

AT A GLANCE

NC Election Protection Report

Lessons from the 2024 General Election

This report, produced by Democracy NC and Southern Coalition for Social Justice, draws on nearly 6,500 calls to the NC Election Protection Hotline (888-OUR-VOTE) during the 2024 General Election. The findings are organized around five recurring barriers to voter access, each documented below with some key numbers and findings.

Across all five areas, votes weren't rejected because of fraud or ineligibility, but because of process errors and administrative “gotchas:” missed deadlines voters didn't know about, forms that weren't offered to them, training gaps between counties, and rules that don't match how people actually move, vote, or live. Nearly every recommendation in the full report is a process fix that will better allow eligible voters to cast a ballot and have it count.

VOTER REGISTRATION

- **Around 500,000** — eligible North Carolinians were unregistered heading into the 2024 election (before counting outdated registrations)
- **1 in 3** — Hotline calls involved a registration question or issue
- **62%** — of provisional ballots were rejected, 89% of those for registration-related reasons

North Carolina is one of the few same-day-registration states that doesn't allow it on Election Day itself, one of the report's biggest recommended fixes.

VOTER PHOTO ID

- **400+** — voters called with photo ID questions or reports of poll worker confusion over ID exception forms

- **85% vs. 25%** — ballot acceptance rate: voters who used an ID exception form on the spot were accepted far more often than those told to return later with an ID
- **69 vs. 132** — only half of NC's total colleges and universities have a State Board of Elections-approved student photo ID, though all are eligible to apply for approval

The big fixes: Improve and increase training for county boards and poll workers when it comes to implementation of the voter ID law; continue outreach to colleges and universities around the student ID approval process; approve usage of digital photo IDs as voter photo IDs; and increase community outreach about availability of free voter photo ID.



NC ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE REPORT

Scan the QR code to
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VOTING BY MAIL

- **Nearly 17%** — of all Hotline calls concerned mail voting, even though mail ballots made up only a little more than 5% of all ballots cast
- **5,000+** — mail ballots rejected for missing witness signatures (NC requires two witnesses or a notary; 39 states require none)
- **2,708** — ballots rejected solely for arriving after Election Day

Mail voting generates three times its share of Hotline calls relative to its share of ballots, a sign the process itself is the barrier.

INTIMIDATION & ELECTIONEERING

- **400+** — calls to the Hotline reported intimidation or hostile electioneering, spanning 61 of North Carolina's 100 counties
- **200+** — calls reported aggressive in-person intimidation
- **Statewide** — signage in Spanish falsely warned noncitizens they could be “deported” for voting, a coordinated intimidation tactic aimed at Latino voters

Clear public guidance should be posted on what counts as voter intimidation and what voters' rights are at the polls, and there should be a publicized avenue for reporting and redress.

DISABILITY ACCESS

- **430+** — Hotline calls came from voters requesting help or reporting problems related to a disability
- **35 minutes to 4 hours** — the wait time Hotline voters reported for curbside voting, often due to a shortage of poll workers assigned to the area
- **One-third** — of all Hotline calls requesting a ride to the polls were related to accessibility needs

Many voters and lawmakers take for granted what it's like to vote without a disability; this data is a starting point for closing that gap.

Questions about how and where to vote or facing issues? Text or call the NC Election Protection Hotline at 888-OUR-VOTE (888- 687-8683) for real-time help from trained volunteers!