NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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This information sheet was drafted by the North Carolina State Board of Elections as required under Session Law 2018-144.

What are the qualifications to vote in North Carolina?

To vote in North Carolina, you must:
- Be a United States citizen;
- Be at least 18 years old, or will be by the date of the general election. *16- and 17-year-olds may preregister to vote.*
- Have been a resident of North Carolina, the county, and precinct for 30 days prior to the election; and
- Not be serving a sentence for a felony conviction, including any period of probation or parole.

Can I vote as a college student in North Carolina?

Yes, if you meet the qualifications to vote. If you intend to make your home in the community where you attend school while you are in school, you may register at your school address. You do not have to intend to stay in the school community beyond graduation. However, if you intend to return to home after college, either within North Carolina or in another state, you may only register and vote in that location. A registered voter may have only one residence for voting purposes.

What are the photo identification requirements for voting in North Carolina?

Beginning in 2020, when you present to vote, you will be asked to show photo ID. If you do not show ID, you may vote provisionally. Your provisional ballot will count if you bring acceptable photo ID to your county board of elections office before canvass, which is 10 days after the election, or if you sign an affidavit declaring that a reasonable impediment, religious objection to being photographed, or natural disaster prevented you from showing photo ID.

If you vote absentee by mail, you must enclose a copy of your photo ID unless you sign an affidavit declaring that a reasonable impediment, religious objection to being photographed, or natural disaster prevented you from enclosing a copy of your ID. For more information about voter ID requirements in North Carolina, go to https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voter-ID.

How can I obtain an ID for voting purposes?

Many types of identification, including approved student IDs, are accepted for voting purposes in North Carolina. Student IDs must be approved for voter ID use by the State Board of Elections. For a list of acceptable IDs, including student IDs that have been approved by the State Board of Elections, visit https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voter-ID.

All county board of elections offices issue voter photo identification cards to registered voters for free upon request. The card may be used for voting purposes only and expires 10 years after issuance. Visit your county boards of elections office to request a card: https://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo.

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Are there any other tips for student voters?

Many students who live on campus receive mail at a campus box. If you do not receive mail at your residential address, make sure you provide your mailing address when you register to vote. Once you submit your voter registration form, the county board of elections will mail you a voter registration card to verify your address.

Keep your voter registration up to date if you move by submitting a voter registration form to your county board of elections. You can update your voter registration when move as long as you will have resided there for at least 30 days prior to the election. You can also update your address at any one-stop early voting site in the county.

What are my voting options in North Carolina?

Any registered voter can vote one of three ways:
- Vote in person on Election Day
- Register and vote at the same time at any one-stop site during the one-stop early voting period. For sites and hours, go to https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voting-Options.
- Vote absentee by mail by submitting a signed request form to the county board of elections via email, fax, mail, or in person. Download the form here: https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voting-Options.

What is the deadline to register to vote?

The county board of elections must receive your voter registration application no later than 25 days before the election.

If you miss the deadline, you may register and vote on the same day at a one-stop site during the early voting period. You will be asked to show proof of your current residential address. Acceptable proof of residence documents include an NC drivers license or other photo ID issued by a government agency, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document. Students residing on campus may also show a document issued by their public or private educational institution. The document must show your current name and address. You may provide a physical copy of the document or you may show a digital copy on your electronic device.

What is the penalty for voting more than once ?

The penalty for intentionally voting in more than one precinct or more than one state in the same primary or election is a Class I felony.

"All registered voters will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID card. When voting in person, you will be asked to present a valid photo identification card. If you do not have a valid photo ID card, you may obtain one from your county board of elections prior to the election, through the end of the early voting period. If you do not have a valid photo ID card on election day, you may still vote and have your vote counted by signing an affidavit of reasonable impediment as to why you have not presented a valid photo ID."

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