

Don't Be Fooled. You Can Vote!

All kinds of myths and rumors circulate during elections. Don't be discouraged by a story that seems a little scary. It may be aimed at making you think voting is too difficult to do. Here are 20 tips to equip you with the truth and make your voting experience easier:

1. You don't lose your right to vote if you have an **outstanding warrant, traffic ticket, bankruptcy, or civil fine**. No official will ask you about these.
2. You may **wear a button**, hat, or shirt with a candidate's name when you quietly vote, but you may not actively draw attention to your choices.
3. You may **take a list of your choices** inside the polling place to help you remember, but do not show the list to others or leave it. **You may also have a list on your cell phone**, but taking photos is prohibited in the poll.
4. In the General Election, you may vote for any **candidate of your choice**, regardless of the political party you listed when you registered.
5. Candidates may be **listed in a different order** by party in different years. Look closely at each candidate and party affiliation. **"Straight-ticket voting" by party is no longer an option** on the ballot.
6. **Ballots cast during One-Stop Early Voting** count just like those cast on Election Day. It's a myth that they are not counted unless the election is close.
7. Vote the **whole ballot**. For example, important judicial races and amendments are often toward the end of the ballot. Look on **both sides of a paper ballot**.
8. You don't need an excuse to request an **absentee ballot**. Any voter can use one. When you send the ballot back, be sure to sign the form. Follow the instructions carefully so your ballot is valid!
9. The controversial voter ID requirement that you may have heard about was repealed by the federal courts in July 2016.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**. However, new voters may still need to show ID. See #10 if you are new voter.
10. **New voters** may need to show an ID **IF** the ID number on their registration form could not be verified; they would need to show a photo ID or one of these with their name & current address: a utility bill; bank statement; payroll stub; or a government document (license, bill, letter, etc.).
11. Be sure you are **registered at your current address at least 25 days before the election**. **Register again** if you move to a new address. If you miss the registration deadline, you can still register and vote at a One-Stop Early Voting site during One-Stop Early Voting but not on Election Day.
12. If you've **moved within your county**, update your registration (and vote) during One-Stop Early Voting. If you vote Election Day, you may be sent to another poll. Follow #11 if you move to a new county.
13. **On Election Day, go to your own assigned polling place (precinct) to vote**. If you can't get to your home precinct, you can ask for a "provisional ballot" at another precinct in your county, but your ballot will only partially count.
14. You can **change your name** when you vote, especially at a One-Stop Early Voting site.
15. Unless you consider another county or state to be "home," students and members of the military can **register at their current address**, even if their address for tax purposes is in another county or state.
16. People **convicted of a felony** in NC or any state may register to vote after serving their sentence, including probation. No special document is needed. Just register like anyone else. Failing to pay restitution does not block your right to vote.
17. **Voting lines are typically shortest** during the mid-morning or early afternoon of a weekday.
18. A voter with a disability may **get assistance** from anyone of their choice, except their employer or union agent. A "near family member" (not a cousin) may help any voter.
19. If you mark the **wrong choice by mistake**, ask the official for a new ballot to replace a 'spoiled' one.
20. If your name does not appear on the registration rolls or you have any problem when you vote, you should be **offered a "provisional ballot"**; you should be given a toll-free number or website to learn if the ballot gets counted or if not, why not.

*It is illegal to intentionally distribute false information about the voting process. If you **have problems or see suspicious activity** or if you need to check your registration, see a sample ballot, find your polling place, or learn your voting rights, go to www.ncsbe.gov or www.NCVoter.org or call the Board of Elections at 1-866-522-4723 or the hotline at 1-888-OUR-VOTE.*