

Josiah Gourley

Forsyth County

This past week I had the opportunity to take a tour of the Forsyth County Administrative Building. Mr. Dudley Watts, the County Manager, was my guide. He showed me all around the building and pointed out what each job handled. We visited five different floors, each with their individual offices and jobs. For example, the 1st floor housed geographical information systems and the registry of deeds. Up one level on the 2nd floor, was office space for the county Board of Elections staff. Mr. Watts pointed out that there are so many safeguards against voter corruption at the county level that it is virtually impossible for the ballots to be changed or rigged after the polls. On the 3rd floor we found the county IT department. Mr. Watts informed me that the dedicated IT personnel kept all the electronic systems at the county building running. Without them, all sorts of records and information would be missing or inaccessible. On the fourth floor was the Department for Social Services, where Medicaid, disability care, and many other social issues are handled. And finally, on the 5th floor is the County Manager's office, the offices of the seven County Commissioners, and the meeting hall for the Forsyth County Commissioners' meetings. The meeting hall was equipped with camera equipment, as all of the meetings are streamed live for the public to view. Before taking the tour, I had no clue just how much the county government handles. Mr. Watts enlightened me to the importance and prolificacy of the Forsyth County government.