Dates Announced for 27 Counties and N.C. Business Court to Expand Access to Justice

From NCAOC Communications Office <NCAOCCommunicationsOffice@info.nccourts.org>

To<sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>Date2025-02-20 14:03

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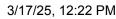
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 20, 2025

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Dates Announced for 27 Counties and N.C. Business Court to Expand Access to Justice

RALEIGH — Dates were announced this week for the final two groups of counties and the North Carolina Business Court to expand access to justice for the public by converting their jurisdictions to <u>eCourts</u>.

eCourts currently serves 62 counties, including the state's entire coastline, westernmost regions, and three largest metropolitan areas. Track 7 of the statewide rollout was recently completed in 13 counties of southeast North Carolina this month, and Track 8, also in eastern North Carolina, is preparing to transition on April 28, 2025.

The 14 counties in Track 9 – Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caswell, Forsyth, Madison, Mitchell, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey – will convert to eCourts on July 21, 2025.

Thirteen Track 10 counties – Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, McDowell, Rowan, Rutherford – will convert to eCourts October 13, 2025.

The North Carolina Business Court will convert to eCourts as Track 11 in February 2026.



"The eCourts transformation delivers a vital convenience for North Carolinians by converting outdated paper court records into online services accessible remotely for families and businesses," said NCAOC Director Ryan S. Boyce.

"This digital transition is made possible by the commitment of judicial officials and partners across the state working together to meet the challenges of a statewide transition and bring to fruition the constitutional guarantee that the courts shall be open for the public."

eCourts has accepted more than 3 million electronic filings in North Carolina. More than 1.5 million digital searches are now conducted monthly through <u>Portal</u>, saving citizens countless trips and calls to the courthouse for simple case information and documents previously unavailable online. The project is saving tens of millions of sheets of paper from being used to create court records.

By connecting courts in all 100 counties to an integrated, cloud-hosted system for <u>electronic filing</u> and record searches within all case types, including criminal processes served by law enforcement, North Carolina advanced to a national leader in online access to justice through the eCourts transition. As eCourts expands statewide, millions more North Carolinians gain mobile access to their courthouse, saving time and providing transparency.

eCourts also offers a free Guide & File service to generate legal filings for

common case types through step-by-step, user-assisted interviews.

A large network of IT and software systems teams from NCAOC supports the eCourts transition through training, on-site assistance, remote monitoring, and help desk response. Preparations and walkthroughs for each track of the eCourts transition begin months in advance to train court officials and the public on new technologies and processes, install improved network infrastructure in courthouses, program custom integrations, and migrate case event data and court records from mainframe indexes and paper to a dynamic cloud-hosted platform.

Register for eCourts trainings and access education materials, screenshot reference guides, FAQs, and other resources supporting the transition, at <u>NCcourts.gov/eCourts</u>.

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About North Carolina Judicial Branch

The North Carolina Judicial Branch is an equal and distinctively separate branch and core function of government. More than 7,400 Judicial Branch employees statewide administer justice in courthouses in North Carolina's 100 counties. The Judicial Branch budget for FY 2022–23 was \$712.8M, 87% of which is used to pay salaries and 11.5% is used for operations. The Judicial Branch receives 2.64% of the overall State budget.

About North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) is the administrative agency for the <u>North Carolina Judicial Branch</u>, providing administrative services to help the North Carolina court system operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads, and available resources.

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