

# 2026 Midterm Election

## *Hot Tips for Voting*



North Carolina is having an election this year for local, state, and federal positions. The winning candidates will create policies that affect your life. **Vote in Primary AND General Elections!**

### **Primary Election**

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

*Election Day* — Tuesday, March 3, 2026

*Early Voting* — Thursday, February 12 to Saturday, February 28, 2026

### **General Election**

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**Pick who represents you in the years to come**

*Election Day* — Tuesday, November 3, 2026

*Early Voting* — Thursday, October 15 to Saturday, October 31, 2026

Voting questions? Visit [ncvoter.org](https://ncvoter.org) or call **888-OUR-VOTE (888-687-8683)**.



# Top 10 Tips

## For Voting



### 1.) Register

You can register to vote at your current address, online or by print form, 25 days before Election Day, or in person at an Early Voting site (*but NOT on Election Day*). A 17-year-old may register and vote in the Primary Election if they will be 18 by the General Election on November 3, 2026. **Update your registration if you move.** For more rules, visit [ncvoter.org/register](https://ncvoter.org/register).

### 2.) Bring Your ID

You need to show an NC driver's license or other "acceptable photo ID" to vote with a **regular** ballot (*not a provisional one*). A free ID can be obtained at your local County Board of Elections. Learn more, including what ID types are acceptable and exceptions, at [gotidnc.org](https://gotidnc.org).

**PRO-TIP:** Check now to make sure your registration is current so you're ready to vote at [ncvoter.org/lookup](https://ncvoter.org/lookup).

### 3.) Vote Early

You can register AND vote on the same day during the 17-day Early Voting period ONLY. Just fill out a form at your county's EV site, and show one of the following with your name and address: current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, another current government document or one issued from the institution that issued the photo ID that you use to satisfy the voter photo ID requirement. Find your site at [ncvoter.org/voteearly](https://ncvoter.org/voteearly).

#### 4.) Election Day

Polls are open 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. on Primary and General Election Days. Vote *at your assigned polling location*, NOT an Early Voting location. Visit [ncvoter.org/lookup](https://ncvoter.org/lookup) to find your Election Day polling location. Lines are longest 7–9 A.M. and 4–7:30 P.M. If you are in line by 7:30 P.M. you can vote. Stay in line!

#### 5.) Vote By Mail

Any registered voter may vote by mail (*also known as “absentee” voting*). Learn the latest rules about what you’ll need and who can help you vote by mail at [ncvoter.org/absentee](https://ncvoter.org/absentee).

**PRO-TIP:** Mail-in absentee voters must send a copy of an acceptable photo ID with their ballot request or with the returned ballot OR an affidavit noting lack of access to a method to attach a physical copy of the identification card to the written request as a reasonable impediment.

#### 6.) Been Locked Up?

***If you have been convicted of a felony***, you get back your right to vote once you have completed your sentence, including probation, post-release supervision, and parole. Fines, fees, and restitution alone do not make you ineligible to vote. You just register and vote like any eligible voter, and you don’t need a special document that says your rights are restored. Please call **877-OUR-VOTE** for the latest rules. Learn more at: [ncvoter.org/notlockedout](https://ncvoter.org/notlockedout).

#### 7.) Assistance

A close family member may help you vote; voters with a disability or difficulty reading may get help from

## 7.) Cont.

anyone (*except their employer or union agent*). You have the right to vote curbside from your vehicle if you can't reach the voting room due to age, a physical or mental disability, or you have an illness or medical condition. Problems voting curbside? Call **888-OUR-VOTE**.

## 8.) Back-Up Plan

If you go to the wrong precinct and don't have time to get to your correct precinct, you can cast a provisional ballot. If you're told you can't vote a regular ballot for another reason, you have the right to vote a provisional ballot. Ask for it! You also have the right to ask for an ID exception form if you aren't able to present an ID when voting. If you're denied a provisional ballot, call **888-OUR-VOTE (888-687-9683)** immediately.

**PRO-TIP:** Review your sample ballot and nonpartisan voter guides at [ncvoter.org](https://ncvoter.org) for more on your local races.

## 9.) Vote Your Entire Ballot

Remember, elections (*state, local, and national*) can have a direct impact on your life. You can take a cell phone or paper list into the polls to help remember your choices for each elected office, but photos aren't allowed. If you mess up a ballot, just ask for a new one.

## 10.) Check Your Party Affiliation and Vote Accordingly

In an NC Primary Election, you must vote in the primary for the party with which you are registered. Unaffiliated Voters in NC can choose the party's primary in which to vote: Democratic, Republican, or Libertarian. (*The Green Party has not opened their primaries to unaffiliated voters*)

