BEAUFORT COUNTY

ABOUT

Established in 1705 out of Bath County, Beaufort County received its formal name in 1712 from the Duke of Beaufort, Henry Somerset. Washington, named after President George Washington, serves as the county seat. The county also includes North Carolina’s oldest town, Bath, which was established in 1705.

Other communities located in Beaufort County include Aurora, Belhaven, Chocowinity, Pantego, River Road, and Washington Park.

Natural water features, including the Tar and Pamlico rivers and the Pamlico Sound, played key roles in developing Beaufort County’s early economy. The county served as an early port during the 18th Century and Chocowinity was a major railroad hub of the Norfolk Southern Railway in the early 1900s.

Beaufort County was also the home of ECU’s fifth president, John Decatur Messick. Other notable Beaufort residents include American Revolutionary War Colonel James Bonner, former NBA player Richard Coffey, and Willie Williams, who served as the Vice President and CIO of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Beaufort County’s historical and cultural attractions include the Bath Historic District, the Beaufort County Courthouse, and the Bonner House.

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION: 47,587
NC RANKING: 55th
*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties

EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 79%
NC: 87% | US: 83%

THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 55%
NC: 73% | US: 68%

HEALTH

DENTISTS PER 10,000: 4
NC: 25 | US: 28

ECONOMY

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $40,671
NC RANKING: 50th
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties

Sources: 1 NC Health Data Explorer 2 NCIOM 3 NC School Report Cards 4 NC Office of State Budget and Management 5 NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | “About” information provided by the North Carolina History Project