



# Media Kit

★★★ March 3, 2026 ★★★

Primary Election



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

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# Contact Information

Forsyth County Board of Elections  
201 North Chestnut Street  
Winston Salem, North Carolina 27101

336-702-2800

Fax Number: 336-727-2893

[fcvotes@forsyth.cc](mailto:fcvotes@forsyth.cc)

[www.fcvotes.com](http://www.fcvotes.com)

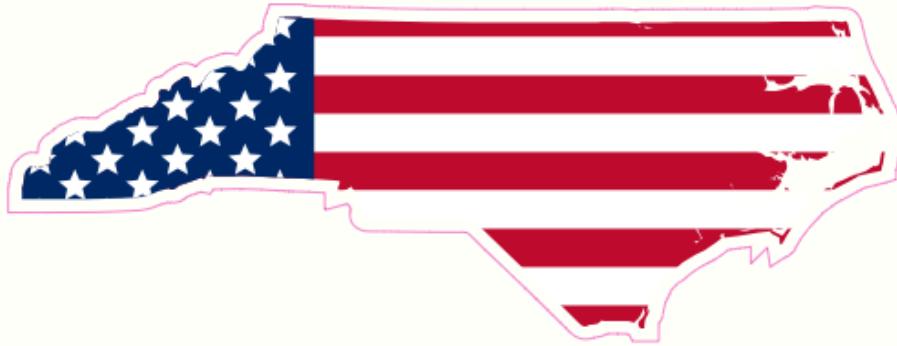
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# ABOUT THIS ELECTION



## About this Primary Election:

- Candidates nominated through the March 3rd primaries will appear on the ballot in the General Election on November 3rd 2026.
- District Supervisors are nonpartisan. All other races are partisan.

## Federal Elections

**U.S. Senate**

**U.S. Representative** - Districts 6<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

## State Elections

**State Senate** - Districts 31<sup>st</sup> & 32<sup>nd</sup>

**State House** - Districts 71<sup>st</sup>, 72<sup>nd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, & 91<sup>st</sup>

**District Court Judges** - Seats 01, 02, 03, & 04

## Local Elections

**District Attorney** - District 3

**County Commissioners** - At Large, Districts A, B, & C

**Board of Education** - At Large, Districts 1 & 2

**Sheriff**

**Clerk of Superior Court**

**Town of Rural Hall**

**Soil & Water Conservation - District Supervisor**



# Voter Photo ID Requirement

Beginning with the 2023 municipal elections, North Carolina voters will be asked to show photo ID when they check in to vote. Voters who vote by mail will be asked to include a photocopy of an acceptable photo ID when returning their ballot by mail.

For detailed information about the photo ID requirement, go to [ncsbe.gov/voter-ID](https://ncsbe.gov/voter-ID).



## WHAT PHOTO ID CAN I USE?

Any of the following that is **unexpired or expired for one year or less**:

- North Carolina Driver's License
- U.S. Passport Book/U.S. Passport Card
- State ID from NCDMV ("non-operator ID")
- NC Voter Photo ID card, issued by a county board of elections
- College/university student ID approved by State
- Board of Elections Charter school employee ID approved by State
- Board of Elections State/local government employee ID approved by State
- by State Board of Elections Driver's license/non-driver ID from another state, D.C. or U.S. territory

Any of the following, **regardless of whether the ID contains an expiration or issuance date**:

- Military or veteran ID card issued by the U.S. government
- Tribal enrollment card issued by a State or federally recognized tribe
- ID card issued by a U.S. government agency or the State of NC for a public assistance program

**NOTE:** Voters ages 65+ may use an expired ID if it was unexpired on their 65th birthday.

To see the complete list of acceptable photo IDs and details on how to request State Board approval for student and employee IDs, visit [ncsbe.gov/voter-ID](https://ncsbe.gov/voter-ID).

## WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A PHOTO ID?

All voters **will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID**. If any voter is unable to show a photo ID when voting, they may:



Vote with a **Provisional Ballot**, and...



Complete an **ID Exception Form**



**Bring acceptable ID to the county elections office** by the day before county canvass.

On the form, the voter will **choose from the following permitted exceptions**:

- A “reasonable impediment” preventing them from showing ID.
- A religious objection to being photographed.
- A victim of a natural disaster within 100 days before Election Day.

### FREE PHOTO ID CARDS

Any registered voter can get a free photo ID from their county board of elections. Contact information for county boards can be found at [vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEinfo](http://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEinfo). Any North Carolina resident can get a free non-driver's ID from the NCDMV.

Information regarding North Carolina's voter ID requirement is updated frequently; for the latest guidance on this law, acceptable types of photo ID, voting procedures, exceptions and more, visit [ncsbe.gov/voter-ID](http://ncsbe.gov/voter-ID).

# ELECTORAL PROFILE

As of January 2026



Registered  
Voters

**269,918**

## PROFILE OF THIS ELECTION



Offices  
34



Local Measures  
0



County  
Measures  
0



State  
Measures  
0



Ballot Styles  
218



Total  
Candidates  
Across all Ballots  
77



Early Vote  
Sites  
8



Election Precincts  
108



Polling Places  
108



Election Workers  
672  
Approximate



Est. Election Cost  
\$1,027,451  
Approximate



Military and  
Overseas Voters  
47 (2022)

# VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS

As of January 2026



<b>Voters by Age</b>	<b>Registered</b>	<b>% of Registered</b>
<b>&lt;18*</b>	165	0.06%
<b>18-25</b>	38,430	14.24%
<b>26-40</b>	67,149	24.88%
<b>41-65</b>	99,041	36.69%
<b>Over 65</b>	65,133	24.13%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>269,918</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Citizens under the age of 18 may pre-register for primary elections if they will be 18 by the November election date

# POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE



Qualified Parties	Registered	% of Registered
Democratic	94,184	34.89%
Republican	71,426	26.46%
Unaffiliated	102,532	37.99%
Libertarian	1,597	0.59%
Green	179	0.07%
<b>Total</b>	<b>269,918</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
**EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE**

**MARCH 3, 2026 – PRIMARY ELECTION**



**Dates and Times**

Thursday - Friday	Feb. 12-13	8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday	Feb. 16-20	8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 21	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	Feb. 22	12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday	Feb. 23-27	8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 28	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Locations**

**Clemmons Branch Library**  
6365 James Street - Clemmons

**Kernersville (Paddison Memorial) Library**  
248 Harmon Lane - Kernersville

**Lewisville Branch Library**  
6490 Shallowford Road - Lewisville

**Mazie Woodruff Center**  
4905 Lansing Drive - Winston-Salem

**Old Town Neighborhood Center**  
4550 Shattalon Drive - Winston-Salem

**Rural Hall Branch Library**  
7125 Broad Street - Rural Hall

**Southside Branch Library**  
3185 Buchanan Street - Winston-Salem

**United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church**  
450 Metropolitan Drive - Winston-Salem



# 2026

## ELECTION SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**  
**PRIMARY ELECTION**

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026**  
**SECOND PRIMARY (if necessary)**

## **GENERAL ELECTION**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

**FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**





## 2026 BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING SCHEDULE

\*Special meetings may be scheduled; the schedule below is subject to change.

\*Meeting will be announced as soon as administratively possible.

Thursday, January 15, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)
Tuesday, January 27, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Tuesday, February 3, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Tuesday, February 10, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Tuesday, February 17, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Tuesday, February 24, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Monday, March 2, 2026	Absentee Meeting 2:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
<b>Tuesday, March 3, 2026 Election Day – Primary Election</b>	Absentee Meeting 2:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-234(2))
Friday, March 6, 2026	Voter ID Exception Review, Absentee Cure, Provisional Disposition Meeting 9:00 a.m. (SB 382, SL 2024-57)
Thursday, March 12, 2026	Supplemental Absentee Meeting 2:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-234(1))
Friday, March 13, 2026	Canvass 11:00 a.m. (G.S. 163- 182.5)
Thursday, April 16, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)
Thursday, May 21, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)
Thursday, June 18, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)
Thursday, July 16, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)
Thursday, August 20, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)
Thursday, September 17, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)
Tuesday, September 29, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Thursday, October 1, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Tuesday, October 6, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Thursday, October 8, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))

Tuesday, October 13, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Thursday, October 15, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Thursday, October 22, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Tuesday, October 27, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Thursday, October 29, 2026	Absentee Meeting 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
Monday, November 2, 2026	Absentee Meeting 2:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-230.1(f))
<b>Tuesday, November 3, 2026 Election Day – General Election</b>	Absentee Meeting 12:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-234(2))
Friday, November 6, 2026	Voter ID Exception Review, Absentee Cure, Provisional Disposition Meeting 9:00 a.m. (SB 382, SL 2024-57)
Thursday, November 12, 2026	Supplemental Absentee Meeting 2:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-234(11))
Friday, November 13, 2026	Canvass 11:00 a.m. (G.S. 163- 182.5)
Thursday, December 17, 2026	Board Meeting (Regular) 3:00 p.m. (G.S. 163-31)

\*Meetings take place in the Cooper-Cardwell Board Meeting Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Forsyth County Government Center located at 201 N. Chestnut St., Winston Salem, NC 27101\*  
 (Meeting room is subject to change based on room capacity regulations)

\*If needed a Second Primary will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026

# VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING OPTIONS

## Absentee By Mail

Any North Carolina registered voter may request, receive, and vote a mail-in absentee ballot in elections where absentee voting is permitted. Learn about the primary elections in 2026 at [www.fcvotes.com](http://www.fcvotes.com). Registered voters in North Carolina must request an absentee ballot with an official N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form. There are two ways to access and submit the form:

1. Online:

- “Option 1 – Request an Absentee Ballot” at the N.C. Absentee Ballot Portal.

2. On paper:

- 2026 N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form in English (fillable PDF)
- 2026 N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form in Spanish (download to come)
  - After completing, submit the form to your county board of elections or in person or by mail.

Track your absentee-by-mail ballot through the mail: Once you have requested your absentee ballot, you can track its status from printed to accepted by signing up online for status notifications through [BallotTrax](#). BallotTrax will be available 30 days prior to each election in 2026.

## Early Voting

During the early voting period, voters may cast a ballot at any early voting site in their county. This is different than Election Day, when registered voters must vote at their assigned polling place. During the early voting period, eligible individuals may also register to vote and vote at the same time.

When you check in to vote at an early voting site, you may update your name or address within the same county if necessary. Individuals who are not registered to vote in a county may register and immediately vote at that same site. This process is called “same-day registration.” Find more information at [Register in Person During Early Voting](#). Although same-day registration is available for voters during early voting, same-day registration is not available for most voters on Election Day.



# North Carolina Absentee Ballot Request Form

## for 2026 Statewide Elections

2026.01

### Request an absentee ballot

You can request an absentee ballot for one voter per form, for one election at a time.

The information that you provide on this form will be used to update your current voter record if signed by the voter. You may not change your party using this form.

If you are not registered, you must submit a voter registration form with this request.

**Fraudulently or falsely completing this form is a Class I felony under Chapter 163 of the N.C. General Statutes.**

### How to return this form

Return your completed and signed form to your county board of elections by **5 p.m. on the second Tuesday before the election**.

You can:

- Drop it off in person
- Mail it

This form can only be returned by:

- The voter or the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian
- A Multipartisan Assistance Team sent by the county elections office
- A person who assisted due to the voter's disability.

### Return this form to:

Forsyth County Board of Elections  
201 N. Chestnut St.

Winston-Salem, NC 27101

### Questions?

Call: (336)703-2800 or

Email: [FCVotes@forsyth.cc](mailto:FCVotes@forsyth.cc)

**Skip the paper form and request online.**  
Complete, sign, and submit your request online at [votebymail.ncsbe.gov](http://votebymail.ncsbe.gov).

### Instructions

#### 1: Election date

Request for one election per form.

Special note for partisan primary elections: If you are not affiliated with a political party (**unaffiliated**) and you are **requesting a ballot for a primary election**, select the party's primary you want to vote in. Voters registered with a party are only eligible to vote in their party's primary.

Indicate in this section if you require an absentee ballot for other possible elections in 2026 due to your continued or expected illness or disability.

#### 2: Voter name

Provide your full legal name. If your name has changed, this form will be used to update your current voter record.

#### 3: Identification information

You must provide your date of birth and one of the following:

- An N.C. driver's license or DMV ID card number
- The last 4 digits of your Social Security number

#### 4: Home address

Provide your residential (home) address. However, if you moved and have no plans to return to your former residence, provide your new address here. Signing in section 10 will update your voter registration. If your new address is in a different county, you will not be able to update your address using this form and will need to submit a new voter registration form in your new county. Provide a mailing address in this section if different from your residence.

#### 5: Ballot mailing address

Indicate where you would like your ballot to be sent. If you do not want your ballot to be sent to your residential or mailing address, provide another address here.

If you require an accessible electronic ballot due to visual impairment also provide your email in section 6.

#### 6: Voter's contact information

Your contact information is optional and is helpful if we have questions about this request or about any issues with your voted absentee ballot.

#### 7: Requesting a ballot for a voter

A near relative or legal guardian may request a ballot for a voter but may not make changes to the voter's registration record. A near relative is a voter's:

- Spouse
- Brother or sister
- Parent or stepparent
- Mother/father-in-law
- Child or stepchild
- Son/daughter-in-law
- Grandparent/Grandchild

Any person may request an absentee ballot for a voter who needs assistance making the request due to disability. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disability is a physical or mental impairment that causes someone to be substantially limited in a major life activity. When requesting a ballot on behalf of a voter, the requester must complete and sign this section.

#### 8: Assisting a voter in filling out or returning this form

If you are helping a voter fill out or return their form, complete this section. The voter will still need to sign or make their mark in section 10. Any voter may receive assistance from their near relative or verifiable legal guardian. A voter who needs assistance completing or returning their request form due to their blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may receive assistance from a person of their choice.

For voters living in a facility (clinic, nursing home, or adult care home) who do NOT require assistance due to a disability, certain limitations apply:

The voter must first seek to have a near relative, legal guardian or Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT) to assist with requesting a ballot. If none of these options are available within seven days of making a request for a MAT, the voter may get assistance from anyone who is not:

- An owner, manager, director, or employee of the facility
- An elected official, a candidate, or an officeholder in a political party
- A campaign manager or treasurer for a candidate or political party

#### 9: Military or overseas

Complete this section if you claim North Carolina as your voting residence and are:

- A U.S. citizen currently outside of the United States or
- A member of one of the following, or a spouse or dependent of a member of one of the following:
  - \* The active or reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States who is on active duty;
  - \* A member of the Merchant Marines, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States; or
  - \* A member of the National Guard or State militia unit who is on activated status

If you have never resided in North Carolina, you are only eligible to vote in federal elections.

#### 10: Voter's signature

This form must be signed by the voter (unless a near relative or legal guardian or assistant is requesting a ballot on the voter's behalf and completes section 7). If the voter cannot physically sign this form, they can make a mark. A typed signature, including signature fonts, is not allowed.

If you indicate that you have changed your name (section 2) or address (section 4), signing will update your voter registration.



# GUIDELINES FOR ELECTIONEERING DURING ELECTIONS

- 1. Conduct Outside of the Polling Place**
  - a. Respect the right of all voters to participate in the election without fear of intimidation or violence. Intimidating any voter is a state and federal crime.
  - b. Be courteous towards those at the voting place, regardless of any difference of opinion.
  - c. Always remain civil and calm. While differences of opinion are expected and should be respected, resolve any disagreements or disputes amicably.
  - d. Disagreements or disputes should not involve profanity or aggressive behaviors.
  - e. Confine electioneering and issue advocacy to designated areas outside of the voting place.
  - f. Election officials strictly enforce the marked line beyond which no electioneering or loitering is permitted.
- 2. Buffer Zone (G.S. 163-166.4 (a))**
  - a. Breaching and moving the designated buffer zone is not permitted.
  - b. No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activities inside the voting place or within a buffer zone.
  - c. Dimensions of the buffer zone at each polling place shall be no more than 50 feet and no less than 25 feet from the entrance to the polling place.
  - d. Electioneers may distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, and signage, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity in the designated area outside the buffer zone.
  - e. Not all polling locations allow for political signage or literature. You must verify the Restricted Polling Place List on the BOE website under the Polling Place tab.
- 3. Area for Election-Related Activity (G.S. 163-166.4(b))**
  - a. Volunteers and electioneers may distribute campaign literature, place political signs, solicit votes, and engage in election-related activities only outside of the designated buffer zone.
  - b. Privately owned polling places might have restrictions on campaign literature and/or placement of political signs on their property on Election Day. Volunteers and electioneers must check the Restricted Polling Place List before every election, found on [fcvotes.com](http://fcvotes.com) under the tab Polling Places.

**4. Curbside Voting**

- a. The voter's vehicle is considered a voting place. Electioneers must respect it as such and not encroach on the designated curbside area. The buffer zone shall be at least six feet from the vehicle, and a greater distance if possible. Electioneers shall not enter the buffer zone.
- b. Approaching voters in their vehicles in the curbside area will not be tolerated.

**5. Party Observers and Runners (G.S. 163-45)**

- a. Only appointed observers and runners are permitted inside the voting place.
- b. The party chair must provide observer or runner's names to the Board of Elections before 10:00 a.m., five days prior to Election Day.
- c. An observer shall do no electioneering at the voting place and shall in no manner impede the voting process or interfere or communicate with or observe any voter in casting a ballot.
- d. The runner may receive a voter list from the precinct. No runner may enter the voting enclosure except when necessary to announce that runner's presence and to receive the list. The runner must leave immediately after being provided with the list.

**Example of Prohibited Acts That Illustrate Prohibited Behavior During Elections**

1. **Federal law prohibits those around the polling place from displaying badges, uniforms, or credentials that reasonable individuals would interpret to mean that the person is a law-enforcement officer (See 18 U.S.C. § 241 and Williams v. United States, 341 U.S. 97 (1951)).** Ex.: Individuals outside the buffer zone wearing "SECURITY" insignia and informing voters that they are "monitoring" the polling place.
2. **It is a crime to interfere with the ability of a voter to access the voting place. Individuals in the parking lot physically delay or prevent cars from parking.**
3. **No person may engage in election-related activity within the buffer zone. (G.S. 163-166.4(a)).** Ex.: A radio station is played over speakers inside the voting enclosure, and the broadcast includes political discussion or commentary.

4. **It is a crime for any person to commit any boisterous act that disturbs any election official in the performance of his or her statutory duties (G.S. § 163-274(a) (5)).**
  - a. Ex.: Individuals use sound amplification to make racial slurs or otherwise insult those presenting to vote for their preferred candidate, and the chief judge has told the individual that their noise is causing a disruption inside the voting enclosure.
5. **It is a federal crime to intimidate, threaten, or coerce anyone to interfere with an individual's right to vote or not vote in an election; this includes conduct intended to force prospective voters to vote against their preferences (18 U.S.C. § 594).**
  - a. Ex.: Individuals outside the buffer zone threaten a voter if the voter does not vote for or against a particular candidate or party.
6. **It is both a violation of state and federal law for any voter to challenge an individual on the basis of their ethnicity, religion, language fluency, or national origin (G.S. § 163-90.1(a)).**
  - a. Ex.: An Individual attempts to enter a voter challenge without proper basis.
7. **Additional examples of voter intimidation.**
  - a. Ex.: An individual or individuals outside the buffer zone approach only voters who appear to be of a certain ethnic group to ask whether they speak English or to demand that they verify their citizenship.
  - b. Ex.: An individual or individuals outside the buffer zone follow a non-English speaker who is receiving assistance from a person of their choice and accuse them of committing voter fraud.
  - c. Ex.: An individual or individuals outside the buffer zone yell insults or profanity at people who received assistance in the voting enclosure.

**For questions or concerns regarding electioneering during elections, contact the Forsyth County Board of Elections at (336) 703-2800**



# GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA AT POLLING PLACES

## 1. Conduct at Polling Places

- a. The term media generally describes people affiliated with a television, radio or newspaper outlet. News media have a right to report on matters of public interest, including elections.
- b. The Chief Judge is the only election official authorized to interact with the media. Please remember to identify yourselves with your credentials when interacting with election officials.

## 2. Buffer Zone

- a. Any interviews or election polls must be conducted at least 50 feet from the entrance of the polling place. However, news cameras may be positioned near the doorway of a voting enclosure to record only panoramic, wide-angle views of the voting room. Photographers and videographers may not zoom in on ballots or voters. Media shall not block, interfere, obstruct, or disrupt the voting process, and shall not record any ballots or the tabulation of ballots. Photographing voters and poll workers is restricted so if a photo or recording includes voters and/or precinct officials, the media must obtain permission from the voters and/or precinct officials. Breaching and moving the designated buffer zone is not permitted.
- b. No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activities inside the voting place or within a buffer zone.

## 3. Closing and Unofficial Results

- a. After the polls close and all voters have left the enclosure, the media and public are allowed inside to observe the closing process but may not hinder operations of precinct officials.
- b. The Chief Judge may inform the media how many ballots have been cast at a precinct. However, media may not enter the voting enclosure to check the tabulator.
- c. Please do not ask officials for any opinions, guesses or predictions about the election. They may provide objective facts regarding the polling place but may not speculate on outcomes or turnout.



# REPORTING ELECTION RESULTS

## Early Votes are Reported



**7:30pm**

One-stop early votes and absentee by-mail votes that have been approved by the board of elections

## Precinct Results Begin to Report



**8:30pm**

Precinct officials hand-deliver results to the county board of elections

## After Election Night

Absentee ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the county board of elections by the return deadline, as well as provisional votes, will be added to the results as they are approved by board during the canvass period after Election Night.

State Board, by a majority vote, may extend voting hours at a polling place if polls are delayed in opening for more than 15 minutes or are interrupted for more than 15 minutes. The Board may extend the closing time by an equal number of minutes.

## What is counted after Election Night?

Absentee ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the county board of elections by the return deadline, as well as provisional votes, will be added to the results as they are approved by board during the canvass period after Election Night.

\*Ballots postmarked on Election Day and received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day will be accepted.

## Why are ballots counted after Election Night?

Absentee by mail and Provisional ballots returned on Election Day must be processed and verified before they can be counted and added to the results. In North Carolina, counties have 10 days to process, verify, and count these ballots – this period is known as the Official Election Canvass.

In a countywide election, there could be thousands of ballots left to be counted after polls close. Results reporting can extend past 1:00 am as precincts deliver their results.

# Past Turnout

20%

15%

10%

5%

0%

May 2014  
Primary Election  
14.8%

May 2018  
Primary Election  
11.55%

May 2022  
Primary Election  
16.61%

\*MORE DATA AVAILABLE AT [WWW.FCVOTES.COM](http://WWW.FCVOTES.COM)

# CANVASS: FINALIZING THE VOTE

## Election Night

After polling places close at 7:30 PM on Election Day, all election results are secured and transported to be centrally compiled and posted at the Board of Elections, 201 North Chestnut Street Winston Salem, NC 27101. Election Night counts include ballots from precincts as well as One Stop Early Voting and Absentee by-Mail ballots received by Election Day.

## Finalizing the Official Vote Tally (Canvass)

Results on election night are unofficial. Canvass is the official process of determining the votes have been counted and tabulated correctly, resulting in the authentication of the official election results.

For close elections, the canvass period is especially important. During this time, elections officials count absentee ballots that came in before the deadline and research provisional ballots to determine whether they should be counted.

In every county, the canvass meeting when the results are certified is 10 days after Election Day. Because elections thrive on transparency, the canvass meeting is open to the public. Unless the county board unanimously votes for another site, the meeting will be held at the county board of elections office, per [N.C.G.S. § 163-182.5](#).

Before the canvass meeting, the board must ensure that the sample hand-to-eye audit count and any discretionary or mandatory recounts have been completed.

Additionally, county boards confirm all eligible ballots have been counted, including:

- Ballots that were unable to be read in the precinct (ballot jams, torn ballots, etc.)
- Absentee ballots
- Provisional ballots

At the meeting, the board will prepare and sign all relevant, permanent public documents. The county board will retain one copy; a copy will be filed with either the clerk of Superior Court or, in the case of municipal elections, with the municipal clerk; and a copy will be provided to the State Board of Elections.

## Mandatory Hand-to-Eye Sample Audit

The sample audit count is a test to ensure voting equipment read the voter's choices accurately. It compares the machine counts with hand-to-eye counts conducted by elections officials in randomly selected voting sites. The sample audit count is open to the public and is completed before canvass. The day after the election, the State Board of Elections informs each county of their assigned contest and the two randomly selected samples (Election Day precinct, one-stop site, or absentee by mail ballots) to audit. For a presidential election, the contest audited is always the presidential contest. Selected ballots are hand-counted by a bipartisan team of elections officials.

# Second Primary

## When a Second Primary Occurs, Per N.C.G.S. § 163-111.

**Right to Demand Second Primary.** - If an insufficient number of aspirants receive a substantial plurality of the votes cast for a given office or group of offices in a primary, a second primary, subject to the conditions specified in this section, shall be held:

1. If a nominee for a single office is to be selected and no aspirant receives a substantial plurality of the votes cast, the aspirant receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared nominated by the appropriate board of elections unless the aspirant receiving the second highest number of votes shall request a second primary in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. In the second primary only the two aspirants who received the highest and next highest number of votes shall be voted for.
2. If nominees for two or more offices (constituting a group) are to be selected and aspirants for some or all of the positions within the group do not receive a substantial plurality of the votes, those candidates equal in number to the positions remaining to be filled and having the highest number of votes shall be declared the nominees unless some one or all of the aspirants equal in number to the positions remaining to be filled and having the second highest number of votes shall request a second primary in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. In the second primary to select nominees for the positions in the group remaining to be filled, the names of all those candidates receiving the highest number of votes and all those receiving the second highest number of votes and demanding a second primary shall be printed on the ballot.

# Recounts

## Ordering Recounts Per N.C.G.S. § 163-182.7.

**Mandatory Recounts for Ballot Items Within the Jurisdiction of the County Board of Elections.** - In a ballot item within the jurisdiction of the county board of elections, a candidate shall have the right to demand a recount of the votes if the difference between the votes for that candidate and the votes for a prevailing candidate is not more than one percent (1%) of the total votes cast in the ballot item, or in the case of a multiseat ballot item not more than one percent (1%) of the votes cast for those two candidates. The demand for a recount must be made in writing and must be received by the county board of elections by 5:00 P.M. on the first business day after the canvass. The recount shall be conducted under the supervision of the county board of elections.

**Mandatory Recounts for Ballot Items Within the Jurisdiction of the State Board of Elections.** - In a ballot item within the jurisdiction of the State Board of Elections, a candidate shall have the right to demand a recount of the votes if the difference between the votes for that candidate and the votes for a prevailing candidate are not more than the following:

1. For a nonstatewide ballot item, one percent (1%) of the total votes cast in the ballot item, or in the case of a multiseat ballot item, one percent (1%) of the votes cast for those two candidates.
2. For a statewide ballot item, one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the votes cast in the ballot item, or 10,000 votes, whichever is less.

# Voter Repair Project

The Registration Repair Project is an effort by the State Board of Elections to collect identification numbers from registered voters who do not have a N.C. driver's license/DMV ID number or social security number in the state's voter registration database. These numbers are used to verify that registrants are who they claim to be. Voters who do not have this information in their record may need to cast a provisional ballot and provide this information the next time they vote.

## How Do I Repair My Registration?

If your name appears in the Registration Repair Search Tool, located at [ncsbe.gov/registrationrepair](http://ncsbe.gov/registrationrepair), you can update your registration in one of three ways.

1. **Online:** If you have an N.C. driver's license or DMV ID number, you can update your voter registration application through the DMV's website for free at [payments.ncdot.gov](http://payments.ncdot.gov). You don't need to create an account. On the myNCDMV login page, click "Continue as Guest." Select "Yes" when asked to update your voter information.

2. **In person:** Visit your county board of elections office to ensure your registration is complete. Find contact information through the [County Boards of Elections Search](#). You cannot update your registration by phone. Have your N.C. driver's license, DMV ID number, or the last four digits of your Social Security number ready when you go.

3. **On paper:** Mailing from the State Board, for individuals on this list have been sent out in August and December of 2025. If you've received a letter, fill it out, sign it, and mail it to your county board of elections using the pre-addressed return envelope enclosed with the letter. No stamp is needed. Postage is included on the envelope.

## Voting Procedures for Unvalidated DL/SSN Voters

- Voters who provided a DL/SSN when registering to vote, but whose information did not validate, will be asked to provide their DL/SSN and will be allowed to vote a regular ballot.
- Voters who did not provide a DL/SSN when registering to vote will be asked to cast a provisional ballot.

# MARCH 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION FAQ

## VOTER REGISTRATION

### Q HOW CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- ▲ Complete a [voter registration form](#), and then print and sign the form. Electronic signatures are NOT acceptable. Once finished, mail the form to our office at 201 N Chestnut St Winston Salem, NC 27101
- ▲ The form may also be dropped off in person to the same address Monday-Friday from 8-5 p.m.

### Q HOW CAN I CHECK MY REGISTRATION STATUS?

- ▲ Voters can check their registration status and information online at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/> or call the Forsyth County Board of Elections at 336-703-2800.

### Q CAN I VOTE IF I MISS THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

- ▲ Yes. Same-day registration is available for one-stop early voting, which begins after the registration deadline. However, voters who miss the registration deadline will not be able to vote on election day.

### Q HOW AND WHEN SHOULD I UPDATE MY VOTER REGISTRATION?

- ▲ If a voter has moved, changed their name, or wants to change their political party affiliation, they can update their registration on their voter registration card and mail it to the Board of Elections. Alternatively, voters can update their registration by filling out, printing, and signing a new registration form and sending it to the Board of Elections.

## VOTE BY MAIL

### Q WHEN CAN I REQUEST MY ABSENTEE BY MAIL BALLOT?

- ▲ Absentee By-Mail requests must be made to the Board of Elections by the Tuesday before the election.

### Q HOW CAN I TRACK MY VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT?

- ▲ Once you have requested your absentee ballot, you can track its status from printed to accepted by signing up online for status notifications through [BallotTrax](#)

### Q CAN I REQUEST A MAIL BALLOT FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

- ▲ Yes, a near relative ("near relative" means spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild. § 163-230.2) or legal guardian may request that an absentee ballot be sent to another voter by mail

### Q CAN I RECEIVE ASSISTANCE TO COMPLETE THE REQUEST FORM?

- ▲ If a voter, due to disability or illiteracy, is unable to complete the absentee ballot request form, the voter may receive assistance in completing the request form from an individual of the voter's choice.

### Q WHEN DO I NEED TO SUBMIT MY BALLOT?

- ▲ Voters can return their ballot as soon as they receive it.
- ▲ All ballots MUST be postmarked or returned to the Board of Elections by Election Day.
- ▲ The Board of Elections will accept ballots postmarked by Election Day and received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

# MARCH 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION FAQ

## VOTE BY MAIL

### 💡 MILITARY OR OVERSEAS CITIZENS

- ▲ Active duty military members, their dependents, and U.S. citizens living abroad may request an absentee ballot the same way as other registered voters. They may also apply to register and vote through special programs for military and overseas voters. Military and overseas voters may register and vote through the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) or the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

### 💡 WHAT ACCESSIBLE VOTING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ABSENTEE BY-MAIL?

- ▲ If you are a blind or visually impaired voter, you can request, mark, and return an accessible absentee ballot online through a system that is compatible with screen readers and that allows for a digital signature. If you live at a facility such as a hospital, clinic, or nursing home, find details about receiving assistance with mail-in voting and other services provided by a Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT).

## IN-PERSON VOTING

### 💡 CAN I VOTE IN PERSON?

- ▲ Yes. Voters will have the option to vote in person on election day at their assigned precinct, in addition to one-stop early voting and absentee by-mail.

### 💡 HOW CAN I FIND MY PRECINCT?

- ▲ Visit [mapforsyth.org](http://mapforsyth.org) and use the voting districts and precincts tool to view your voting districts and precinct for election day voting.
- ▲ To locate your precinct, consult the list of precinct locations at [www.fcvotes.com](http://www.fcvotes.com) using your precinct number.

### 💡 WHEN CAN I VOTE IN PERSON?

- ▲ Primary Election Day is March 3, 2026. Early In-person voting will be conducted from February 12-28, 2026.

### 💡 HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT?

- ▲ Visit [https://www.forsyth.cc/Elections/sample\\_ballot.aspx](https://www.forsyth.cc/Elections/sample_ballot.aspx) to see sample ballots for the upcoming election. Voters can view their specific sample ballot from their precinct can view composite sample ballots of all races.

### 💡 DO I NEED TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION WHEN I VOTE?

- ▲ Beginning with the 2023 municipal elections, North Carolina voters will be asked to show photo ID when they check in to vote. All voters will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID.
- ▲ To learn more about North Carolina's new photo ID requirement, go to [ncsbe.gov/voter-ID](http://ncsbe.gov/voter-ID).