

# PUBLIC SAFETY TOP PRIORITY FOR WILMINGTON

- More than half of all City employees work in police and fire services.
- In FY 2017-18, public safety and debt consumed 100% of the city's property tax revenue.
- Since 2004, the City has increased funding for police and fire services by 67%.



# WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Bill Saffo  
 Mayor Pro Tem Margaret E. Haynes  
 Neil Anderson  
 Clifford D. Barnett, Sr.  
 Paul Lawler  
 Kevin O'Grady  
 Charles H. Rivenbark, Jr.

## CONTACT

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 cityofwilmington

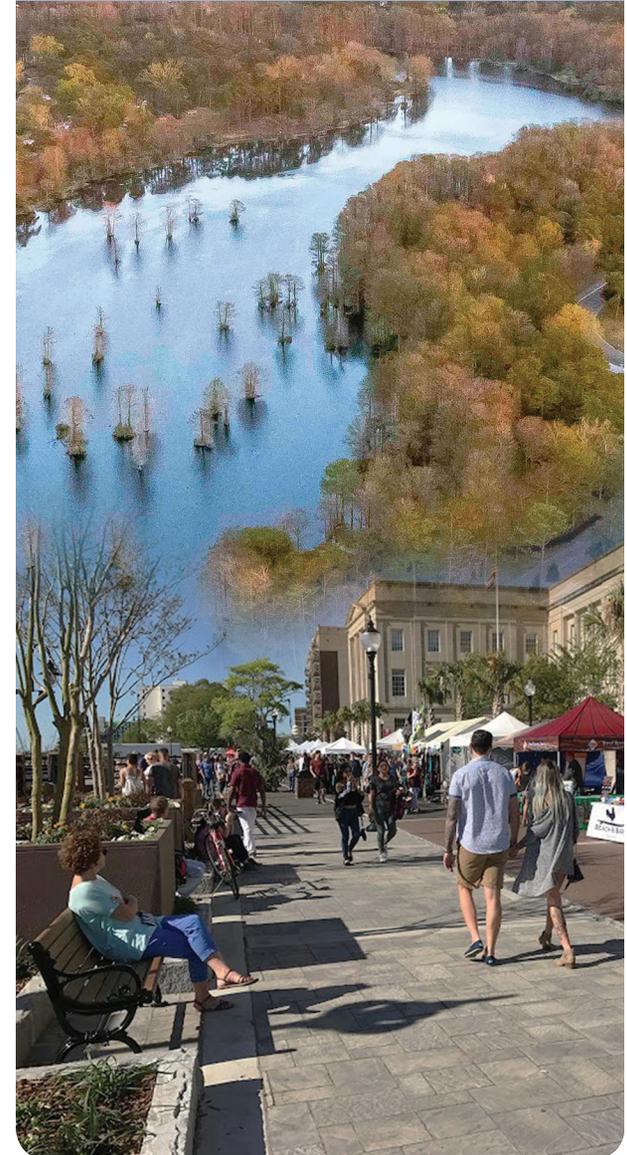
 @cityofwilm

[www.wilmingtonnc.gov](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov)

CITY OF  
**WILMINGTON**  
 NORTH CAROLINA

STATE  
 LEGISLATIVE  
 AGENDA

# 2019



## DID YOU KNOW?

City Pop., 2017:  
 119,045

City land area:  
 52.9 square miles  
 8th largest city in NC

- Overall crime dropped almost 12% since last year and is at its lowest since 1993, factoring in pop. growth.
- Downtown attracted 42 new businesses and added more than 261 new jobs last year.
- Wilmington serves as the economic hub for southeastern NC, housing most of the area's largest employers.
- Population has increased by more than 32% since 2000. Number of staff per capita decreased from 11 to 8.75 staff members for every 1,000 citizens.



# OUR OUTLOOK

In the 2019 session of the NC General Assembly, Wilmington anticipates opportunities to support initiatives that foster the City's existing assets and facilitate future growth. As such, Wilmington's legislative agenda is focused on broad areas, but also provides the ability to support objectives that may yield similar outcomes in partnership with others.

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Support bridging North Carolina's rural/urban in a way that benefits all of NC.

- **Support** efforts to bridge North Carolina's rural/urban divide that benefit entirety of state, while opposing redistribution of sales tax revenue.
- **Oppose** legislation that undermines local government authority and revenue generation. Including, but not limited to, municipal elections, sales tax revenue, land development code and local storm water policies.
- **Continue** to fund a strong film incentive program and consider public policy that positively impacts film jobs in our state.
- **Support** a strong and ongoing state response to discharge of chemicals that may result in the impairment of our waterways, air, and drinking water that ensures the polluters fund related costs.
- **Support** transportation and infrastructure funding that's reflective of growth and needs of the Wilmington region and our state. Place Increased emphasis on accessibility concerns related to transportation infrastructure during natural disasters.
- **Continue** to make revisions to gang laws that provide additional tools to local law enforcement and prosecutors.
- **Continue** to make positive steps to respond to North Carolina's opioid epidemic that includes investments in mental health treatment and services at the local level.
- **Support** a consistent funding source for coastal infrastructure and shoreline protection that includes beaches, inlets, and waterways.
- **Support** affordable housing program state funding and ability for cities to address local challenges as well as a strong historic preservation incentive.
- **Oppose** modifications to the current Room Occupancy Tax distribution formula.
- **Support** recurring state funding for Regional Search and Rescue Teams.

# OUR MISSION

In order to maintain and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Wilmington, the Wilmington City Council is committed to working in partnership with their colleagues in other governmental entities. The NC General Assembly plays an essential role in helping the City improve the quality of life for our citizens and encourage investment in the region.

## WILMINGTON'S FINANCES HEALTHY



### City's \$106.5 million General Fund budget is balanced:

- Even with damage from Hurricane Florence, the city has a healthy, balanced budget because of the strong savings account we maintain to make sure we are prepared to respond to such emergencies.
- City has a 5-year, \$59 million plan to repair roads, public facilities.
- City's current bond rating is AAA.

### City's Credit Rating

The City of Wilmington got high marks for its financial strength in 2018 after reviews by the major credit rating agencies S&P, Fitch, and Moody's. The credit rating agencies determine their ratings based on several factors, including their view of the city's management of public dollars, the city's overall financial health and stability, and the city's amount of savings.

