u>10,528,106</u>	<u>11,770,466</u>	<u>13,005,967</u>
Total	\$ 170,255,375	\$ 148,502,990	\$ 160,266,177
<b>Fund Balance</b>			
General Fund			
Nonspendable	\$ 2,106,656	\$ 2,606,078	\$ 2,031,904
Restricted	27,343,813	26,413,035	24,274,289
Committed	173,005	172,990	165,832
Assigned	11,706,553	15,073,442	12,389,476
Unassigned	38,512,665	34,098,284	21,646,494





## TREND VARIANCIES

- The County's net position increased by \$6.06M this year. The increase is primarily related to increased revenues in property and sales tax and charges for services along with management's focus on prudent spending. Continued diligence in the collection of property taxes resulted in a collection rate of 98.3%.
- Governmental activities revenue increased by \$1.09M or .58%, compared to the prior year. Sales and property tax revenue accounted for the majority of the increase this year compared to last. The business-type activities revenue decreased by -7.85%, compared to the prior year. Lower investment earnings accounted for the majority of this decrease compared to the prior year.
- Expenses increased by \$16.5M from the prior year. Public safety increased \$4.5M as major construction continues on the Justice Center expansion project. Additional increases were in the areas of education of \$6.8M and economic/physical development of \$1.8M. Expenses remained consistent in the business-type activities.
- The County's investment in capital assets increased \$10.9M as compared to an \$14.4M increase in the prior year. The increase was a result of the purchase of new public safety vehicles, additional equipment for the NC911 Center, park expansions and improvements, increase in construction in progress for the Justice Center expansion and additional landfill equipment.
- Total debt of \$170.3M increased \$21.8M during the year as compared to the prior year. The County issued new debt for the construction and improvements of various school capital projects throughout the County along with debt refunding of \$50.5M. The County continued debt payments of \$28M in the current year.
- The 2017 General Fund assigned fund balance was \$41.3M with \$38.5M unassigned, an overall increase in the aggregate from the prior year of \$1.5M or 1.28% due in part to the increase in property and sales tax revenue.

### 2017 Catawba County Principal Employers

- Catawba County Schools
- Catawba Valley Medical Center
- CommScope, Inc.
- Duke LifePoint/Frye Regional Medical Center
- HSM Solutions (Hickory Springs)
- Corning Cable Systems
- Catawba County Government
- GKN Driveline
- Pierre Foods
- Sherrill Furniture

### 2017 Top 10 Taxpayers

14.47% of the County's assessed value

- Apple, Inc.
- Duke Energy Corporation
- GKN Driveline Newton, LLC
- CommScope, Inc.
- Corning Cable Systems
- Target Corporation
- Draka Comteq Americas, Inc.
- Duke LifePoint/Frye Regional Medical Center
- HSM Solutions
- Valley Hills Mall, LLC

# General Fund

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the County and supports the regular day-day operations. This fund captures the general revenues and expenditures of primary governmental activities including education, public safety, human services, parks, libraries and general government. Unlike the government-wide financial statement presented previously, the general fund is presented using a current resources focus (amounts to be collected or paid in the near term).

## 2017 Where the Money Comes From



Property and Sales Tax represent the most significant source of revenue for the General Fund representing 70% of the total revenue collected. Other major categories of revenue in the General Fund are shown above.

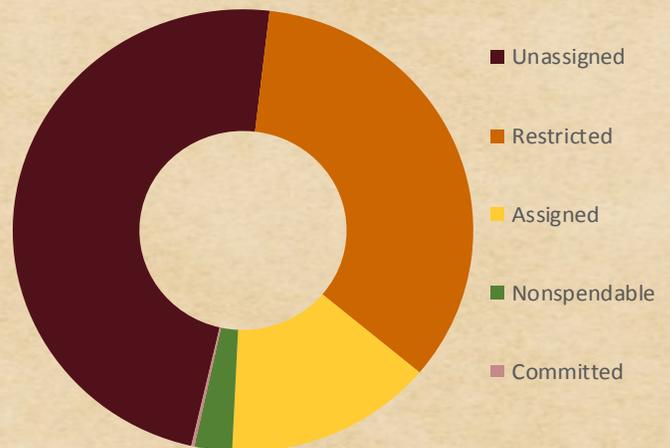
Once the County collects revenues, the funds must be spent efficiently to provide services to citizens and businesses. The General Fund finances the regular day-to-day operations of the County.

In 2017, the General Fund expenditures of \$169 million were lower than budget by \$12.9 million. This conservative approach to spending is a hallmark of the County.

## 2017 Where the Money Goes



## 2017 Fund Balance



## FUND BALANCE

Fund Balance is the excess of what is owned (assets) over what is owed (debts and liabilities). For FY2017, the ending fund balance of the general fund was \$79.8 million. Of this fund balance, \$38.5 is available for spending at the Boards' discretion (referred to as unassigned fund balance.) The Board of Commissioners have set a goal for maintaining an unassigned fund balance of no less than 16% of general fund expenditures. This equates to 2 months of operating expenditures in case of unforeseen needs or opportunities, in addition to meeting the cash flow needs of the County. The County has consistently exceeded this goal. For FY2017, the County has unassigned fund balance is 22% of general fund expenditures.



# Capital Investments

## LONG-TERM DEBT

As of June 30th, 2017, the County had various outstanding long-term debt which included \$9.3M of certificates of participation, \$78.3M of installment purchases, \$250K qualified zone academy bonds, \$27.8M qualified school construction bonds, \$51.6M limited obligation bonds, \$2.1M North Carolina department of commerce and \$975K in federal revolving loans. As of June 30th, 2017, the County outstanding debt obligations consist of the following purposes: Education, Public Safety Jail Expansion, Water and Sewer Projects and Economic Development Data Center.

Catawba County maintained for the 8th consecutive year its Aa1 bond rating from Moody's Investors Service and for the 13th consecutive year, its AA rating from Standard and Poor's. These strong ratings allow the County to issue debt, vital to the County infrastructure, at a lower cost and reflect the sound financial condition of the County.

North Carolina general statutes limit the amount of debt that a unit of local government can issue. The County's total debt outstanding is \$170,255,375 compared to the legal debt limit of \$1,143,440,039 or 13% of the legal debt limit. For 2017, the outstanding debt per capita was \$1,091.

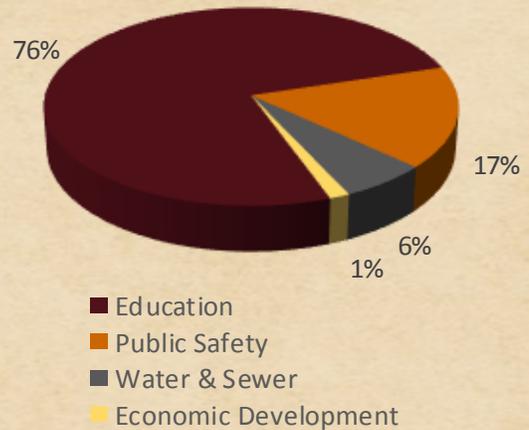
## CAPITAL ASSETS

Catawba County continues strategic investments in the high priority areas of education, public safety, economic development and quality of life.

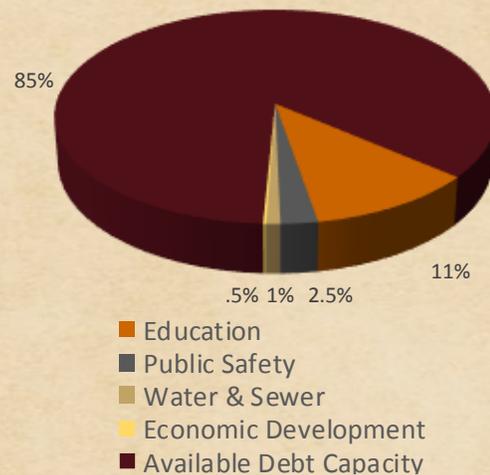
### Catawba County's Total Capital Assets (net of depreciation)



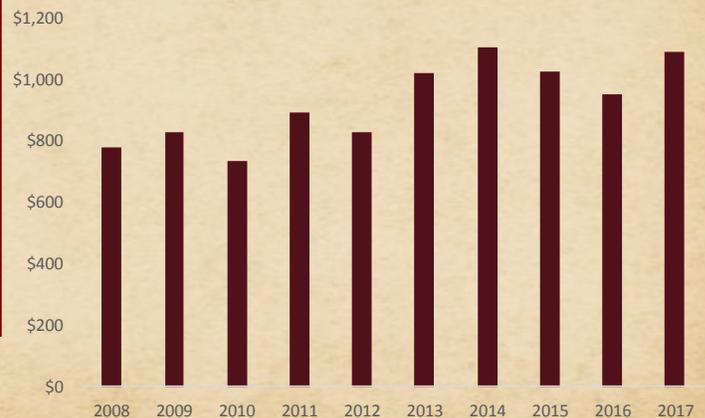
## Uses of Outstanding Debt 2017



## 2017 County Debt Capacity



## Outstanding Debt Per Capita 2008-2017



As of June 30, 2017, the County's capital assets for both its governmental and business-type activities amounted to \$107,637,319 in depreciable assets (net of depreciation) and \$82,351,957 in nondepreciable assets. The capital assets include land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, plant and distribution systems/water lines, machinery, equipment, vehicles and construction in progress.

Below are highlights of a few major projects in progress or completed in fiscal year 2017.

### Justice Center Expansion

Opening in the fall of 2017, the new Justice Center expansion will culminate 10 years of planning and construction. The expansion will add \$125,640 square feet, approximately half of which is dedicated to new courtrooms and court related space. The other half will house a new E-911 Communication Center, and Emergency Operations Center, Veteran's Services, EMS Administration and other Emergency Services personnel.



### Workforce Solutions Center CVCC

The 83,000 square-foot facility will create state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratory spaces to teach advanced manufacturing skills and other technical skills. It will house technology and engineering programs, including Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineer-



ing, Computer Integrated Machining, Electronics Engineering, Automotive Systems Technology, Welding, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics and Robotics, and Heating/Ventilation & Air Conditioning.

### Jail Expansion

It is the County's responsibility to house all inmates as required by State law and the justice system. With the future closing of the Burke-Catawba District Confinement Facility, Catawba County needs to expand the detention center in Newton to meet current and future bed space. A 320-bed expansion is scheduled to begin in the coming year with anticipated costs of \$23.1M

### Mountain Creek Park

Planning has begun for the development of a new County park - Mountain Creek Park. Developed over several phases, when complete the 588-acre site will include amenities such as canoe portage, camping, picnic shelters, hiking trails, and multi-use buildings.

multi-use buildings.



### Water and Sewer Projects



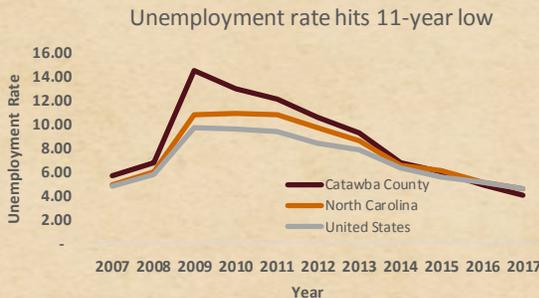
The Board of Commissioners continues the policy of setting aside funds, half cent of the property tax rate, to be used for strategic water and sewer projects throughout the county. Those funds, along with additional sales tax revenues will help fund water and sewer needs identified over the next eight years.

# Economic Outlook



## LOCAL ECONOMY

Employment figures are on the rise, showing an increase of 1,883 jobs (or 1.16%) from June 2016 to June 2017. Catawba County's unemployment rate, 4.0% for June 2017 has stayed below pre-recession levels. Recently released unemployment figures for August 2017 show a slight increase but still below the State of North Carolina and the US, both at 4.5%. This unemployment rate is among the lowest in North Carolina, now 0.5% below the State and national unemployment rates.



## Economic Development

Catawba County collaborates with the private sector, municipalities and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to attract new business, development and jobs. In the past year, the County has added more than \$468.4 million in new investment and 834 new jobs. The County continues to actively recruit and attract targeted national and international companies with a focus on higher-wage industries like information, Emerging & Alternative Energy, and Advanced Manufacturing.

## Deliberately Driving Workforce Development

While Catawba County's economy is built upon a large industrial base with over 27% of its workforce in manufacturing. Growth in five key sectors has resulted in a more balanced economic composition today than what existed a decade ago. From 2006 through 2016, the following sectors have experienced double-digit employment growth, collectively comprising 33% of the total economy and exceeding manufacturing employment by over 5,000 jobs.

- Professional, Scientific, Technical Services
- Transportation & Warehousing
- Information
- Administrative, Support, & Waste Mgmt and Remediation Services
- Wholesale Trade
- Healthcare and Social Assistance

The growth of these sectors represents a 16.7% increase from 2006 employment levels.

Further, the County has been a leader in the manufacture and development of fiber optics and telecommunication equipment, producing approximately 50% of the world's supply of fiber optic cable and still providing significant opportunities for County residents.

 **Apple, Inc.** plans to invest another \$1 billion in its data center site in Maiden. To date, Apple has added over \$1 billion to the County's tax base.

 **Corning Incorporated** committed to expanding its optical cable production plan investing \$30 million and creating 105 new jobs over the next 5 years.

 **DAE Systems** agreed to complete and lease the Claremont Spec Building for the relocation of their full operations from California investing over \$7M and creating a minimum 53 new jobs over 5 years.

 **GKN Driveline** plans to expand its Maiden facility for the 2nd time in 2 years, investing over \$110M and 143 new jobs by 2019.

 **Minelli Group S.p.A.** chose to relocate their first US manufacturing operation to Hickory, investing over \$2M and creating 12 new jobs.

 **Peoples Bank** announced plans to expand and renovate its headquarters investing \$3.5M and creating 25 new jobs.

 **Prysmian Group** continued to restore previously discontinued operations in Claremont. The \$20M investment is expected to create 50 new jobs over 3 yrs.

 **Temprano Techvestors** established its headquarters in Newton. The company planned to invest \$520,000 and create 21 new jobs over 3 years.

 **US Conec** expanded its manufacturing and engineering operations in Hickory, creating 42 new jobs and investing \$20M over the next 5 years.



**County Driven Economic Development  
Park 1764**

Park 1764 is a 170-acre Class A Business Park being developed in partnership between Catawba County and the City of Hickory. The Park is being developed incrementally over time in an effort to create job opportunities in advanced light manufacturing facilities, technical operations, and corporate headquarters. The County committed \$547,385 to provide water and sewer to the site. The City has applied for a grant to help fund the project and the County has authorized its funding to be used toward the required match. The vision for the site integrates amenities such as walking / cycling trails, gardens, and conservation easements, appealing to business prospects in a corporate, up-scale environment.



**2nd Claremont Spec Building**

In 2014, Catawba County, the City of Claremont, the EDC's Committee of 100 and Matthews Construction combined efforts to construct and market a spec building aimed at attracting value-added industry to Catawba County by addressing the deficit of move-in ready industrial space. The first spec building was

sold in the fall of 2016 to Agracell, Inc. to lease to DAE Systems resulting in \$7.3M in investment and 53 new jobs.

In March 2017, based on the success of the program, the Board of Commissioners approved a second spec building in cooperation with the City of Claremont with an annual carrying cost of \$45,000 for three years.



**Leader in  
Environmental  
Stewardship**

The County has long been a leader in environmental initiatives. Catawba County was the first county in the state to offer curbside recycling to its citizens. Residents recycled 32,338 tons of material in FY17, or 415 pounds per person.

The County's EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility is designed to protect the County's environment and promote economic development by attracting jobs in the green energy, agricultural and environmental sectors.

One component of the EcoComplex is the Biodiesel Research, Development and Production Facility. The County leased the facility to Blue Ridge Biofuels. The company is the first biodiesel producer in the Charlotte area to make fuel from used cooking oil.





### **Strong Medical & Healthcare Presence**

Well positioned to meet the future medical and health care needs of its citizens, the County is home to a prospering medical and healthcare community and two large medical centers.

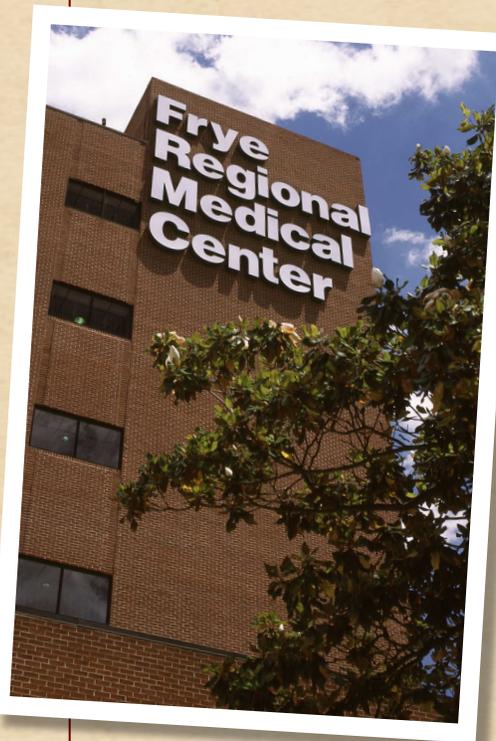
**Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC)**, is the region's largest not-for-profit community hospital. While technically owned by Catawba County, CVMC is completely self-supporting.

Based on the quality and consistency of medical care provided by the facility, the medical center has received multiple awards over the past few years:

- Women's Choice Award - Best 100 Hospitals for Patient Experience (each year, 2012-2016)
- Women's Choice Award - one of America's Best Hospitals for Orthopedics (each year, 2013-2016)
- Women's Choice Award - one of America's Best Hospitals for Bariatric Surgery (2016)
- A 2016 Premier QUEST award winner for high-value healthcare
- Comprehensive Center for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery from the American College of Surgeons (2016)
- First hospital in the State to receive four Magnet designations from American Nurses Credentialing Center (2014)

**Frye Regional Medical Center, a Duke LifePoint Hospital**, is a 355-bed acute care hospital and comprehensive healthcare system that has been serving the health and medical needs of the Catawba Valley region since 1911.

The Heart Center at Frye is home to the most extensive array of cardiology services in the region, and the only regional facility offering 24/7 interventional cardiology and open heart surgery and is an American Heart Association Mission Lifeline STEMI Receiving Facility.



In addition to the Heart Center, Frye's main campus includes an accredited, full-service cancer center, a nationally accredited bariatric surgery program, emergency services, advanced orthopedics, neurosciences, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, a pain management center and a luxury women's birthing center and pediatric unit.

### **Education**

The County has 44 public schools across three school systems with approximately 24,000 combined students. The County continues funding initiatives to improve the education attainment of its citizens. Over the next two years, \$1.3 million is dedicated to K-64, 3% per pupil increase for the three public schools systems and a 4.4% increase in funding to the community college. Additionally, the budget funds \$5.3M in school's annual capital needs and plans for up to \$34.7M in projects in the last two



years of a four-year construction cycle approved in FY15/16.

Results of these efforts are paying off with all three public school districts achieving above average measurable objectives. Over the past 10 years, the average 4-year graduation rate for the three systems combined increased from 80.4% to 90.5%, exceeding the statewide rate of 86.5%. Individually, Newton-Conover City Schools had the highest graduation rate in the State for the 2nd consecutive year at over 95%. Catawba County Schools' rate was 91.5%, and Hickory Public Schools' was 85% - the highest in the history of the school system for the fourth year in a row.

### Long Term Financial Planning

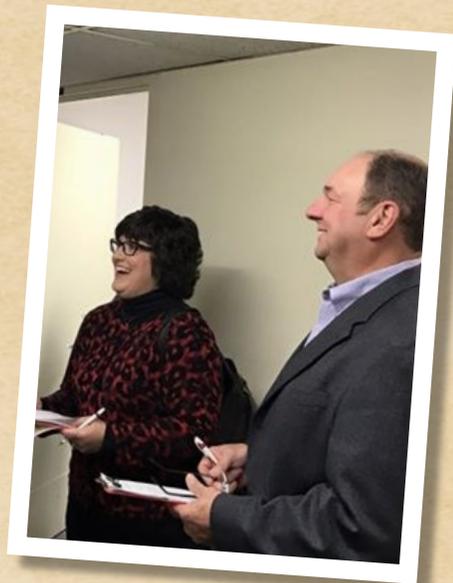
Catawba County's economy continues to grow as reflected in strong retail sales, increasing building permit activity, business investment and the County's low unemployment rate. The County is taking deliberate steps to accelerate and reinforce this economic growth.



Over the course of the past year, the Board of Commissioners led a strategic planning process aimed at enhancing and promoting the County's quality of life in order to attract working-age families and to grow the economy. In the coming years, the County will continue to focus on anticipating future service pressures and delivering responsive serves to the community.

The strategic plan invests in services and infrastructure related to 10 major areas as well as general service needs.

- Education (K-64)
- Economic Development
- Health & Safety
- Housing
- Arts & Culture
- Water & Sewer
- Parks
- Broadband
- Branding & Marketing



### Awards and Achievements

Catawba County is known across the nation as the home of an innovative county government. Our innovation is reflected in numerous awards. These awards are won in competition with thousands of other outstanding programs across the state and nation. Here are several of the most significant awards for FY2017.



Government Finance Officers Association

**Award for  
Outstanding  
Achievement in  
Popular Annual  
Financial Reporting**

Presented to

**Catawba County,  
North Carolina**

For its Annual  
Financial Report  
for the Fiscal Year Ended

**June 30, 2016**

*Jeffrey R. Egan*

The Government Finance Officers Association

# Achievements

(GFOA) of the United States and Canada has given an **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting** to Catawba County for its Annual Financial Highlights report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. This is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. Catawba County has received this award for the past nine years.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada presented the Finance Office the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for the creation of an easily readable and understandable comprehensive annual financial report covering all funds and financial transactions. This is the 35th consecutive year in which Catawba County has won the award.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada presented the Budget Office the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the development of an easily understood budget document which can be used by other governmental units or the average citizen. This is the 28th consecutive year in which Catawba County has won the award.

The County's website is an excellent source for information about County policies, services and events 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Find information on employment opportunities, community events, Board of Commissioner agendas, meeting hours, tax information and much more.

Logon to take advantage of many online services:

- Pay a tax bill
- Search the County library catalog
- Pay permit fee
- Review your property information
- Sign up for community alert system
- Use the online deed search
- Subscribe to the County newsletter
- Find the County on Facebook
- Follow Catawba County on Twitter
- Sign up for RSS feeds
- Access County forms...and more!



## Finance Department

[My Catawba County Mobile App](#)

For more information on financial matters of Catawba County, please call the Finance Department at (828) 465-8210.



Visit Catawba County's Official Website  
[www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov)



Catawba County, North Carolina  
Popular Annual Financial Report  
Year Ended June 30, 2017

