

## Formal Opposition to Proposed Rule on “Governing Deficient Absentee Ballots”

[08 NCAC 18 .0505: Irregularities That Require Further Action](#) – This rule identifies irregularities that must be documented and the voter contacted to determine whether the issue can be cured or must result in the ballot being spoiled and reissued.

Dear Members of the North Carolina State Board of Elections,

I am a registered voter in [County] County and have been voting since [Year]. I care deeply about fair elections because [your personal reason].

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed 2026 Absentee Voting Rules which would reclassify certain absentee ballot anomalies as deficiencies requiring voters to take additional action to have their ballots counted.

[Numbered Memo 2021-03](#) already addresses this clearly: if a ballot arrives in a sealed outer envelope, it is not deficient and can be counted without any action from the voter. The memo is explicit, "In all of the above situations, the ballot was received in a sealed envelope and is therefore not deficient."

These proposed rules would override that standard, requiring voters to submit a written attestation before the close of business on the day before county canvass for three common, innocent mistakes: failing to seal the inner ballot envelope, placing the ballot in the wrong envelope, and two voters at the same address accidentally swapping their ballots. In each case, the ballot arrived intact and the voter's intent is plain. There is no evidence of abuse, no documented failure of the existing guidance, and no security justification for treating these anomalies as deficiencies.

The voters most harmed will be those who rely on mail-in voting most — homebound voters, elderly voters, voters with disabilities, and voters displaced by natural disasters— for whom meeting a last-minute cure deadline is not always possible.

I urge the Board to reject these proposed rules and preserve the standard already in place.

Respectfully submitted,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP]