An eligible voter who is temporarily displaced from their home, but intends to return, can keep their home registration address and vote in that county of residence. A person is only considered to have lost their residence for registration purposes if they go into another state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district of North Carolina with no intention of returning.

An eligible voter staying with a friend or family who considers that new place their home can register to vote at that address and vote in that county. If you move away and establish a new residence, you are no longer eligible to vote in your previous county, even if you believe that you may eventually return.

Eligible voters who are experiencing homelessness may register and vote. The location of the unhomed voter’s usual sleeping area is considered to be a residence for the purposes of registration, even if it’s not a house, apartment, or living structure. Registration forms even provide a space for an applicant to indicate on a map where they usually sleep.

A college student may register and vote in the county where they are attending college OR they can opt to register or remain registered at the address where they lived prior to moving to college. When a student registers to vote at their campus address, any prior registration will be canceled, even if the student does not intend to stay at this address after graduation.
A college student displaced from their campus community but who intends to return can keep their college registration address and vote in that county of residence. Students staying with family or friends who consider that new place their home can register to vote at that address. Just remember, registering at a new place cancels your prior campus registration.

Moved more than 30 days before the election? Update your registration with your new address no later than 25 days prior to the election, or use same-day registration to update your address to vote.

Moved less than 30 days prior to the election? Vote in your previous county of residence by mail or in-person. If you wait until Election Day, vote at your assigned precinct in your previous county. Find your precinct at demnc.co/lookup.

It is important that you can contact your county board of elections (look it up at demnc.co/yourboe) and they can contact you. Notify the board of any changes to your mailing address, if different from your residential address. If possible, include a mobile number on a voter registration or absentee ballot request form so you can be contacted if there are any issues.

Important Dates for Voting

Oct. 9, 2020: Plan to register to vote online, by mail, or in-person in the county where you live or intend to return by this date, OR

Oct. 15-31, 2020: Use Early voting, when any voter can register and vote at the same time in the county where they live or intend to return.

Got questions? Visit ncvoter.org or call 888-OUR-VOTE (888-687-8683)