



## **Census Program Updates**

**NCGICC Quarterly Meeting  
Greensboro, NC**

**February 18, 2026**

**John Quintero  
Governor's Census Liaison**



## Overview: Recent Program Developments

American Community Survey (ACS) Release: 2020-24

Cancellation of 2026 Operational Test Site in Western NC

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

2026 Boundary & Annexation Survey

# 1. American Community Survey: 2020-24



## Newest ACS Data Released in Jan.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the Census Bureau's premier source of social, economic, housing, & demographic data.

The Five-Year Estimates have data for the state, all counties & municipalities, & all sub-county statistical areas (*e.g.*, tracts).

January release covers the period 2020-24; comparison is 2015-19.

All data available at <https://data.census.gov/>, & many variables will be added in coming weeks to the LINC platform, too.

## Recent Blogs



**Can NC Sustain Pandemic-era Improvements in Income & Poverty?**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026



**Could NC Add a US House Seat in 2030?**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2026



**North Carolina top destination for domestic migrants**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026



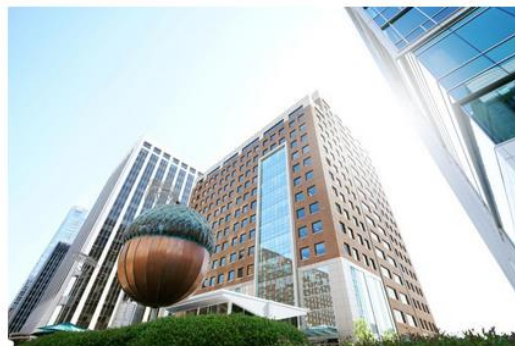
**It's Time for Local Governments to Reply**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026



**Rural Population Change in North Carolina**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2025



**Raleigh surpassed 500,000 people in 2024**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2025



**Brunswick County Fastest Growing County in North Carolina**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025



**Population of 18 Year Olds Peaking**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

## **2. Census Operational Test: Western NC Site**



## Changes to the 2026 Operational Test

The original goal was to test methods & processes for better counting hard-to-count & undercounted populations.

Six sites were announced in 2024, including one in Western NC (Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, & Swain counties & the Qualla Boundary).

The test now will focus on two sites: Spartanburg, SC & Huntsville, AL.

The test plan also is being altered in many ways that run counter to the original goals & raise questions about its overall usefulness.

## **3. Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)**

# Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

US Census Bureau maintains the Master Address File (MAF)

Local review/update of Census residential and group quarters address list.

Time (180 calendar days) and Census confidentiality limited

Review of addresses within BAS boundaries

Late 2028 – Early 2029 LUCA Address Review





## Proposed LUCA Timeline (as of Feb. 17, 2026)

May-Aug. 2027	LUCA Prep Period / Training Opportunities for Local Governments
Oct. 2028-Mar. 2029	LUCA Review / Decision to Participate / Submission of Changes
Aug. 2028-Sept. 2029	Census Bureau Review / Address List Feedback / Local Appeals
May – Sept. 2029	Closeout / Local Governments Destroy All Title 13 Data
	<i>New for 2030:</i> No paper materials; only digital submission; a six-month review period instead of a four-month one. A limited NC test in 2026.
	<i>Note:</i> Local governments will only be able to review addresses that are within the geographic boundaries certified through the Boundary & Annexation Survey!

## **4. Boundary & Annexation Survey (BAS)**

# Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS)

BAS annual survey at the first of the year tracking boundary changes

Updates reported by March 1 are shown in ACS and Census pop. estimates and next year's BAS

NC Land Records Management is the NC BAS certifying entity

March/April non-response follow-up

BAS and the State Demographer's Annual Survey are different operations





# 2026 Boundary & Annexation Survey Guide for Local Governments

The Boundary & Annexation Survey is an annual survey of tribal, state, and general-purpose local governments. It is authorized by federal law and conducted by the US Census Bureau.

Recording current information about each local government's legal boundaries is essential to getting an accurate count in the decennial Census, which affects its receipt of its fair share of federal and state funding.

The 2026 survey is using a new online [Municipal Boundaries Tool](#) that will allow North Carolina's local governments to reply more easily.

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Boundary & Annexation Survey

What is the Boundary & Annexation Survey?



Why Should My Local Government Participate?



Hasn't My Local Government Already Reported This Data?



What Are the Key Dates for 2026?



### Geography

[2026 Boundary & Annexation Survey Guide for Local Governments](#)

[Core Based Statistical Area Reference Maps](#)



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NC OneMap DATA PROJECTS ANNOUNCEMENTS TERMS CONTACT US ABOUT

Sign In

## Get Started

First, review your boundary. If everything is accurate, submit an approval form and you're done! If something isn't quite right, then proceed to Step 2 and tell us if it's because of a recent annexation or some other reason.

### Step 1

Review the current boundary by clicking the button below. If the boundary is accurate, submit an approval and you're done.

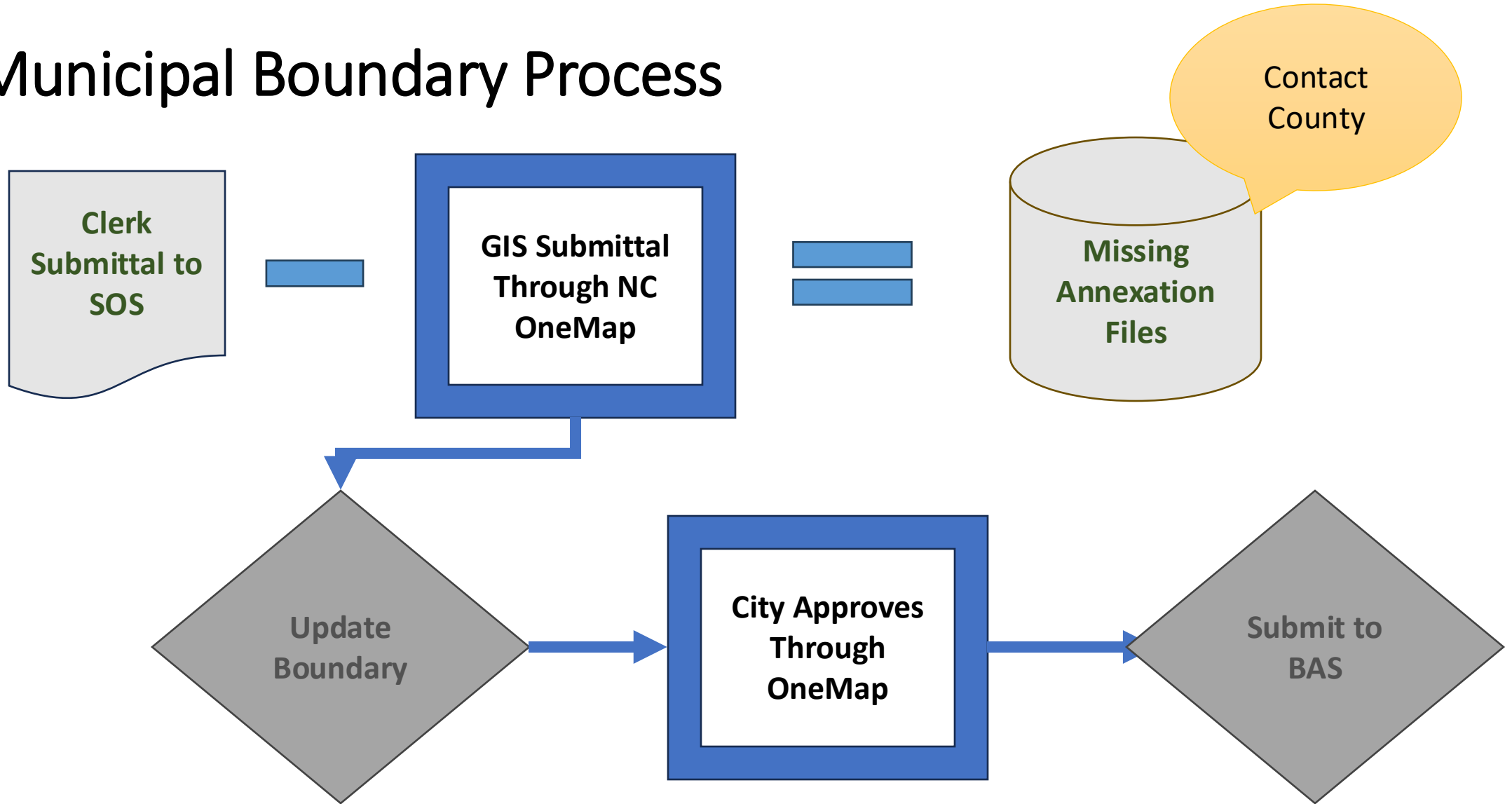
[Review and Approve](#)

### Step 2

If something isn't quite right then help us fix it. If the issue is because of a recent annexation then click the *Annexations* button. If for another reason, click *Other*.

[Annexations](#) [Other](#)

# Municipal Boundary Process



# Public Website: Check for Missing Annexations



View Submitted Annexations

Do I Need to Approve My Boundary?

BAS GIS Data Update Status



### Municipal Annexation File Status

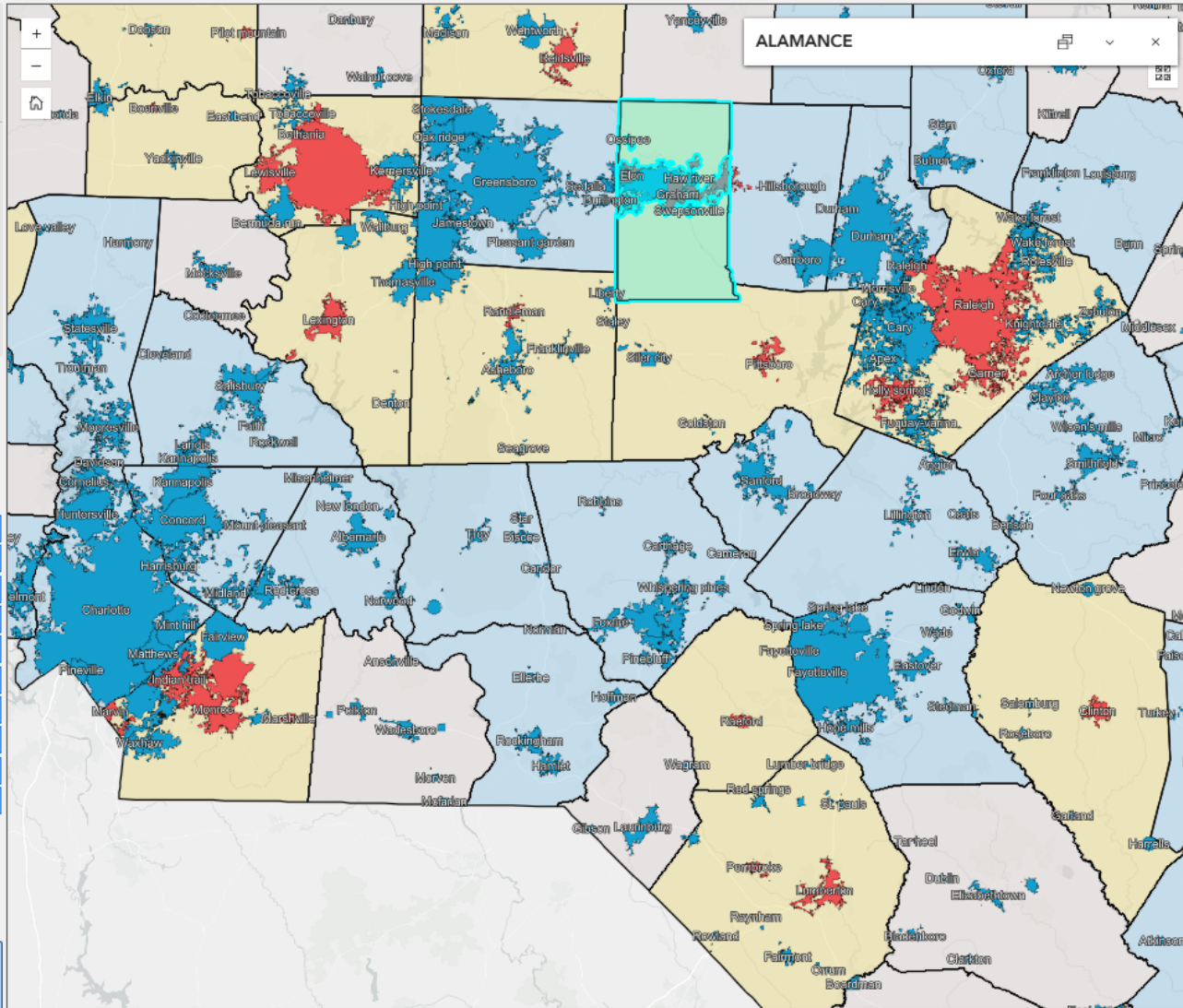
- All files received
- Missing GIS File

### County Annexation File Status

- Missing GIS file
- All files received
- No Annexations

### Missing annexations by Municipality:

ALAMANCE is missing 0 of 0
BURLINGTON is missing 0 of 10
ELON is missing 1 of 1
GIBSONVILLE is missing 0 of 2
GRAHAM is missing 1 of 1
GREEN LEVEL is missing 2 of 2
HAW RIVER is missing 0 of 0
MEBANE is missing 1 of 1
OSSIEPEE is missing 0 of 0
SWEPSONVILLE is missing 0 of 0



### Number of Missing GIS Annexation Files per County:

ALAMANCE : 5
ALEXANDER : 4
ASHE : 4
CHATHAM : 4
ROCKINGHAM : 4
WAKE : 4
DAVIDSON : 3
ROBESON : 3
RUTHERFORD : 2
BUNCOMBE : 1
HOKE : 1
JACKSON : 1
RANDOLPH : 1
SAMPSON : 1
SURRY : 1
YADKIN : 1
BEAUFORT : 0

### Missing Ordinances

GREEN LEVEL : Ord #: 2025-1211.1
GREEN LEVEL : Ord #: 2025-1211.2
ELON : Ord #: 25-932
GRAHAM : Ord #: AN 2403
MEBANE : Ord #: 176

Table last updated January 26, 2026

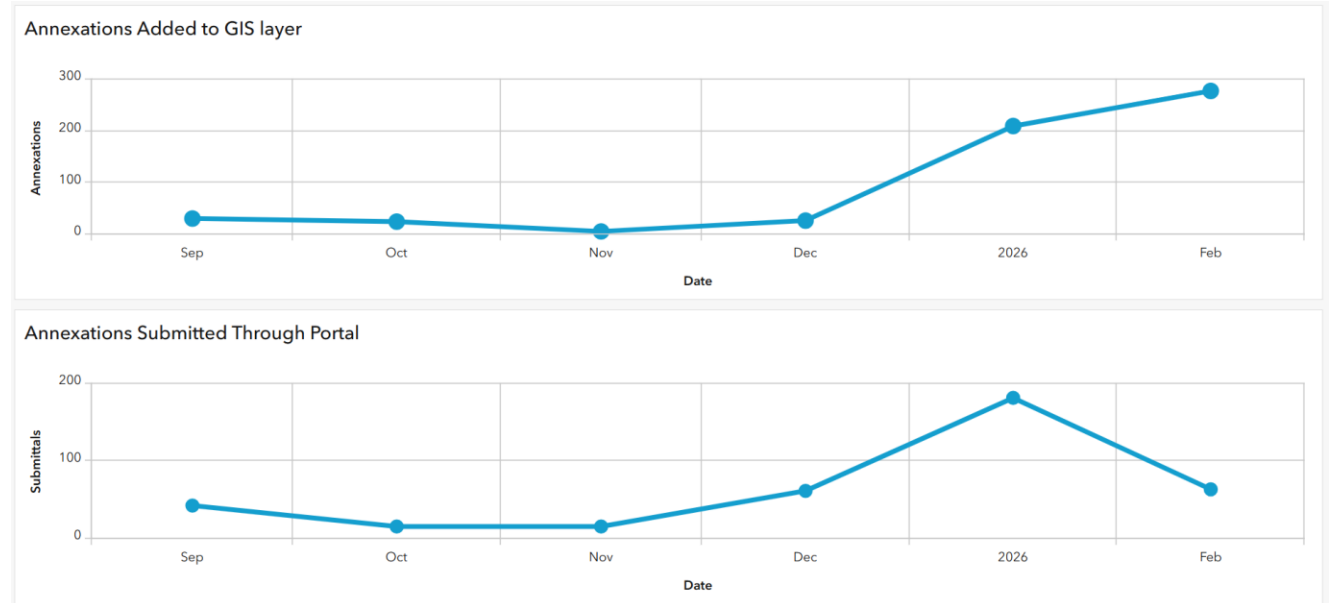
[Submit an Annexation](#)

# Progress Since Jan 1!

2025 Annexations added:  
470

2025 Annexations missing  
GIS files: 69

Focus has been on collecting  
the missing GIS files



# Public Website: Approval Status



[View Submitted Annexations](#)

[Do I Need to Approve My Boundary?](#)

[BAS GIS Data Update Status](#)



## What does this map mean?

We ask you to approve your boundary any time you submit an annexation or a correction, so you can review our edits for errors and approve it to be used for the BAS and state agency operations.

## Do you need to approve your boundary?

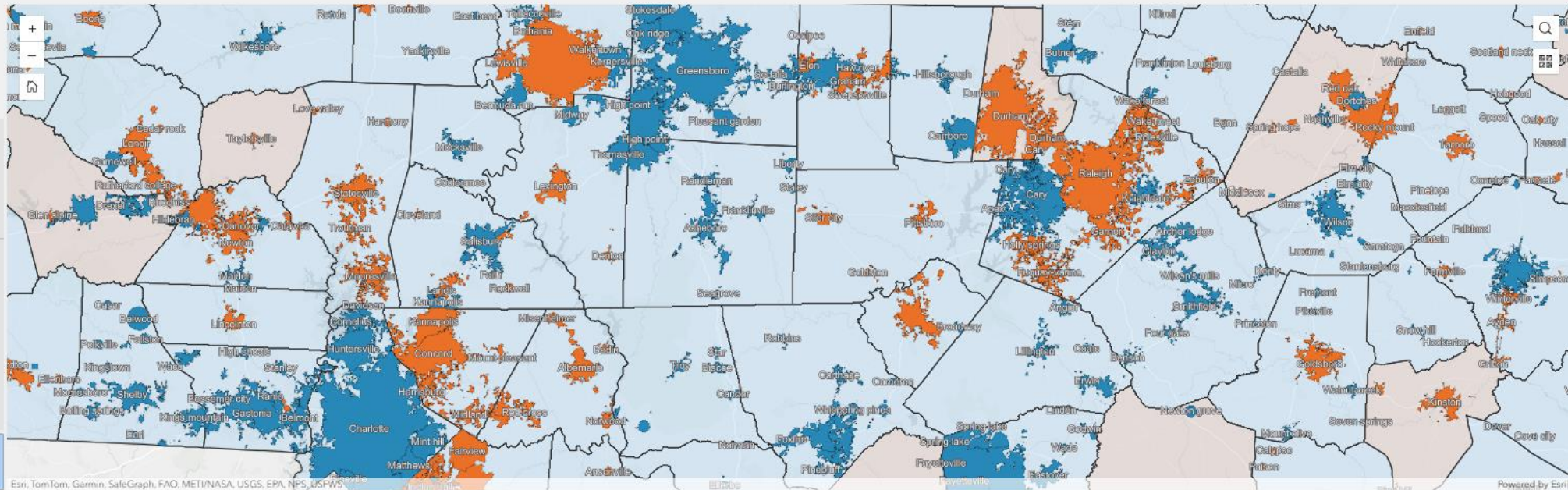
### Approval Status

- Needs Approval
- Already Approved

### County Consolidated BAS Agreement Status

- No
- Yes

[Approve Your Boundary](#)



List of 2025 Approved Municipal Boundaries

Number of Approvals in 2025

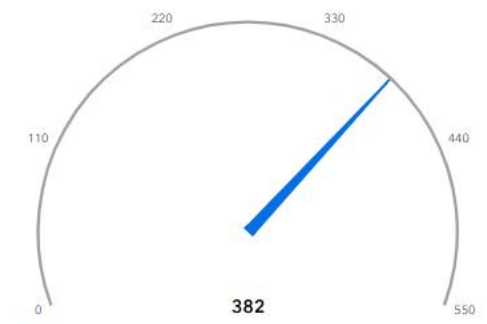
2025 Approved



88

Municipal Boundary name	County	Date Municipality Approved Edits
CLEMMONS	FORSYTH	2/16/26, 12:00 PM
KING	FORSYTH	2/16/26, 12:00 PM
BELMONT	GASTON	2/16/26, 12:00 PM
GASTONIA	GASTON	2/16/26, 12:00 PM
HIGH SHOALS	GASTON	2/16/26, 12:00 PM
KINGS MOUNTAIN	GASTON	2/16/26, 12:00 PM
LOWELL	GASTON	2/16/26, 12:00 PM

Total: 382 | Selection: 0





## Contact

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Governor's Census Liaison

NC State Data Center Coordinator

