

The Orange County Government Gazette

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Orange County Voters to Decide on \$300 Million School Bond in Upcoming Election

Voters in Orange County, NC, will decide on a \$300 million school bond in the upcoming election. Early voting will start on October 17, 2024, and election day will be November 5, 2024. If approved, this bond will provide essential funding for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) and Orange County Schools (OCS), focusing on key projects over ten years to address critical school renovation needs.

An approved bond would primarily focus on building educationally adequate, safe, and updated learning environments for students and staff in both school districts. The bond will also target reducing operational and maintenance costs associated with aging facilities. Additionally, the bond aims to reduce the overall age of school facilities, ensuring that schools are better equipped to meet the demands of contemporary education.

"This bond represents a crucial investment in the future of our schools and community," said Jamezetta Bedford, Chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners. "This bond will ensure that our students and staff have safe, healthy classrooms and instructional spaces updated to current basic standards and that our schools can operate more efficiently."



Planned Key Projects and Benefits for CHCCS and OCS

If voters in Orange County approve the bond referendum this fall, CHCCS and OCS will receive the necessary funding to undertake several significant projects.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

- Replacement of Carrboro Elementary
- Replacement of Estes Hills Elementary
- Replacement of Frank Porter Graham Elementary

Orange County Schools

- Replacement Elementary School
- Replacement of Orange Middle School
- Major renovation/addition project

If approved, the \$300 million bond will be distributed, with \$175 million going to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and \$125 million to the Orange County Schools. The split is roughly in line with student enrollment and is based on the costs of major projects and high-priority needs.

For more detailed information about the bond and the proposed projects, visit <https://orangecountyschoolbond.com>.

Voters are encouraged to verify their registration status, locate their polling places, and review sample ballots through the Orange County Board of Elections website: <https://orangecountync.gov/1720/Elections>

Orange County Animal Services Participates in "Empty the Shelters"

Orange County Animal Services (OCAS) will participate in Bissell's Empty the Shelters reduced-fee adoption event from October 1-15. Adoption fees for cats and dogs will be reduced to \$50 or less during this event. More than 390 shelters in 44 states are participating in this nationwide event.

OCAS opens at noon, Monday – Saturday. No appointment is needed to stop by and find your new best friend.

Visit www.orangecountync.gov/287/Available-Pets or call 919-942-7387, for more information. Ask about Benny or Lizzie!



The Post-Overdose Response Team Making a Difference in Just Two Months

Orange County's Post-Overdose Response Team (PORT) began service on July 1, 2024, and has made direct contact with 100% of those referred to the program, filling a gap in service for community members struggling with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). PORT has an 85% success rate in connecting individuals to treatment who received medications for opioid use disorder from the team.

"While connecting people to treatment is a great outcome, our team measures success by connecting participants with the resources that they need based upon their expressed opinions," said Landon Weaver, Bureau Chief of Community Health and Safety for Orange County Emergency Services.

The purpose of PORT is to keep community members experiencing Opioid-Use Disorder (OUD) safe and alive by filling a gap in opioid-use-related services. The services provided by PORT are based on what the individual wants. This can range from something as simple as a text message or a reassuring phone call, to the team hand delivering naloxone, sterile syringes, and other harm-reduction supplies. The team can progress to helping them begin medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The treatment can take place at their home, and they will be connected with an ongoing treatment plan that fits their unique needs.



From left: The Post-Overdose Response Team consists of William Vanderburg, PORT Community Paramedic; Sebastian Zarusua, PORT Peer Support Specialist; Landon Weaver, Bureau Chief of Community Health and Safety; and Chase Jarvis, PORT Community Paramedic.

"The PORT is a much-needed additional layer to our EMS system," said Emergency Services Director Kirby Saunders.

The Post-Overdose Response Team is available every day of the year from 7 am to 7 pm and consists of a Peer Support Specialist and a Community Paramedic. All services provided by PORT are free of charge, non-coercive, individual-focused, and always conducted with an emphasis on respect and confidentiality of the individual. If you are interested in any of these services, please contact the team directly (orangecountync.gov/CommunityHealth) or fill out this form: www.orangecountync.gov/PORTRequest

Vacancies for Youth in the Orange County Parks and Recreation Council

This council consults with and advises the Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation, and the Board of County Commissioners on matters affecting parks planning, development and operation; recreation facilities, policies and programs; and public trails and open space. The Parks and Recreation Council typically meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

There are two (2) vacancies for non-voting youth

delegates. Orange County residents ages 13-17 are encouraged to apply. If you are interested in applying for one of the youth delegate positions, please apply at the following link: www.orangecountync.gov/YouthDelegate



Southern Noir

A CONVERSATION WITH CRIME WRITERS

Join the Friends of the Orange County Public Library for a conversation with local and regional crime writers, **S.A. Cosby** and **Eryk Pruitt**. This event is free and open to the public.

Registration is required: orangecountync.gov/CosbyPruitt.

Friday, October 4 • 7pm
Orange County Public Library, 137 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough, NC

Books will be available for purchase at the event courtesy of Purple Crow Books.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!

FREE!

Saturday, October 19
1pm-4pm

Cakewalk • Pumpkin Bingo
Pumpkin Hunt • Carnival Games
Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Costume Contest
Categories:
0-4 years old, 5-8 years old, 9-12 years old, 13 and over, Group

Location: Field behind Central Recreation Center,
302 West Tryon St., Hillsborough, NC

FREE! No pre-registration required!

Your Voice. Our Mission.

ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE OF EQUITY & INCLUSION

Join the Orange County Office of Equity & Inclusion to share how we may provide the best service to you.

We want to learn about your experiences accessing Orange County services and opportunities. We want to understand where there may be opportunities for us to improve and create better access to information, programs, and services for you.

Light food and beverages will be available. Gift cards will be available to the first 15 attendees.

| DATES | LOCATION |
|---|--|
| Wednesday October 9 6-7:30pm | Chapel Hill Public Library 100 Library Dr. Chapel Hill, NC |
| Thursday October 10 6-7:30pm | Passmore Center 103 Meadowlands Dr. Hillsborough, NC |

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

FREE!

Join us as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage month together with live music, dancing, and delicious food!

Tuesday, October 8 • 6 – 8 pm
Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, NC

Registration required. Register by Thursday, Oct. 3 by calling the Seymour Center at 919-968-2070.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Presidential Election

PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO VOTE

Many forms of government-issued IDs are acceptable. For more information, please visit orangecountync.gov/PhotoID

Don't have a photo ID to vote?
Get a **FREE** photo ID for voting purposes from the Orange County Board of Elections office
Mon-Fri, 8am - 5pm
208 S Cameron St, Hillsborough, NC

For more information, go to orangecountync.gov/Elect or call 919-245-2350

All sites will be open the following dates and times for voting:

| DAY | DATE | TIME |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Thursday-Friday | October 17-18 | 8am - 7:30pm |
| Saturday | October 19 | 8am - 3pm |
| Sunday | October 20 | 12pm-5pm |
| Monday-Friday | October 21-25 | 8am - 7:30pm |
| Saturday | October 26 | 8am - 3pm |
| Sunday | October 27 | 12pm-5pm |
| Monday-Friday | October 28-November 1 | 8am - 7:30pm |
| Saturday | November 2 | 8am - 3pm |

Orange Works at Hillsborough Commons
113 Mayo St, Hillsborough

Carrboro Town Hall Complex
108 Bim St, Carrboro

Chapel of the Cross
304 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill

Seymour Senior Center
2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill Library
100 Library Dr, Chapel Hill

Efland-Cheeks Community Center
117 Richmond Road, Efland

ORANGE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA WE ARE HIRING!

To learn more about job opportunities available in Orange County Government, please visit www.orangecountync.gov/Careers or contact the Human Resources Recruitment Manager at (919) 245-2557