



UNAFFILIATED  
CANDIDATE  
PETITION  
GUIDE

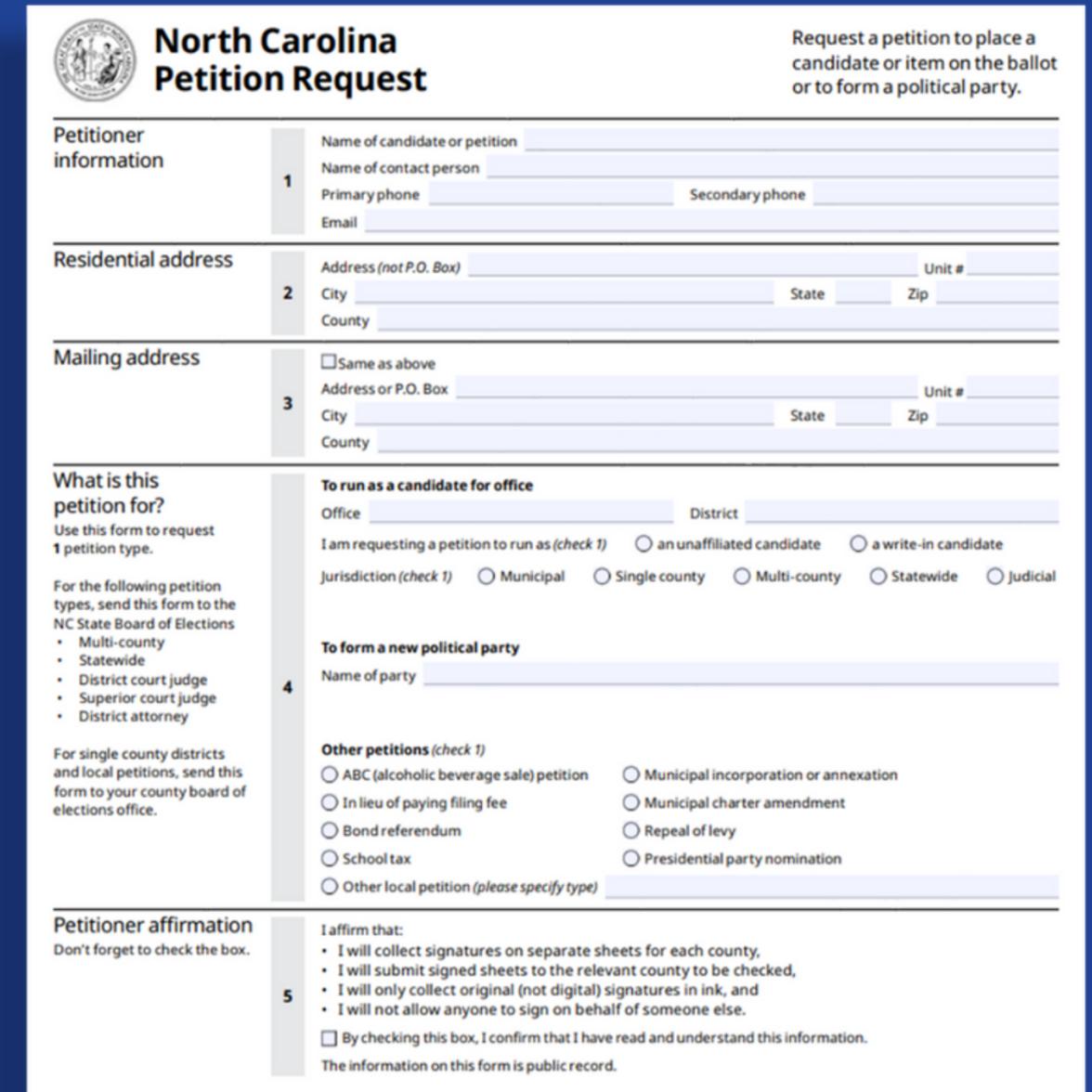
FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

# Petition Request Form

- Voters interested in running as an Unaffiliated candidate for an office are required to provide a completed petition request form to the County Board of Election or State Board of Elections, whichever oversees the jurisdiction of the office they will be petitioning.
- The County Board of Elections will set up the signature collection form with the necessary information to ensure proper verification of signatures collected. This may be provided to the candidate via email for their use.

## Exceptions:

- Candidates whose name appeared on a primary ballot will not be eligible to file as an Unaffiliated candidate for the General Election.
- Unaffiliated petitioners are not required to be registered as an Unaffiliated voter to petition as an Unaffiliated candidate; the petitioner would not be representing their official party of registration on the ballot.



**North Carolina**  
**Petition Request**

Request a petition to place a candidate or item on the ballot or to form a political party.

**Petitioner information**

1 Name of candidate or petition \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of contact person \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential address**

2 Address (not P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address**

3  Same as above  
Address or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

**What is this petition for?**  
Use this form to request 1 petition type.

For the following petition types, send this form to the NC State Board of Elections

- Multi-county
- Statewide
- District court judge
- Superior court judge
- District attorney

For single county districts and local petitions, send this form to your county board of elections office.

4 **To run as a candidate for office**  
Office \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
I am requesting a petition to run as (check 1)  an unaffiliated candidate  a write-in candidate  
Jurisdiction (check 1)  Municipal  Single county  Multi-county  Statewide  Judicial

**To form a new political party**  
Name of party \_\_\_\_\_

**Other petitions (check 1)**  
 ABC (alcoholic beverage sale) petition  Municipal incorporation or annexation  
 In lieu of paying filing fee  Municipal charter amendment  
 Bond referendum  Repeal of levy  
 School tax  Presidential party nomination  
 Other local petition (please specify type) \_\_\_\_\_

**Petitioner affirmation**  
Don't forget to check the box.

5 I affirm that:  
• I will collect signatures on separate sheets for each county,  
• I will submit signed sheets to the relevant county to be checked,  
• I will only collect original (not digital) signatures in ink, and  
• I will not allow anyone to sign on behalf of someone else.  
 By checking this box, I confirm that I have read and understand this information.  
The information on this form is public record.

# Petition Signature Sheet

- Signature sheets are generated based upon the information provided on the petition request form. Language referenced in red must appear on the signature sheet prior to collecting signatures.
- Signature requirements are generated for the different jurisdictions on January 1 and are based on the office that is being sought.
- All signatures collected must be original signatures by registered voters in the respective jurisdiction. Electronic signatures will not be accepted.

UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE NOMINATION BY PETITION (GS § 163-122)

THE UNDERSIGNED REGISTERED VOTERS IN **FORSYTH COUNTY** HEREBY PETITION ON BEHALF OF **JANE/JOE SMITH** AS AN UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF **WARD/CITY/COUNTY/DISTRICT/STATE** IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY PETITION THAT SUBJECT CANDIDATE BE PLACED ON THE APPROPRIATE BALLOT UPON COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN G.S. 163-122

IT IS ILLEGAL TO SIGN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON TO A PETITION. (G. S. 163- 221)

BOE ONLY	Line No.	Print your name (Must be printed legibly)	Residential street address	ZIP code	Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Signature
	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					
	6					
	7					
	8					
	9					
	10					
	11					
	12					
	13					
	14					
	15					
	16					
	17					
	18					
	19					
	20					

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS TO THE OFFICE OF \_\_\_\_\_ BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Board of Elections use only  
Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ pages      Batch No. \_\_\_\_\_      Date received \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# Qualifying Signatures

When collecting signatures - signers must be registered voters in the jurisdiction that the seat will serve and signers must sign in their hand or make their mark in the event they are not able to sign their name. The link below will enable anyone collecting signatures to verify signers is registered to vote as well as verify the jurisdiction in which they are registered to vote.

## **Voter Search ([ncsbe.gov](https://ncsbe.gov))**

It is the petition holder's responsibility to understand the boundaries of the seat they are petitioning for and the addresses that fall within that jurisdiction. Multiple links are available on the next slide that will enable jurisdiction verification.

# Maps

Maps are available on the Forsyth County Board of Elections website free of charge for Commissioner Districts, Judicial Districts, School Board Districts, North Carolina House and Senate Districts, U.S. Congressional Districts as well as Winston Salem Wards and Precincts see the following link:

**Municipalities, Wards and Precincts of Forsyth County ([arcgis.com](https://arcgis.com))**  
**District Maps ([forsyth.nc.us](https://forsyth.nc.us))**

- MapForsyth can provide printed maps for a fee with boundary lines for the area the petition holder will be running. See the link below to submit your request.

**Board of Elections, North Carolina ([forsyth.nc.us](https://forsyth.nc.us))**

- MapForsyth also offers address searches in real time to verify any addresses' position within the ward, city, county, school district, NC Senate and NC House district. It is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**My Elected Representatives ([arcgis.com](https://arcgis.com))**

# Petition Signature Status

- Only registered voters' signatures are counted toward the total number of signatures required for the ward, city, county, school district, NC Senate and NC House district that the petition is applicable to. Voters can withdraw their signatures prior to petition being finalized.
- The name, address and the signature in the voter's own hand are required. Information is compared against the voter registration on file. Each signature is examined, and a signature status is entered into the Petition Module; which will track the approved signatures throughout the petition verification process.
- Citizens that are not registered or those that have an address change are mailed a letter to enable them to register to vote or to updated the voter information provided on the petition.

Petition Module Signature Status	BOE Only Column
Address Rejected	AR
Deceased	DEC
Duplicate	DUP
Illegible (Not Clear to Verify)	I
Incorrect County	IC
Late Filing	LF
Moved	M
No Record	NR
Not in District	ND
Removed	R
Signature Missing	SM
Signature Rejected	SR
Signature Withdrawn	SW
Wrong Party	WP
Ok	✓

# Signature Status Legend

- Address Rejected (AR) – The address does not meet the requirements for the boundaries of the Ward, City, County, District or State office the petitioner will serve.
- Deceased (DEC) – The name and address belong to a deceased voter.
- Illegible (I) (Not Clear to Verify) – The name, address, signature are unable to be deciphered to allow any match to be located in the petition module.
- Late Filing (LF) – This is used for petitions that are received after the submission deadline – it does allow for non-registered voters who signed to receive a voter registration form and it allows for those that are registered but have a different address to receive a verification letter of the change presented on the petition form. The signatures will not count toward the petition total.
- Moved (M) – The address presented on the petition is different from the address of their voter registration and no longer reside in the Ward, City, County, State or Congressional districts of the petition.
- No Record (NR) – There is no record of voter registration on file for the signer.
- Not in District (ND) – The signer does not reside in the district that the office of the petition holder is gathering signatures for.
- Removed (R) – Voter has been removed according to list maintenance requirement; this could be moved from county; moved from state; removed after not voting after 2 Federal Election Cycles.
- Incorrect County (IC)– The petition signer is not registered in the county affected by the petition.
- Signature Missing (SM) – Petition signer did not provide the signature with their information.
- Signature Rejected (SR)– The signature provided has no resemblance to the signature on file.
- Signature Withdrawn (SW)– This happens when a petition signer strikes out their name and signature from the petition.
- Wrong Party (WP) – Generally for the certification process of Third-Party Petitions.
- Ok (ü) – Meets all criteria for signature to count toward petition signature requirement, signature matches voter registration, and residence within city, ward, county or district boundaries according office sought.

# Petition Certification

- Once the signature verification process is completed and the petition total has been verified, the verified signatures are presented to the appropriate State or County Board of Elections for certification.
- Petitions will only be certified if the required numbers of signatures set forth by statute are obtained.
- Upon certification the candidate will then file a Notice of Candidacy, pay the filing fee and their name will then appear on the ballot for the General Election along with any other candidates for the race in which they petitioned.

**North Carolina Notice of Candidacy** G.S. 163-106

**Election information**  
**1** Title of the office sought \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seat, district, or ward (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Election \_\_\_\_\_ Election date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate information**  
 You must provide your full legal name in this section. This information will be public.  
**2** Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix (Jr, Sr., II, III, IV) \_\_\_\_\_  
 First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name to appear on ballot \_\_\_\_\_  
 Campaign phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign email \_\_\_\_\_  
 NC State Bar number (Judicial and District Attorney candidates only) \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential address**  
 This information will be public.  
**3** Address (not P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address**  
 This information will be public.  
**4**  Same as above  
 Address or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate's pledge**  
 Check 1 box and complete the pledge that applies to the office that you are seeking candidacy for.  
**5**  **I am filing for a partisan contest:**  
 I hereby file notice as a candidate for nomination as \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the \_\_\_\_\_ party primary election to be held on (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
 I affiliate with the \_\_\_\_\_ party (and I certify that I am now registered on the registration records of the precinct in which I reside as an affiliate of the \_\_\_\_\_ party).  
 I pledge that I have been affiliated with that party for at least 90 days as of the date of the filing of the notice of candidacy. I pledge that if I am defeated in the primary, I will not run for the same office as a write-in candidate in the next general election.  
 **I am filing for a non-partisan contest:**  
 I hereby file notice that I am a candidate for election to the office of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (District/Ward) \_\_\_\_\_ for the governing body of \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the regular election to be held on (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

**Felony disclosure**  
**6** **Have you ever been convicted of a felony?**  Yes  No  
 If you have been convicted of a felony, you must complete a **Candidate Felony Disclosure** form within **48 hours** of submitting this notice (G.S. 163-106). The required form can be obtained from any election office or from the NC State Board of Elections website at [www.NCSBE.gov](http://www.NCSBE.gov). A prior felony conviction does not preclude holding elected office if rights of citizenship have been restored. Felony conviction need not be disclosed if the conviction was dismissed as a result of reversal on appeal or resulted in a pardon of innocence or expungement.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate who signed this Affidavit, do hereby swear, hereby state under oath that I have \_\_\_\_\_ for at least five years \_\_\_\_\_ files notice of candidacy for the same office \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate who signed this Affidavit signed this document in my presence.

Notary seal

\_\_\_\_\_, the chairman or secretary of the board or alternative, a candidate may have the certified to by an officer authorized to take \_\_\_\_\_ may mail or deliver by commercial courier of elections. \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate who signed this notice of document in my presence or acknowledged

Notary seal

**County board of elections certification**  
 If you are required to file your notice of candidacy with the State Board of Elections, you must have this certificate signed by the chairman of the board of elections or the director of elections of the county. See G.S. 163-106.5.  
**9** I have examined the voter registration records in \_\_\_\_\_ County, and found that \_\_\_\_\_:  
 is a registered voter in this county  
 is registered as \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate candidate's party affiliation or "unaffiliated", if applicable)  
 has been affiliated with that party for at least 90 days as of the date of the filing of the notice of candidacy  
 (Superior Court or District Court judge only) is a resident of superior court district \_\_\_\_\_ or district court district \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title of county official \_\_\_\_\_ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Board chair or director of elections, sign here**

# Campaign Finance

Campaign Finance obligations are the same for all candidates running for an office or seat. The office being sought will determine whether or not the petition holder or now candidate will be able to file: Over Threshold or Under Threshold.

All committees that file Over Threshold will be required to submit the appropriate reports based on the election cycle. If the petition holder has started the petition process prior to the actual election cycle that their name will appear on the ballot, they will be responsible for Mid-Year and End of Year reports and will switch to quarterly reports in the active election cycle.

If the office or seat qualifies to file as Under Threshold there will be no Disclosure Reports due until which time the committee meets or exceeds \$1,000.00 in contributions or expenditures. Yearly Under Threshold re-certifications will be required to remain Under Threshold. Candidate contributions do count toward the threshold limit.

Follow the link below for additional Campaign Finance information including but not limited to: Forms, Campaign Finance Manual, Treasurer Training, & Reporting Schedules.

Campaign Finance | NCSBE

This form is used to create a new or update an existing candidate committee. It includes sections for Committee Information, Candidate Information, Treasurer Information, and Assistant Treasurer Information. The form is titled "Statement of Organization - Candidate Committee" and includes a checkbox for "Is this statement: New" or "Amended".

This form is used to declare or withdraw a committee's intent to raise or spend \$1,000 or less in the current election cycle. It includes a section for "FILED BY:" with fields for Committee Name, Treasurer Name, Treasurer Address, and Treasurer Phone. The form is titled "Certification of Threshold" and includes a logo for the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

# Statutory References

## Unaffiliated Candidates Nominated by Petition

- [GS §163-122.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- [GS §163-123.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- [GS §163-221.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- [GS §163-296.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)

## Filing Fees in Forsyth County

- [Candidate information \(forsyth.nc.us\)](#)  
[GS §163-107.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- [Municipal Election](#)  
[GS §163-294.2.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- [Petition in Lieu of Payment of Filing Fee](#)  
[GS § 163-107.1.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)

## Campaign Finance

Campaign Finance Committees are required by all traditional candidate filers as well as petition filers.

- [Campaign Finance Requirements](#)  
[GS § 163-278.7.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- [Mandatory Treasurer Training](#)  
[GS § 163-278.7\(f\).pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- [Statement of Economic Interests](#)  
[GS §138A-22.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)

# INSTANT ACCESS VOTER VERIFICATION TOOL

VOTER  
LOOK-UP



VOTING  
DISTRICT &  
PRECINCTS



DISTRICT MAPS



MAP ORDER FORM



VERIFY  
JURISDICTION



# CONNECT WITH US

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF  
ELECTIONS

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[WWW.FCVOTES.COM](http://WWW.FCVOTES.COM)



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