Wayne County

About

Established in 1779 from Dobbs County, Wayne County is named after one of George Washington’s most respected generals, “Mad Anthony” Wayne. Goldsboro has served as the county seat after the first county seat, Waynesboro, was dissolved after the American Civil War.

Other communities located in Wayne County include Dobbersville, Dudley, Eureka, Mount Olive, Seven Springs, Pikeville, and Walnut Creek.

The county is home to the Mount Olive Pickle Company and the University of Mount Olive. The Mount Olive Pickle Company is one of the largest pickle manufacturers in the United States since opening in the 1920s.

Wayne County’s historic and cultural attractions include the birthplace of Governor Charles B. Aycock, Goldsboro City Hall, Goldsboro Civic Ballet, and the Wayne County Museum. The county hosts annual festivals such as the Fremont Daffodil Festival, the North Carolina Pickle Festival, and the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair.

Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>NC AVG</th>
<th>US AVG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population:</td>
<td>124,093</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC Ranking:</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent ≥ 30% Income</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Headed by a Female</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projected 2025 Population</td>
<td>135,372</td>
<td>9.4M</td>
<td>335M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education

- High School Graduation Rate: 78%
  - NC: 87% | US: 83%
- Third Graders Reading at Grade Level: 53%
  - NC: 73% | US: 68%

Community Colleges & 4-Year Universities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wayne Community College</th>
<th>University of Mount Olive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Expenditure K-12</td>
<td>$8,894</td>
<td>$8,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health

- Primary Care Physicians Per 10,000: 6
  - NC: 25 | US: 28
- Dentists Per 10,000: 4
- Grocery Stores Per 10,000: 2
- Cancer Incidence Per 10,000: 49
- Heart Disease Deaths Per 10,000: 17
- Uninsured Adults: 31%
- Obesity: 30%

Economy

- Median Household Income: $41,172
  - NC Ranking: 56th
  - *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties
- Unemployed: 5%
- Live in Poverty: 23%

Largest Employer: Wayne County Board of Education

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