

# NORTH CAROLINA 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

This year, the COVID-19 Pandemic has created new challenges for voting and voting safely. You can protect both your health and your vote, but it may require more preparation to do so in 2020.

## **Make a plan to vote that includes when, how and where you will vote**

- Get informed - get ready - get help if you need it
- Many resources available which are free and easy to use
- Go to trusted sources to be sure information is accurate and valid in NC
- Share information with others, help them with a plan to vote

## **WHEN**

Key Dates for 2020 NC General Election:

- September 4 Date Absentee Voting Ballots began being Mailed
- October 9 Deadline for Voter Registration
- October 15 Early Voting Begins
- October 27 Last Day to request Absentee Ballot
- October 31 Early Voting Ends
- November 3 Election Day
- November 3 Absentee Ballot Return Deadline\*
- November 6 Deadline for Absentee ballots (*must be postmarked no later than November 4*)

**\*Mail service may be slow this year; if voting by mail do it early**

## **HOW**

- **Voting begins with registration - you cannot vote if you are not registered**
- If you have not registered, you must do so by **October 9, 2020**
- Contact Chatham County or NC Board of Elections for registration for information or to check your registration status
- You can also register same day you vote at early voting sites or at an NC DMV office

**There are three ways to vote in NC this year:**

- **absentee by mail**
- **in-person early voting**
- **in-person on election day**

**In person voting: early or election day**

- **No ID** needed for in person voting
- Early voting hours: M-F: 8:00 am to 7:30 pm. Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday: 12:00-3:00 pm

- Election day: 6:30 am to 7:30 pm
- Be prepared for a wait, especially on November 3
- Drive up voting is available for those who can't enter the polling building
- Follow COVID guidelines for your safety and that of others
- You can still vote in person even if you requested and received an absentee ballot **but** you cannot do both. *Do not vote in person if you have already mailed in a ballot.*

### **Mail in Absentee Voting**

- In NC the terms absentee or mail in ballot mean the same thing - you intend to vote by mail using a paper ballot
- First you must request a ballot by completing an application form
- Request a ballot application:
  - online, or by calling, by mail or visit the NC or Chatham Count Board of Elections offices
  - or from a trusted online source
  - *be cautious of forms received unsolicited in the mail which may not be valid for NC*
- You do not need to provide a reason for excuse for requesting a mail in ballot
- No copy of an ID or Driver's License is needed to complete the application
- No witness or Notary is needed to complete the application
- Read the instructions, ask for help if you are unsure what to do
- Fill out the form completely and accurately, check it again!
- Return the completed application one of these ways:
  - Complete the application online and submit via email
  - Mail it with a First Class (55 cent) stamp
  - Fax it to the Chatham County Board of Elections
- If you do not receive your ballot within a week or so, contact the Chatham County Board of Elections. There may have been an error on the application which you can correct.

### **After you receive your mail-in Ballot:**

- Read the instructions carefully, ask for help to understand exactly how to complete it
- Review the ballot more than once before sealing in the envelope provided with it
- Only one witness is required, someone who can watch you sign your ballot but who does not (and should not) be close enough to see for whom you vote
- Your ballot does *not* need to be notarized

## Returning your ballot:

- By mail
  - Don't forget the 55 cent stamp!
  - Use only the envelope which came with your ballot
  - Mail as soon as you can
- By FedEx, UPS or other commercial delivery service
- Take it to the Chatham County Board of Elections office in Pittsboro
- Take it to an early voting site - but you will have to wait in line to do this
- Do not fax or send your ballot by email
- Track the status of your ballot online using Ballotrax ([northcarolina.ballotrax.net](http://northcarolina.ballotrax.net))
- Get help if needed with ballot delivery - but only from trusted friends and sources

## WHERE

- For absentee ballots you can complete and return them from home using USPS mail or a commercial delivery service
- At any early voting site during the early voting days and times
- On Election Day (November 3) but only at your designated polling site and by 5 pm
- **Remember - you can vote only one time and by one method.**

## RESOURCES

**Ballotrax: Track the receipt and status of your mailed-in absentee ballot at**  
<https://northcarolina.ballotrax.net/voter/>

NC State Board of Elections

[www.ncsbe.org](http://www.ncsbe.org)

Chatham County Board of Elections

PO Box 111      Pittsboro, NC      27312-111

984 Thompson Street, Suite D [1.1 miles east of the Courthouse Circle on the north side of Business 64; turn at the sign for Platinum Commons. The Board of Elections office is located behind Miracle Ear.]

Email: [elections@chathamnc.org](mailto:elections@chathamnc.org)

League of Women Voters - Orange-Durham-Chatham Chapter    [www.lwvdc.org](http://www.lwvdc.org)

'Vote411': League of Women Voters source of non-partisan election information  
[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org),