

VOTING IN NORTH CAROLINA

Special points of interest:

- Who Can Vote?
- How Do I Register?
- When and Where Can I Vote Early?
- Important Dates To Remember

WHO CAN VOTE?

Any registered North Carolina voter may vote. To register, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by the day of General Election

A resident of the county for at least 30 days prior to November 4th.

* You do **NOT** have to have voted in the May 6th primary to be able to vote in the general election. If you missed the Primary or register to vote after the Primary, you can still participate in the general election.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Your registration form must be postmarked or delivered to your local Board of Elections at least 25 days before the election in which you want to vote. For the November 4th General Election, this deadline is October 10th. If you miss this deadline, you can use Same Day Registration & Voting at Early Voting sites during the Early Voting period for the General Election, which runs from October 16th to November 1st.

*****You cannot use Same Day Registration on Election Day*****

To register or change your voter registration, you can:

- Visit your local Board of Elections during regular business hours to register.
- Download a registration form and mail it to your local Board of Elections
- Obtain a voter registration form at any public library – local policies will vary on whether they will turn the form in for you or if you need to turn it in or mail it to your local Board of Elections yourself.
- If you are a student, many high schools have registration forms.
- Obtain a registration form at your local Department of Social Services or public health office.
- Register at any Department of Motor Vehicles office when you apply for or renew your driver's license.
- Register during registration drives

Use Same Day Registration to register *and* vote on the same day at designated sites during the Early Voting period for the General Election (you may *not* use this option on Election Day!)

After about a week, you should receive a voter registration card in the mail with the name and location of your voting precinct and polling place. You never need to show this card when you vote. It just helps you remember where your polling place is. If you have not received your card within two weeks of registering, you should call your local Board of Elections and make sure it is being processed. You can also search on-line to see if you are registered yet.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN I VOTE EARLY?

Beginning 19 days before an election (October 16th for the November 4th General Election), all North Carolina counties must open at least one location where citizens can vote early. This is sometimes called "One Stop Absentee Voting" or "In-Person Absentee Voting" because you are voting early in person and you will be "absent" on Election Day. You can also vote early by mail with an Absentee Ballot.

One Early Voting site must be at the county Board of Elections office or at a nearby building. The county can open other sites, and these may be open different days and hours. At least one site must be open from 19 days to 3 days before Election Day. That means it will be open from October 10th until November 1st for the 2008 General Election. Generally, the sites are open from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday to Friday, and 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturday. Some counties even open sites on Sunday.

The hours that Early Voting sites are open vary from county to county and from site to site. Keep in mind that sometimes a Board of Elections will call Early Voting "One-Stop No-Excuse Absentee Voting" or "One-Stop Early Voting" – these terms all mean the exact same thing as Early Voting.

A few weeks before the election, the State Board will post a list of statewide Early Voting sites and you will be able to access the list form here.

You can also register and vote on the same day at any Early Voting site during the Early Voting period (but not on Election Day).

Note: Voting early does not delay the counting of your ballot or impair the validity of your ballot. You will be asked to sign a statement that you want to vote early and will not vote on Election Day. While the number of early voters is counted and used to gauge public interest in an election (and the subsequent staffing needs for polling places), the results of early voting are not known until Election Day, when the ballots are tallied and included in the county's overall election numbers as a separate precinct/polling place.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Registration Deadline	Postmarked or delivered by Oct. 10
Early Voting Period	Oct. 10 – Nov. 1
Election Day	Nov. 4

For more information, visit <http://www.2008electionconnection.com/>

Or contact: **Democracy North Carolina**

1821 Green St.

Durham, NC 27705

E-mail: info@democracy-nc.org

O: 919-286-6000

F: 919-286-6023

