

## **Vote Protector FAQs:**

### **What are the requirements to be a Vote Protector?**

- You must be at least 16 years old with transportation to and from your assigned polling place(s).
- You must attend a 2-hour virtual training to receive a volunteer assignment.
- You must commit to representing Democracy NC in a non-partisan manner and sign a volunteer waiver.

### **What do Vote Protectors do?**

Each Vote Protector will be assigned to one or more polling places, depending on their location and availability. Going to each assigned polling station, Vote Protectors will:

- Promote our voter hotline through planting informational yard signs at polling places,
- Complete a polling place site evaluation checklist; and
- Alert Democracy NC if there are any larger issues by calling our voter hotline, which is staffed by lawyers and law students trained in NC's election law.
- Optionally, Vote Protectors may station themselves outside of a polling place and interact with voters who need assistance. Vote Protectors who choose to interact with voters must wear a face mask and maintain a six foot distance from voters.

Our staff will work with Vote Protectors, poll workers, and County election officials to rectify voter accessibility issues raised by Vote Protectors.

### **How will Vote Protectors stay safe from COVID-19?**

We ask each volunteer to wear a mask, and we can provide additional safety measures if needed by each individual Vote Protector. Before COVID-19, it was part of each Vote Protector's role to monitor a polling place throughout the day, speaking with voters and helping individuals reach our hotline. In 2020, Vote Protectors will be trained on this role, but it will be 100% optional and at the discretion of each volunteer. The checklist that Vote Protectors are asked to fill out is able to be completed in compliance with social distancing protocols.

**Ultimately, this is a volunteer role, and if your concerns around COVID outweigh your willingness to be a Vote Protector, that is completely understandable. Please [sign up for our newsletter](#) to hear about other ways to help, or [donate today](#).**

### **Why should I be a Vote Protector?**

Voting can be a convoluted process, and can lead to voters being discouraged or even disenfranchised. Vote protectors offer assistance to each and every voter, by addressing accessibility issues at a site and providing access to our voter hotline. Addressing logistical voting site issues and individual voter issues can make a huge impact across the state and in our national elections.

Past Vote Protectors have said they have enjoyed the chance to empower voters, assist the elderly and handicapped access curbside voting, provide a reassuring presence to voters that they are not alone and the voting process is being closely observed, and offer a service to their community, country, and democracy.

**I have been a Vote Protector before. Do I have to attend training?**

-Yes. Due to COVID-19, our program looks vastly different even from the 2020 Primary Vote Protector Program, so you must be re-trained. However, new Vote Protectors will benefit from your experiences during training and role plays, and Democracy NC is thankful to have you back!

**How will I be assigned to my polling place(s)?**

After you are trained, we will ask for your zip code and how many miles you are willing to drive beyond this area. Based on this information, your preference for how many polling places you can visit, as well as our targeting of polling places that may have had issues in the past, you will be given your assignment(s).