# Precincts [1]

## Precincts

by Lindley S. Butler, 2006

Precincts exist in North Carolina as voting district subdivisions of both cities [2] and counties [3]. In the Proprietary province of Carolina, however, precincts were administrative and judicial districts of the counties or colonies [4]. Corresponding to the modern county, each Proprietary precinct-governed by a court of justices chaired by a steward-had a sheriff [5] as its chief law officer. The precincts also were used in determining representation in the Assembly [6] and organizing the militia [7]. Since the colonial Assembly first met in 1665, precincts may have been established at that time, but the earliest documentation is a 1668 commission that confirms that Pasquotank [8] Precinct was in existence. It is likely that Chowan [9], Currituck [10], and Perquimans [11] Precincts were created at the same time. These four governmental units are North Carolina's oldest extant counties.

**Subjects:**
Colonial period (1600-1763) [12]
Geography [13]
Politics and government [14]
Voting [15]
**Authors:**
Butler, Lindley S. [16]
**From:**
Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[17]

1 January 2006 | Butler, Lindley S.

---