



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY LINE WITH CATAWBA COUNTY

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN CATAWBA AND LINCOLN COUNTIES?**

The boundary line between Catawba County and Lincoln County has been re-established to the correct line based on a survey performed by the North Carolina Geodetic Survey. The re-established boundary line will be effective February 3, 2025.

### **WHAT IS A GEODETIC SURVEY ?**

A geodetic survey is a land survey that determines the precise location of permanent points on the earth's surface based on the size, shape and curvature of the earth. The North Carolina Geodetic Survey (NCGS), which is part of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management division, is the state agency responsible for identifying accurate boundary lines in accordance with state law (North Carolina General Statute 153A-18).

### **WHY DID THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN CATAWBA AND LINCOLN COUNTIES CHANGE ?**

The boundary line between Catawba and Lincoln gradually shifted over decades of parcel changes, causing inconsistencies with the boundary's actual location and confusion among property owners. To address this, officials from both counties requested a border survey by the North Carolina Geodetic Survey (NCGS) in late 2022. The survey determined the accurate boundary line between the two counties.

### **WHY WASN'T THE BOUNDARY ACCURATE ?**

In North Carolina, county boundaries were historically established using rudimentary surveying and mapping processes based on natural features and landmarks. Over decades of physical changes to the landscape and parcel changes between counties, most county boundaries, including the line between Catawba and Lincoln counties, gradually shifted over time. Advances in technology have made it possible for the NCGS to survey and record county boundary lines with a high level of accuracy that assures long-term consistency. NCGS is currently surveying boundaries affecting several counties across the state.

### **HOW MANY PROPERTIES ARE AFFECTED ?**

The re-established county line boundary affects just over 800 properties.

### **WILL MY MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY CHANGE ?**

No. Municipal boundaries have not changed. For example, if your property is located within the municipal limits of the Town of Maiden, it will remain in the Town of Maiden regardless of the location of the county border.

### **IF THE BOUNDARY PASSES THROUGH SOMEONE 'S PROPERTY , WHICH COUNTY DOES IT RESIDE IN ?**

If the boundary line passes through a parcel, the portion to the north of the boundary shall be considered Catawba County property and the portion to the south of the boundary shall be considered Lincoln County property. If the boundary line passes through a structure on a parcel, the structure is considered to reside in only one county (either Catawba County or Lincoln County) based on several factors including the location of the majority of the structure

### **CAN THE RE-ESTABLISHED BOUNDARY LINE BE APPEALED ?**

No. The boundary line has been restored to the location officially established by the State of North Carolina and therefore it cannot be appealed.

## **TAXES**

### **HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY TAXES?**

For the 2025 tax year, property taxes will not be affected by the re-established boundary and you will pay property taxes to the same county where your property is currently assessed.

Beginning January 1, 2026, your property will be assessed based on the re-established boundary. If your parcel is split by the re-established boundary, it will be assessed by both counties based on the percentage of the property residing in each county. If the boundary line passes through your home, it will be assessed by the county where it has been determined to reside.

The Catawba County property tax rate is \$0.3985 per \$100 of valuation, and the Lincoln County property tax rate is \$0.499 per \$100 of valuation.

For the 2025 tax year, you will continue to pay fire district taxes to the same district where your property is currently taxed. Planning is underway to update the fire district boundaries to reflect the re-established boundary line, with a goal of finalizing this work to go into effect July 1, 2026. More information will be forthcoming.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS**

### **WHERE WILL MY CHILDREN GO TO PUBLIC SCHOOL?**

Through the end of the current school year, nothing will change for children enrolled in public school in Catawba County or Lincoln County. This includes bus transportation. Catawba County Schools and Lincoln County Schools are working together to determine school assignments starting with the 2025-2026 school year. You will be notified by the school system when these assignments are determined.

## **VOTING**

### **WHERE WILL I VOTE?**

Your voting precinct is determined by your county of residence. Election precincts are currently being updated to reflect the re-established boundary line. If your precinct is changing, you will receive a mailing about your voting precinct and polling location from the respective County Board of Elections by the end of March 2025.

## **UTILITIES**

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY WATER AND SEWER SERVICE ?**

If you receive water and sewer service from Lincoln County, these services will continue. If your property is located in Catawba following the re-established boundary then rates will change. If you have questions, contact the Lincoln County Collections Office at (704) 736-8497.

## **GARBAGE & RECYCLING**

### **HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES ?**

Lincoln County does not provide or franchise with any providers within its boundaries. Any homes shifting to Lincoln County based on the re-established boundary may contract a local trash collection company. All Lincoln County residents and property owners are entitled to receive a Solid Waste sticker each year upon payment of taxes which entitles you to use the Lincoln County Landfill or any of the eight (8) Convenience Sites for trash disposal or recycling. For the 2025 tax year, anyone affected by the re-adjusted boundary is permitted to request a sticker from either the Landfill Office located at 5291 Crouse Road, Crouse, NC 28033 or the Collections Payment Center at 115 W. Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

## **911 & EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

### **IF I CALL 911, WHAT HAPPENS TO MY CALL ?**

Beginning January 31, 2025, all 911 calls will be received by the correct 911 communications center based on the re-established boundary. Your call will be dispatched to emergency responders in your area without unnecessary delay.

## **PLANNING AND PERMITTING**

### **HOW WILL THE ZONING OF MY PROPERTY CHANGE ?**

If all, or a portion of, your property is being moved to Lincoln County then it will be required to be rezoned to a Lincoln County zoning classification. Updated zoning maps for Lincoln County are anticipated to be adopted in early 2025 by the Board of Commissioners and will be applied to any new development on property located in Lincoln County.

### **WHERE DO I APPLY FOR BUILDING PERMITS ?**

If your property is located entirely within Lincoln County, you will apply for permits from the Lincoln County Planning and Inspections Office located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the James W. Warren Citizens Center (115 W. Main Street, Lincolnton). If your property is split between Catawba and Lincoln counties, you should contact the permit office of the county where the portion of the property you are developing resides. If you have an existing permitted project, it will be completed by the same permitting office that issued the initial permit. The permit offices in Catawba and Lincoln counties will work together to ensure affected projects are properly permitted with minimal disruption.

## **REAL ESTATE & DEEDS**

### **HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY REAL ESTATE ?**

A notice of the affected properties and a plat depicting the boundary line have been, or will soon be, recorded in both Register of Deeds offices. No action is required by the property owner.

## **ADDRESS**

### **WILL MY ADDRESS CHANGE ?**

If an addressed structure is moved to Lincoln County the street address may change.

## **IMPORTANT CATAWBA COUNTY CONTACTS**

**County Boundary Information Line:** 828-465-9608

**Property Maps** (including acreage, dimensions, ownership): Catawba County Tax Mapping, 828-465-8422 or 828-465-8424

**Taxes:** Catawba County Tax Office, 828-465-8436

**Trash Collection:** Catawba County Utilities & Engineering, 465-8217

**Voting:** Catawba County Board of Elections, 828-464-2424

**Planning and Zoning:** Catawba County Planning, 828-465-8380

**Building Services, Permits , Inspections:** Catawba County Permit Center, 828-465-8399

**General Catawba County Services:** 828-465-8200 or [www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov)

**Schools:** Catawba County Schools, 828-464-8333



<https://bit.ly/catawbalincolonline>

## **IMPORTANT LINCOLN COUNTY CONTACTS**

**Property Maps** (including acreage, dimensions, ownership): Angie Charles, Tax Mapping, 704-736-8815

**Taxes:** Susan Sain, Tax Administrator, 704-736-8540

**Solid Waste:** Lincoln County Solid Waste, 704-732-9030

**Voting:** Lincoln County Board of Elections, 704-736-8480

**Water & Sewer:** Mike Simmons, Public Utilities Manager, 704-736-8500

**Planning and Zoning:** Andrew Bryant, Development Services Director, 704-666-6969

**Building Services, Permits , Inspections:** Jeff Wesdyk, Chief Building Official, 704-736-8436

**General Lincoln County Services:** 704-736-8471 or [www.lincolncountync.gov](http://www.lincolncountync.gov)

**Schools:** Eric Eaker, Chief Operations Officer, Lincoln County Schools, 704-736-1017