[Senate Bill 326](#) Fact Sheet | Updated 3.30.2021[1]

Democracy NC & Southern Coalition for Social Justice
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Status | Filed on March 18, 2021.

Bill Sponsors

Primary:
- Daniel (R - Avery, Burke, Caldwell);
- Newton (R - Cabarrus, Union);
- Hise (R - Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Yancey)

Other:
- Perry (R - Lenoir, Wayne)

Other New Sponsors [as of 3/22]:
- Barnes (R - Johnston, Nash);
- Britt (R - Columbus, Robeson);
- Edwards (Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania);
- Corbin (R - Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain);
- Galey (R - Alamance, Guilford);
- Jarvis (R - Davidson, Montgomery);
- Johnson (Union);
- Krawiec (R - Davie, Forsyth);
- Lazzara (R - Jones, Onslow);
- Sawyer (R - Iredell, Yadkin)

Summary | If enacted, Senate Bill 326 would:

1. Prohibit state and county Board of Elections from receiving private funding.[2]
   - NCSBE received $4 million in funding during the 2020 Election.
     - Center for Tech and Civic Life: used to buy single use pens & hazard bonus pay for 1-stop workers.
     - Center for Election Innovation & Research: used to send mailers and safety protocols at the poll as well as information on voting by mail
   - More than one-third of County Boards of Elections received private election funding during the 2020 Election -- 39 counties in total.[3]
     - Private funding used to supplement pay for poll workers.

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[1] All data analysis was conducted by Democracy NC utilizing NCSBE data available at: https://dl.ncsbe.gov/.

[2] This provision is a response to NCSBE receiving a total of $4 million dollars in grants from private sources. NCSBE also gave a presentation at the last State Board meeting about receiving private funds to support and supplement the lack of funding for Election Administration.

[3] One grant from Center for Tech and Civic Life – $ 1 million (used to buy single use pens). One grant from Center for Tech and Civic Life (used for hazard bonus pay for 1-stop workers). One grant from the Center for Election Innovation & Research (used to send mailers and safety protocols at the poll as well as information on voting by mail). NCSBE also helped coordinate with CBOEs to apply and receive grants from USC Schwarzenegger Institute.

2. Give voters less time to submit an absentee ballot request form.[4]
    ○   Current deadline = 1 week before Election Day
    ○   New deadline = 2 weeks before Election Day

3. Require all civilian absentee ballots be received by 5 PM on Election Day in order to be counted.[5]
    ○   During the 2020 General Election, absentee ballots that were postmarked by 5 PM on Election Day and received by November 12 were counted.
    ○   Currently, absentee ballots that are postmarked by 5 PM on Election Day and received by 3 days after Election Day are counted.[6]
    ○   Still allows military and overseas voters to have their ballot received until the day before the county canvass.

4. Appropriate $5 million in funding to the State Board of Elections to establish a program to identify individuals who need photo identification to vote in person.[7]
    ○   Provision states that there is a "mobile component to visit voters identified as needing photo identification to ensure photo identification is created for those voters."
    ○   It is unclear if this provision creates a mandate for NCSBE or CBOEs to go to voter residences to assist voters.

5. All changes/provisions become effective July 1, 2022.

Notably, there is no language that provides NCSBE or CBOEs with additional funding for Election Administration despite provisions that enact restrictions on private funding for election administration.

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[4] See Appendix A.
[5] It is likely that this deadline may not pass the "reasonable deadline" as stated in HR1, if passed: "A State may impose a reasonable deadline for requesting the absentee ballot and related voting materials from the appropriate State or local election official and for returning the ballot to the appropriate State or local election official."
[6] See Appendix B.
[7] Photo ID is not currently required to vote in North Carolina. You can read more here: https://democracync.org/take-action/protect-voters/

Appendix A | Absentee ballot requests that would be excluded under a more restrictive two-week deadline prior to Election Day.[8]

2020 request totals from Oct. 21st-27th | By Party Affiliation

Republican Party: 10,277
- Total Accepted: 5,741

Democratic Party: 13,602
- Total Accepted: 6,197

Libertarian Party: 293
- Total Accepted: 154

Constitutional Party: 30
- Total Accepted: 13

Green Party: 40
- Total Accepted: 18

Unaffiliated: 12,914
- Total Accepted: 6,596

2020 request totals from Oct. 21st-27th | By Race & Ethnicity[9]

Asian: 1,016
- Total Accepted: 446

Black/African American: 7,451
- Total Accepted: 3,113

Indian American: 216
- Total Accepted: 82

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 5
- Total Accepted: 2

Hispanic / Latinx: 1,312
- Total Accepted: 554

Other: 1,186
- Total Accepted: 492

Two or More Races: 280
- Total Accepted: 141

Undesignated: 6,352
- Total Accepted: 3,401

White: 20,650
- Total Accepted: 11,042

NOT Hispanic / Latinx: 23,253
- Total Accepted: 11,770

2018 request totals from Oct. 24th-30th | By Party Affiliation

Republican Party: 6,680
- Total Accepted: 4,651

Democratic Party: 9,753
- Total Accepted: 5,923

Libertarian Party: 109
- Total Accepted: 65

Constitutional Party: 0
- Total Accepted: 0

Green Party: 2
- Total Accepted: 1

Unaffiliated: 7,135
- Total Accepted: 4,516

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[8] Data come from the North Carolina State Board of Elections. "Accepted" data comes from first filtering to all ballots requested during the specific period, and then filtering further to all ballots eventually coded as "Accepted" or "Accepted-Cured." Data does not include Latino/a/x ethnicity.

[9] 2020 data also shows 12,591 requests from voters with an "Undesignated" ethnicity code. 6,395 of these ballots were eventually accepted. 2018 is the first year the NCSBE collected ethnicity data.

2018 request totals from Oct. 24th-30th | By Race & Ethnicity[10]

Asian: 518
- Total Accepted: 301

Black/African American: 4,409
- Total Accepted: 2,364

Indian American: 117
- Total Accepted: 55

Other: 513
- Total Accepted: 299

NOT Hispanic / Latinx: 18,049
- Total Accepted: 11,709

Two or More Races: 203
- Total Accepted: 121

Undesignated: 1,209
- Total Accepted: 767

White: 16,710
- Total Accepted: 11,249

Hispanic / Latinx: 495
- Total Accepted: 273

2016 request totals from Oct. 26th-Nov. 1st | By Party Affiliation

Republican Party: 9,220
- Total Accepted: 6,489

Democratic Party: 9,207
- Total Accepted: 6,175

Libertarian Party: 123
- Total Accepted: 78

Constitutional Party: 0
- Total Accepted: 0

Green Party: 0
- Total Accepted: 0

Unaffiliated: 7,948
- Total Accepted: 5,462

2016 request totals from Oct. 26th-Nov. 1st | By Race & Ethnicity

Asian: 452
- Total Accepted: 309

Black/African American: 4,217
- Total Accepted: 2,602

Indian American: 121
- Total Accepted: 71

Other: 470
- Total Accepted: 296

Two or More Races: 220
- Total Accepted: 136

Undesignated: 1,013
- Total Accepted: 669

White: 20,005
- Total Accepted: 14,121

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[10] Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander ethnicity not included in state data for 2018 and 2016.

Appendix B | Absentee ballots accepted based on date of receipt, 2016-2020[11]

In the 2020 General Election, absentee ballots postmarked by 5 PM on Election Day were accepted through November 12.

- In 2020, 16,280 absentee mail ballots were received between Election Day and canvass on November 13, 2020. When excluding UOCAVA ballots and rejected absentee ballots, the total number is **13,669**.
    - 27.9% of the 13,669 ballots came from Democrats, 27.5% from Republicans, and 43.37% from Unaffiliated voters.
    - 1.1% of these ballots came from Green Party, Constitutional Party, and Libertarian Party voters (162 ballots total).
    - 89.3% of all 16,280 ballots (which includes UOCAVA) were eventually accepted.

- Of those ballots, 13,654 absentee mail ballots were received between Election Day and November 6, 2020.

- In 2018, 11,881 absentee mail ballots were received between Election Day and three days after, November 9.
    - 39.2% of these ballots came from Democrats, 23.2% from Republicans, and 36.9% from Unaffiliated voters.
    - 0.6% of these ballots came from Green Party and Libertarian Party voters (80 ballots total).
    - 92.6% of these ballots were eventually accepted.

- In 2016, 8,325 absentee mail ballots were received between Election Day and three days after, November 11.
    - 29.6% of these ballots came from Democrats, 32.9% from Republicans, 36.7% from Unaffiliateds, and 0.7% from Libertarian voters.
    - 92% of these ballots were eventually accepted.

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[11] Data comes from North Carolina State Board of Elections and from an analysis by Kay Cook and Tiffany Davenport at Secure Democracy and the Voting Rights Lab.