

## FAQs

### ***When will absentee ballots be available for voting?***

Absentee ballots are available 60 days prior to a statewide general election, 30 days prior to all municipal elections, and 50 days prior to a statewide primary and any other type of election.

### ***What is the absentee ballot request and return deadline?***

The request must be received by 5:00 p.m., the last Tuesday before the election. The voter must return the voted ballot by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election in order for it to be counted.

### ***Do I get extra time if I mail the voted ballot?***

Yes, provided that the ballot is postmarked by Election Day and received by the county board of elections no later than three (3) days following the election.

### ***Can anyone return the ballot for me?***

If returned in person, only the voter or a near relative may return an absentee ballot to the county board of elections.

### ***May I automatically be sent an absentee ballot for all elections for which I am eligible?***

Voters must request an absentee ballot for each specific election. However, if a voter has a sickness or physical disability that is expected to last the remainder of a calendar year, after initially requesting an absentee ballot, the voter may use the application on the back of the container-return envelope that is sent as part of the balloting materials, to request that absentee balloting materials be sent automatically for the duration of the calendar year.

### ***What are the requirements for ensuring that my ballot will be approved?***

To be approved by a county board of elections, your ballot must be returned by the ballot return deadline and both the voter and a witness must sign the application on the back of the container-return envelope.

### ***May I fax or email my request?***

Yes, you may fax or email your signed request. If you plan to email your request, please be sure that you scan the signed request first. Civilian absentee voters may not return a voted ballot by fax or email.

### ***Are there special voting privileges for military or overseas voters?***

Yes. Please visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for information on absentee voting for military and overseas voters.

### ***I have Power of Attorney for a voter, may I vote their ballot.***

No. Power of Attorney does not automatically give you permission to vote another's ballot. Please contact the voter's county board of elections if you have questions.

For additional help, call 1-866-522-4723 or  
email [elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov](mailto:elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov)

## Acceptable Voter ID

- Current and valid photo ID
  - NC driver license or identification card
  - Other government-issued photo ID
- Documents showing name and current address of the applicant:
  - Utility bill: telephone; mobile phone; electric or gas; cable television; water or sewage
  - Bank statement or bank-issued credit card statement
  - Government paycheck; invoice; letter; or any other document from a local, state, or U.S. government agency
  - Property tax bill
  - License to hunt, fish, own a gun, etc.
  - Automotive registration
  - Public housing or Social Service Agency document
  - Paycheck or paycheck stub from an employer or a W-2 statement
  - Student photo ID along with a document from the school showing the student's name and current address

You may check the status  
of your voter registration  
and absentee ballot request  
by visiting

**[www.NCSBE.gov](http://www.NCSBE.gov)**

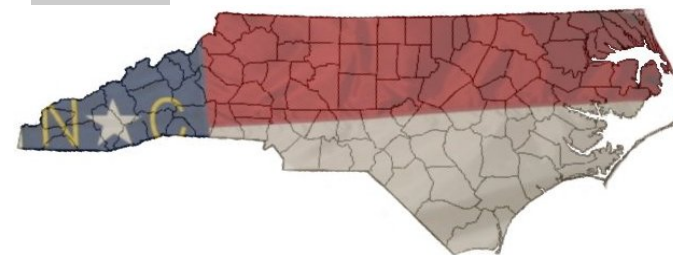
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## North Carolina State Board of Elections



## Civilian Absentee Voting in North Carolina

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NC State Board of Elections  
P.O. Box 27255  
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# Absentee Voting in North Carolina

North Carolina voters who want to vote before Election Day, have two convenient alternatives for voting:

- Absentee Voting By Mail
- One-stop Absentee Voting (Early Voting)

## Absentee Voting By Mail

Voters can have their ballot sent to them by mail. Any North Carolina registered voter, or that voter's near relative\* or verifiable legal guardian may request a no-excuse absentee ballot by mail. To request an absentee ballot by mail, send a signed written request to the county board of elections of the county in which the voter resides. The county board of elections must receive the absentee ballot request no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday before the election.

Please be sure to let the county board know if you have moved, changed your name, or need to update any other information. If registered and qualified for the election, an absentee application and ballot will be mailed to the voter after the receipt of the signed written request.

\* A near relative is a: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild.

Requesting an absentee ballot by mail is easy -- simply send the written request to the county board of elections with the following information:

- ❶ A statement indicating that you would like to request an absentee ballot for a specific election.
- ❷ Your Name
- ❸ Your Date of Birth
- ❹ Your Residential address
- ❺ The address where your ballot should be mailed (if different)
- ❻ A telephone number or email address
- ❼ Your signature (Required)

**Example** *March 9, 2012*

Dear County Board of Elections,

❶ My name is Jane Doe and I would like to request an absentee ballot for the [Election Date/Year] (e.g. 2012 General Election). My date of birth ❸ is January 1, 1970.

❹ My address is: 123 Main Street  
Anywhere, NC 27123

❺ Please mail my ballot to my home address. If you have any questions, please call me at (919) 555-5555. ❻

Sincerely,  
Jane Doe ❼

## One-stop Absentee Voting

North Carolina voters may also choose to vote in person using One-stop Absentee Voting - or "Early Voting." One-stop voting begins the third Thursday before any election that permits absentee voting and ends the Saturday prior to Election Day. Most elections, except for some municipal elections, permit absentee voting. Voters should check with their county board of elections for details on whether an election will allow absentee voting.

If absentee voting is allowed, one-stop voting is conducted at the county board office or a site alternative to the county board office. In larger elections, such as statewide primaries or general elections, many county boards will establish additional one-stop voting sites.

In North Carolina, a non-registered person can register to vote for the first time and vote at one-stop sites. In order to register, one-stop registrants are required to present ID\* that show the person's name and current address in the county. One-stop registrants are only permitted to vote during the one-stop voting period; they may not register at one-stop and then expect to vote on Election Day.

\* See back for permissible ID.