

NORTH CAROLINA VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

You have the right to vote – it's the law, and the proof is in your hands! You'll notice letters and numbers after each of your rights listed below. These codes tell lawyers and poll workers where to find the N.C. statute that protects your rights as a properly registered voter. You can take this document with you to vote. Learn more about the rules for voting at NCVoter.org.

You Have the Right to Vote

1. HOURS. Each polling place is open between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm on Election Day. You must be allowed to vote if you are in line or inside the polling place at 7:30 pm (or at the closing time of an Early Voting poll). It's the law: NC General Statute (NCGS) 163-166.01

2. IDENTIFICATION. In general, you don't have to show identification to vote. NCGS 163-82.8. However, new voters are asked to list an ID number on the registration form – either their NC driver's license number or the last 4 digits of their Social Security number. If officials can't verify the number, or if the voter omits it, the voter will be asked at the polls to show a photo ID or one of these with their name and *current* address: a utility bill (electric, phone, water, or cable), pay stub, bank statement, or *any* document from *any* government agency. NCGS 163-166.12

3. PROVISIONAL BALLOT. If any problem arises, you have a right to vote with a provisional ballot. For example, ask for a provisional ballot if you believe you have registered but your name is not on the rolls; or if you are told that you are in the wrong precinct. You must also be given a way to find out if the provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason it was not counted. NCGS 163-166.11.

4. IF YOU MOVE. If you have **moved within your county** and have lived in your new location more than 30 days, you have the right to vote in your new precinct or at a central location. If you have lived in your new location less than 30 days, you must vote in your old precinct or cast a provisional ballot in your new precinct. If you have moved within your precinct, you can update your info at the polls and vote. NCGS 163-82.15.

If You Are NOT Registered to Vote

You can register to vote if your form is postmarked 25 days before an election. See www.ncsbe.gov. **If you miss that deadline, you can register and vote on the same day – but only during the Early Voting period before the election.** (You cannot do this on Election Day.) You must be a citizen, be at least 18, and have lived in the county

If you **move to a new county**, you must register like a new voter, by 25 days before the election. NCGS 163-82.15

5. NAME CHANGE. If your name has changed since you registered to vote, you have the right to vote, even if you have not reported your name change to election officials. NCGS 163-82.16

6. SPOILED BALLOT. If you make a mistake on your ballot, you have a right to a new ballot. You can spoil up to three ballots. 8 NCAC 10B.0104

7. ASSISTANCE. You have the right to receive assistance from a family member. If you have a disability or difficulty reading (due to language ability, vision, etc.), you have a right to assistance from anyone of your choice, except your employer or union agent. Some counties offer ballot instructions in Spanish, but that is not required. NCGS 163-166.8 and 168-165-5A

8. CURBSIDE. If the polling place is difficult to reach due to your age or physical disability, you have a right to vote in a vehicle at the curb or at the door of the polling place. NCGS 163-166.9

9. JUSTICE SYSTEM. If you are in jail for a misdemeanor, or you still have a right to vote. If you were convicted of a felony, you can re-register to vote once you complete your sentence, including any parole or probation (restitution and fines do not matter). NCGS 13-1.

10. INTIMIDATION. You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote in a certain way. NCGS 163-271

for 30 days before the election. Go to a One-Stop Early Voting site in your county, fill out the registration form, show one of the IDs listed in #2 above, and then vote! To find a One-Stop Early Voting site in your county, call 1-866-522-4723 or 888-OUR-VOTE.

Voter Registration Kit

Voter registration is the necessary first step in making sure the voices of “we the people” are heard by our elected officials. With the right information, anyone can register voters!

Some key rules for voting in North Carolina have changed. Be prepared.

10 Tips for Voter Registration Drives

1. Choose the right time and location for your registration drive so plenty of your target people will see you. Be sure to get permission to conduct the drive if the location is on private property.

2. Engage voters by asking “Can I help you update your registration?” and “Are you registered to vote at your current address?” Don't forget to smile and stay upbeat – a little kindness and energy goes a long way.

3. Have plenty of registration forms with you in English and in Spanish. Get forms from the county Board of Elections or Democracy North Carolina.

4. Other supplies: Clipboards, pens (black and blue ink only), a visible sign saying “Register to Vote,” a bin or large envelope for completed forms. Also bring stickers and fun stuff to give away, flyers about voting rights and how and when to vote, and this guide for volunteers.

5. Recruit plenty of volunteers. About 25% of those who say they'll help won't show up!

6. Be non-partisan. Don't tell people what party to register for or who to vote for; don't have signs or buttons for a candidate. You must help register anyone regardless of what party they choose. *Note:* You can state your position on an amendment or bond issue and still be non-partisan.

7. It is illegal to pre-fill out the party affiliation or to throw away or destroy a person's form.

8. Offer to fill out the form for people and let them sign. Or let them fill it out BUT review it before they leave. Some people will want to take it home but those forms are rarely turned in. Say you can help get it done correctly and quickly.

9. Train your volunteers on how to fill out forms correctly, review them quickly – and get a signature!

10. Turn in all forms to the elections board, even if parts are incomplete.

Democracy North Carolina can provide voter registration forms, “Register to Vote Here” signs, and handouts about voting rights and other topics. Call 919-286-6000.

Resources for More Information

NC State Board of Elections | www.ncsbe.gov or 866-522-4723

Democracy NC | www.democracy-nc.org or 919-286-6000

NC Voter ID Information | www.GotIDNC.com

NC Voter Information | www.NCVoter.org

Instructions For Completing The NC VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the form MUST be completed before it can be processed by the Board of Elections. Many, but not all, of these items are marked with red (Required).

People most often leave out Date of Birth; ID number (Section 3); Signature & Date!

Section 1: Begin with the boxes about being a citizen and being at least 18 by Election Day. Citizens who are at least 18 on the day of the General Election check both boxes. You can now also use this form to pre-register 16 and 17-year olds, even if the form does not have a pre-registration checkbox. Enter the pre-registrant's DOB on the appropriate line, and their registration will be processed once they turn 18. If the form does have a pre-registration checkbox, make sure pre-registrants check the box indicating that they will not be 18 by the General Election.

Section 2: Ask people to print their name as it appears on the Driver's License or Social Security Card referred to in Section 3. This will make the matching (verification) process go more smoothly.

Section 3: Ideally, list the person's NC Driver's License or NC state ID card number here. The last 4 numbers of their Social Security Number also works. If someone does not have either, they can still register, but they will be asked to show a form of ID (not necessarily a photo ID) when they first go to vote. Date of Birth may appear in this section or in Section 2, depending on which form you're using. Either way be sure to get it on the

form! The County and State of Birth are optional.

Section 4: This must be a street address, not a PO Box number. Include any apartment number. Ask everyone for their phone number; it is used by the Board of Elections to call the registrant if there are questions about missing information.

Section 5: Give a mailing address if the mail is not delivered at the address in Section 4 or if the voter uses a different permanent address (like a student or member of the military).

Section 6: Filling in Gender, Race and Ethnicity helps monitor the election process to ensure that it is not biased against any class of voters. These items and political party affiliation are optional. If a party is not marked, the Elections Board will list the voter as "Unaffiliated." In NC, Unaffiliated voters are allowed to vote in the Primary election of either political party.

Section 7: Use this section to cancel a previous registration. Some people can't remember all parts of their previous address, but at least list the county where they were registered.

ATTEST: The registrant must personally sign/date the form after reading the items. (Someone convicted of a felony anywhere can register in NC after finishing his or her sentence.)

What should I do with the completed forms?

Deliver or mail the forms to the County Board of Elections office within 7 days of completion and at least 25 days before the next election. Turn in all of the forms, even if some sections are not completed.

Frequently Asked Questions For Voter Registration

Q: Who is eligible to register to vote?

A: To register to vote in NC, people must be: (1) a US citizen by birth or naturalization; (2) at least 18 years old by Election Day; (3) not serving a felony sentence, including probation; (4) a resident of the county for at least 30 days before the next general election.

Q: Can a person register if they do not provide a driver's license or Social Security number?

A: Yes – but when they first vote, they will need to show one identification document, such as (1) a current photo ID or (2) a utility bill (phone, electric, etc.), bank statement, pay stub, or any government letter, license, or document with their name and current address.

Q: How does someone know if their registration was approved?

A: After a person's registration form is processed, a verification card is mailed to the voter. The card lists the voter's polling place. If any information on this card is incorrect, the voter should make changes in the space provided, sign the card, and return it to the County Board of Elections. The card verifies the registration but a voter doesn't need to show it to vote. If no card is received by three weeks after registration, the voters should call the Elections Board for an explanation or check their registration status online at www.demnc.co/myreg.

Q: What if a person skips a section on the registration form?

A: All required sections (marked in red) of the form must be completed for it to be properly processed – especially the signature! Always ask people to include their daytime phone number on the form so the election staff can call with any questions about missing information!

Q: Do people have to fill out all of the demographic information in Section 6?

A: No – but this information helps the Board of Elections track voter participation to ensure everyone is treated fairly. It also helps ensure that elections are accessible to everyone without regard to race,

gender, or ethnicity. Encourage people to fill in this information.

Q: What if someone asks the volunteer what political party to select in Section 6?

A: Volunteers should simply tell people to choose a party they think most closely reflects their values. If they do not know, they can register Unaffiliated or leave that section blank. If it's left blank, the person will automatically be registered as Unaffiliated. Unaffiliated voters in NC may vote in either major party's primary. Voters who do affiliate with a party can still vote for another party's candidate in the general election.

Q: What if someone thinks they may be registered?

A: It doesn't hurt to fill out a registration form again. If they think they are registered at another address, they should fill out Section 7 (Previous Registration). If you have internet access, you may look up a registration at www.demnc.co/myreg.

Q: Does a person need to show a photo ID to vote?

A: The controversial voter ID requirement that you may have heard about was repealed by the federal courts in July 2016. As a result, most voters generally do not need to show ID – but if you are a first-time voter or have moved to a new county, you may need to show a photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, or document from any government agency with your address. It's generally smart to carry a photo ID with you.

Q: How will the July 2016 federal court decision affect voting?

A: There are many changes: Early Voting is back to 17 days; Same-Day Registration during Early Voting, out-of-precinct voting on Election Day, and pre-registration are restored; the photo ID requirement has been repealed. See NCVoter.org for more details.

Do you have any other questions?

Contact the NC State Board of Elections at 866-522-4723.