



Traffic Fines:
Where does the money go?

The North Carolina Constitution (Article IX, Section 7), specifies, that “the clear proceeds of all penalties and forfeitures and of all fines collected in the several counties for any breach of the penal laws of the State, shall belong to and remain in the several counties, and shall be faithfully appropriated and used exclusively for maintaining free public schools.”

What are Court Costs?

Court costs are set by the Legislature and assessed when the defendant is convicted, enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. Most traffic offenses are heard in the District Court where the total court cost for a misdemeanor traffic offense is \$193.00.

Court Cost Breakdown	
\$147.50	Support of the General Court of Justice
\$12.00	Judicial Facility Fee
\$4.00	Telecommunications and Data Connectivity Fee
\$7.50	Law Enforcement Officer Retirement & Insurance
\$3.00	Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission
\$2.00	Legal representation to indigent defendants
\$5.00	Service of Process
\$2.00	Support of the State DNA Database and DNA Databank
\$10.00	Additional Fee for Traffic Violations