



NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

2008 GUIDE TO VOTER REGISTRATION

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER

To register to vote in the State of North Carolina, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a **United States citizen**.
- Be a **resident of North Carolina and the county** you are registering in for 30 days before the election.
- Be **at least 18 years old by the next general election**. In fact, anyone who will turn 18 by the general election can register and vote at age 17 in a partisan primary election.
- **Not be registered or planning to vote in any other county or state**.
- **Not be a convicted felon still in custody, on probation, or on parole**. If one has served all parts of a sentence, he or she can register.

SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

North Carolinians can now also register, change their address or their Party affiliation, and vote during One-Stop (early) voting before Election Day. The only exception is that they are not allowed to change their party affiliation during the One Stop Voting period that precedes a partisan primary.

All that is required is that they visit a One-Stop Site in their county, fill out a voter registration application, and provide proof of residency.

Most counties will have additional One-Stop Voting sites for the general election this year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am a student. Can I register to vote at my school address? Yes. Students have the right to register to vote at their home or school address, including a dorm room.

Will I have to register again in the future? No. Once registered to vote, a voter remains registered until he or she requests to be removed from the list of registered voters, dies, is convicted of a felony, moves outside of the county, or can no longer be confirmed to reside in the county.

I am in the military. How do I register to vote? The rules for people in the armed forces or abroad are different than people living in the United States. Contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program at www.fvap.gov or (800) 438-VOTE. You may also contact the State Board of Elections.

Can I put a post office box or a school mailbox as my permanent address? No. Your form will not be processed if you list a P.O. Box or school mailbox address as your permanent address. For districting purposes, you must put a physical address, but there is a section of the form to put your mailing address, in addition to your physical address.

How can I check to see if I am registered to vote? Go to the State Board of Elections website (www.sboe.state.nc.us). If you do not have access to the internet, contact your local elections board and ask them if you're registered to vote.

I registered to vote a long time ago. Is it still valid? Go to the State Board of Elections website (www.sboe.state.nc.us). If you do not have access to the internet, contact your local elections board and ask them if you're registered to vote.

How do I change my voter registration address if I have moved or if I have changed my name? The provided form serves as both a first-time registration tool and as a change-of-information form. Send the completed and signed form to your county Board of Elections.

When is the last day to register to vote? In order to vote in an election on Election Day, a citizen must register to vote at least 25 days before that election. However, North Carolina voters can also register and vote during One-Stop (early) voting before Election Day.

I was convicted of a felony a few years ago, but I'm out of jail now. Can I register to vote? In order to register, you must not be a convicted felon still in custody, on probation, or on parole. If you've served all parts of your sentence, you can register.

I know someone who is mentally impaired or disabled. Can he or she register to vote? North Carolina law does not prevent the mentally impaired or disabled from registering to vote and voting.

I just moved here. Can I register to vote in this county right now? To register, one has to have been a resident of North Carolina and the county of residence for at least 30 days before the election.

Do I need to show ID to register or vote? You must provide your North Carolina driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security Number on the registration form. If you do not have either of these, then you may include with the form a copy of identification that shows your name and address. Some people are not comfortable with providing that information on a form, but they may still register to vote. If the board of elections cannot verify your information, you may be asked to show identification when you first vote.

Where do I vote on Election Day? Your county board of elections should send you the information with your specific precinct and polling place. If you forget or do not receive that information, go to the State Board of Elections website (www.sboe.state.nc.us) or call the local elections office.

I won't be in town on Election Day. How can I get an absentee ballot? First, you can participate in "one-stop" or early voting, which takes place for 17 days, including weekends, prior to elections. Every county has at least one site for one-stop absentee voting, and some have sites open beyond normal business hours. **You do not need an excuse for voting early.**

If you, or your near relative, are still unable to vote, **you can request an absentee ballot in writing from your county elections board – no excuse is needed.** Check with your local elections board for requirements. The county authorities must receive the request far in advance, so give them a call.

What if I go to the polls and they tell me I am not registered to vote? If you think you are a registered voter but your name does not appear on the county's official list of registered voters, you are entitled to cast a provisional ballot. You may also vote using a provisional ballot if you are asked for identification at the polls but do not have a photo ID or other document with you.

On Election Day, what should I do if I think my rights might have been violated? Contact the North Carolina Democratic Party at (800) 229-3376 or the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections office at (866) 522-4723. The State Board of Elections has general supervisory authority over all elections conducted in the State.

If you have any questions, contact:

North Carolina Democratic Party
220 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 821-2777
(800) 229-3367
www.ncdp.org

North Carolina State Board of Elections
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
(919) 733-7173
(866) 522-4723
www.sboe.state.nc.us

Paid for by the North Carolina Democratic Party (www.ncdp.org).
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.