

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF PERSON

HISTORY

Person County was born from a division of Caswell County in 1789. The county was made an almost perfect square with the county seat of Roxboro being almost exactly in the center. Person was named for Brigadier General Thomas Person of Granville County during a time in which Revolutionary soldiers were leading citizens. In 1870 the population of Person County was estimated to be about 11,700. In the year 2006 that number had increased to 37,341. There are still nine townships that make up Person County: Allensville, Bushy Fork, Cunningham, Flat River, Holloway, Mt. Tirzah, Olive Hill, Roxboro, and Woodsdale.

From the very beginning, Person County's 400 square mile area was farmland and forests. Tobacco was the root of the Person County economy and for many years was the only industry. The railroad coming to Person County in 1890 was a catalyst for progress. Tobacco warehouses were built, banks began to be organized, and new stores and homes were being built to accommodate the new citizens that were coming into the county. As strong as tobacco still is, in the early 1900s other industry began to take hold in Person County including copper mining and cotton mills which both helped to broaden the economy.

Person County has come along way since its early days and offers strong and vital communities for its residents and more than adequate opportunity for growth and longevity. The variety of services and activities available in Person County makes it an attractive area for its present and future citizens.

Person County offers a strategic location for business and industry, being within an hour's drive of North Carolina's two major economic centers, the Research Triangle Park (Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh) and the Piedmont Triad (Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point), and a two-hour drive of Richmond, Virginia.

DESCRIPTION OF PERSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Person County functions under a Board of Commissioners – County Manager form of government. The Board of Commissioners consists of five members. Currently, three of the commissioners are members of the Democratic Party and two are with the Republican Party. Each member of the Board is elected for a four-year term. The Board members elect their own Chairman and Vice Chairman on an annual basis. The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making and legislative authority for the County, responsible for adopting the annual budget, establishing the tax rate, approving zoning and planning issues and other matters related to health, welfare and safety of citizens.



The County Manager is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners. The County Manager has the responsibility of implementing policies and procedures of the Board, delivery of services, managing daily operations and hiring of subordinate department managers.

Person County Board of Commissioners is required to meet once monthly, but usually meets twice each month. Scheduled meeting days are the first and third Mondays of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., respectively. The Board of Commissioners' meetings are open to the public and are held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room 215 at the County Office Building located at 304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro.

The Person County Board of Commissioners established a 10 minute segment which is open for informal comments and/or questions from citizens of this county on issues, other than those issues for which a public hearing has been scheduled. The time will be divided equally among those wishing to comment. It is requested that any person who wishes to address the Board, register to speak with the Clerk to the Board prior to the meeting.

Agendas, approved minutes as well as a schedule of the meetings for the Board of Commissioners are posted to the county's website at www.personcounty.net.