

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.**

TOP 11 TIPS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

- ☑ **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.
- ☑ **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.
- ☑ **Have plenty of registration forms with you** in English and in Spanish. Get forms from the county Board of Elections or Democracy North Carolina.
- ☑ **Other supplies:** Clipboards, pens (black 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.
- ☑ **Recruit plenty of volunteers.** Usually only about 75% of those who sign up to help will actually show up.
- ☑ **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.*
- ☑ **It is illegal to pre-fill out the party affiliation** or to throw away or destroy a person’s form.
- ☑ **Offer to review the form before the voter signs it.** 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.
- ☑ **Train your volunteers** on how to fill out forms correctly, remind them to review forms quickly – and always get the voter’s signature!
- ☑ **Turn in all forms** to the elections board, even if parts are incomplete or voided.
- ☑ **If you want to retain a person’s email address after you’ve registered them to vote,** ask them to provide it on a separate

document like a pledge card. State law prohibits people other than election officials from retaining certain information from voter registration forms, including email addresses, signatures, dates of birth, full or partial Social Security numbers, and driver’s license numbers.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Democracy NC
democracync.org or
919-286-6000

NC Voter Information
ncvoter.org

Democracy NC can provide voter registration forms, “Register to Vote Here” signs, voting rights resources and more.

Contact us at 919-286-6000 or info@democracync.org.

DEMOCRACY NC

Instructions for Completing the

NC VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 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 the check boxes at the top, Date of Birth, ID number (Section 3), and Signature & Date (Section 10).

Section 1: Begin with the first two 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. The third checkbox is to pre-register 16 and 17-year olds. Enter the pre-registrant's DOB on the appropriate line, and their registration will be processed once they turn 18.

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.

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 are optional.

Section 7: 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 8: 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.

Section 9: Ask everyone for their phone number; it is used by the Board of Elections to call the registrant about missing information.

Section 10: "I attest:" The registrant must personally sign/date the form after reading the items. (Someone convicted of a felony anywhere can register in North Carolina 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/parole; (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 demnc.co/lookup.

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 7?

A: You should tell voters to choose a party that most closely reflects their values. If they do not know, they can register Unaffiliated or leave the section blank. If it's left blank, the person will automatically be registered as Unaffiliated. NC's Unaffiliated voters 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 8 (Previous Registration). If you have internet access, you may look up a registration at demnc.co/myreg.

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

A: The voter ID requirement you may have heard about is still being challenged in court and is therefore not being enforced. As a result, most voters generally do not need to show ID to vote – 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: What if the voter registration deadline has passed?

A: Voters can still register and vote in one trip if they go to a One-Stop Early Voting site in their county and bring the documentation listed in the prior question about registration. Same-day registration is not an option on Election Day, so be sure to get to the polls during the 17-day Early Voting period before Election Day. To find Early Voting options in your county, visit demnc.co/voteearly.

Q: Can I register to vote online?

A: Online voter registration (OVR) is now available through North Carolina's DMV website. To use OVR, you must have a NC drivers license or DMV-issued ID card. To register online, visit demnc.co/ovr or find full instructions at demnc.co/register.

Do you have any other questions? Contact the NC State Board of Elections at 866-522-4723.

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 tell lawyers and poll workers where to find the N.C. statute or legal document that protects your rights as a properly-registered voter. Take this document with you to vote. If you are not registered, check out the bottom section.



You Have the Right to Vote

1. HOURS. Your assigned Election Day polling place is open between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm. You must be allowed to vote if you are in line or inside the polling place by 7:30 pm (or in line or inside the polling place at the closing time of any Early Voting poll in your county). *It's the law: NC General Statute (NCGS) 163A-1130*

2. NO ID NEEDED TO VOTE. If you are properly registered, you do not need a photo ID to vote. The controversial voter ID requirement is still being challenged in court and is therefore not being enforced. See ncvoter.org for the latest on the law. *Order: 1:18CV1034 Issued: 12/31/19*

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 163A-1142*

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. If you move to a new county 30 or more days before Election Day, you must update your registration and vote in your new county of residence. Your last chance to update this information and vote is on the last day of Early Voting. If you move to your new

county less than 30 days before Election Day, you must return to your previous county and vote at an Early Voting site or your old precinct. Find your county's Early Voting locations at demnc.co/voteearly. *NCGS 163A-878*

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 163A-880*

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 in order to vote. 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. *NCGS 163A-1139*

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 163A-1140*

9. BEEN LOCKED UP? If you are in jail for a misdemeanor, you still have a right to vote. If you were convicted of a felony, you can re-register to vote once you fully complete your sentence, including any parole or probation (restitution and fines do not affect voting eligibility if a criminal court has declared its sentence complete). *NCGS 13-1.*

10. INTIMIDATION. You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote in a certain way. *NCGS 163A-1385*

What to Do if You're Not Registered

CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE? Online voter registration (OVR) is now available through North Carolina's DMV website. To use OVR, you must have a NC drivers license or DMV-issued ID card. To register online, visit demnc.co/ovr or find full instructions at demnc.co/register.

You can register to vote if your signed registration form is postmarked 25 days before an election. See ncsbe.gov for the deadline. If you miss that deadline, you can register and vote on the same day during the 17-day

Early Voting period before Election Day (you cannot do this on Election Day). You must be a citizen, be at least 18, and have lived in the county for 30 days before the election.

Just go to an Early Voting site in your county, fill out the registration form, show one of the following with a name and address: a gov't document, pay stub, utility bill, bank statement, or student ID with a school document showing your address, and then vote! To find an Early Voting site in your county, call 888-OUR-VOTE or visit demnc.co/voteearly.