LENOIR COUNTY

ABOUT

Established in 1791 out of Dobbs County, Lenoir County was named for Speaker of the Senate and Revolutionary War soldier William Lenoir. Kinston serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Lenoir County include Deep Run, Dawson, Institute, Graingers, La Grange, and Pink Hill.

Lenoir County played a significant role in the history of the American Civil War, hosting the Battle of Kinston in 1862 and the Battle of Wyse Fork in 1865. Artifacts from the CSS Neuse, a Confederate ironclad gunboat that was purposely sunk in the Neuse River to avoid Union capture, are also available to tour in Kinston.

Lenoir County's historical and cultural attractions include the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot, the La Grange Presbyterian Church, and the Lenoir County Courthouse. Minor League Baseball’s Down East Wood Ducks, a Class-A affiliate of the Texas Rangers, plays home games at Grainger Stadium in Kinston.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Population:** 59,095
  - NC Ranking: 49th

- **Median Age:** 41
  - Black: 41%
  - White: 54%
  - Hispanic: 7%

- **Rent ≥ 30% Income:** 52%
- **Families Headed by a Female:** 19%
- **Projected 2025 Population:** 60,659

EDUCATION

- **High School Graduation Rate:** 78%
  - NC: 87% | US: 83%

- **Third Graders Reading at Grade Level:** 48%
  - NC: 73% | US: 68%

- **Student Expenditure K-12:** $9,149
  - NC: $8,898 | US: $11,800
  - Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunch: 56%
  - Community Colleges & 4-Year Universities: Lenoir Community College

HEALTH

- **Dentists per 10,000:** 4
- **GROCERY STORES per 10,000:** 3
- **Cancer Incidence per 10,000:** 50
- **Heart Disease Deaths per 10,000:** 20
- **Uninsured Adults:** 19%
- **Obesity:** 35%

ECONOMY

- **Median Household Income:** $35,678
  - NC Ranking: 76th

- **Unemployed:** 6%
- **Live in Poverty:** 24%
  - Largest Employer: Sanderson Farms Inc.

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