

## **NCACC Youth Summit Assignment by Marco Agostini - Wilson County**

My name is Marco Agostini, I am a 15 year old 10<sup>th</sup> grader, and I live in Wilson County. If you ask anyone who knows anything about Wilson about this county you will probably get two consistent answers; It's small and it grows tobacco, and they'll most likely pronounce it "Wiltson". Both of these statements are, in fact, true, Wilson is small – only about 30 miles by 20 miles, and one of its primary crops is tobacco, but there's more to Wilson than that. The county has incredibly historical areas and many attractions such as the Edna Boykin Center, Wilson Arts Council, The Imagination Station Science and History Museum, and 2201 Miller Road; the Head Office of Wilson County government.

Historically County Commissioners were extremely important because if anyone had an official issue, they would have to travel for days to reach the Capital to tell them about it. Adding the County Commissioners eliminated that long trip. North Carolina has 100 counties, its most recent County being Avery County in 1911. The citizens of each County are responsible for electing their County Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for governing the County. They usually serve a 4 year term; Wilson County has 7 County Commissioners. The commissioners in turn appoint a County Manager that ensures the local government is running smoothly.

I was fortunate enough to meet with Mrs. Stinagle, the County Manager of Wilson, and interviewed her about her job.



Here are a few questions from the interview:

Why do you think local government plays an important role in the community?

Local government plays a big part in more things than you would imagine. We are in charge of public schools, voting, volunteer fire departments, so a lot of our daily life revolves around it.

What would you like to see changed in Wilson?

Wilson has a high poverty rate and unemployment; this is the main factor challenging Wilson.

We are working hard on it, but it's not something that can be changed overnight.

How do you support local businesses?

We try to make Wilson a safe and clean County in order for businesses to come and sell to the public. We generally try to make it a good place to be.

I also attended a County Commissioners meeting where we had a presentation for the volunteer fire department. The Chief of the department spoke well and informed us on how to enroll, how they function, and about the training for the members.

It's evident to see that County Commissioners form an important role in local government, not just historically, but to this day. Wilson is lucky we have passionate, hard-working County Commissioners to make the best better.