

# 2026 WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

*No matter your issue or what you care about, you will find it on your ballot in 2026*

## PRIMARY ELECTION

**Pick which candidates appear on the General Election ballot this fall**

*Primary Election Day* — Tuesday, March 3, 2026

*Save Time, Vote Early* — Thursday, February 12 to Saturday, February 28, 2026

## GENERAL ELECTION

**Pick who represents you and your community in the years to come**

*General Election Day* — Tuesday, November 3, 2026

*Save Time, Vote Early* — Thursday, October 15 to Saturday, October 31, 2026

**VOTE!**★

**PRO-TIP:** The more you know about the races on your ballot — the less you leave blank.

*Take your time, mark your choices in EVERY race in your area, and encourage others to do the same. Learn how to look up your sample ballot at [ncvoter.org/ballot](https://ncvoter.org/ballot)*

## REMEMBER — Start with the Locals

The races at the bottom of your ballot that touch our everyday lives should be a top priority for all voters.

## POSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

**Local County Commissioners** — Hold the purse strings for your community, determining everything from local funding for your elections and schools to setting property taxes.

**Local Judges, Clerks, & District Attorneys** — Have the power to do everything from felony and misdemeanor criminal cases to business disputes to divorce and child custody.

**Local Mayors & City Councils** — A number of NC municipalities have elections in 2026 for mayors and city councils, all of which directly impact your community.

**Local Soil & Water Conservation Supervisors** — Establish conservation priorities and work on soil preservation, flood prevention, and protecting clean water.

**Local Sheriffs** — Oversee general law enforcement for their total county, make arrests, and investigate crime.

**Local Boards of Education** — School boards decide where kids go to school, classroom sizes, and even what books are used.

*Find your sample ballot, check your registration, and see your voting precinct at [ncvoter.org/lookup](https://ncvoter.org/lookup). Problems or questions? Call **888-OUR-VOTE***



## REMEMBER — Choose Who Runs Our State

All North Carolinians will be affected by these branches of government.

### STATE JUDGES AND JUSTICES: NC COURT OF APPEALS + SUPREME COURT

The state's highest courts hold the governor and legislature accountable, make life or death decisions in death penalty appeals, and are the final word on other appeals and interpretations of state laws, from voting maps to whether you have to show your ID when you vote.

⚡ **NC Supreme Court** — The state's highest court has 7 seats.

⚡ **NC Court of Appeals** — These judges hear criminal and civil case appeals from the District and Superior Courts. There are 15 Court of Appeals seats in the state.



### STATE LEGISLATURE: NC SENATE + NC HOUSE

The two chambers of the NC General Assembly hold the power to make state laws on everything from voting access to investment in education. The NC Senate is made up of 50 members, and the NC House is made up of 120. They are elected for 2-year terms.

## REMEMBER — Don't Forget Your Federal Picks

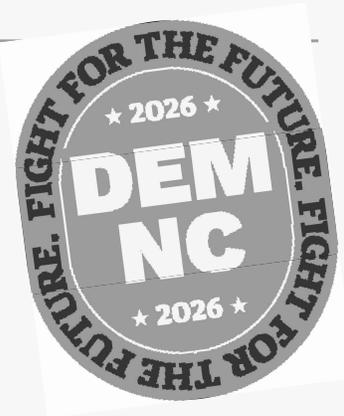
Everything from the future of the economy to immigration to public health is on your ballot.

### CONGRESS: U.S. SENATE + U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

With the ability to make U.S. law and oversee federal agencies, Congress' powers include investing tax dollars, military intervention, and when to hold the President accountable.

⚡ **U.S. Senator** — Each state elects 2 Senators to the U.S. Senate. They adopt the federal budget, pass laws, and approve appointments by the President to the U.S. Supreme Court, other courts, and many agencies.

⚡ **U.S. House of Representatives** — The U.S. House adopts laws with the U.S. Senate and President. North Carolina has 14 districts. You vote for 1 candidate in your district to be your Representative.



**FACT** — The 2020 General Election resulted in the *highest voter turnout in recent U.S. history*. **Over 5.5 million** North Carolinians cast a ballot, nearly **72%** of the state's voting-eligible population at the time.