

# vote.

## North Carolina

### How do I vote?

The North Carolina State Board of Elections is the state agency responsible for administering laws involving the elections process and campaign finance disclosure in North Carolina. The governor of North Carolina appoints the five members of the bi-partisan board. No more than three members of the state board may be of any one political party. The State Board of Elections, using names put forward by the political parties, appoints the three members of each of the bi-partisan county boards of elections. No more than two members of the county board may be of the same political party. In preparation for voting, voters who visit the website for the North Carolina State Board of Elections ([www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov)) can identify their precinct, print off a sample ballot and obtain other information about the election process.

### HELP WANTED NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS

Both federal and state laws set eligibility requirements for voting in North Carolina.

Federal law related to voter eligibility states that:

- ★ One cannot be denied the right to vote because of age if one is over 18.
- ★ One cannot be denied the right to vote because of gender.
- ★ One cannot be denied the right to vote because of race.

North Carolina law related to voter eligibility states that:

- ★ You must be 18.
- ★ You must have a 30-day residence in the North Carolina county where you live.
- ★ You must not be registered to vote or vote in any other county or state.
- ★ You must have your rights of citizenship restored if you are convicted of a felony. A felon can have his/her voting rights restored, after completing his or her sentence.

### HELP WANTED NORTH CAROLINA CANDIDATES

The North Carolina Constitution states that candidates running for elected office in North Carolina must be:

- ★ 21 years old
- ★ Eligible to vote for the office sought

The Constitution outlines additional qualifications for certain elected offices, such as Governor, Attorney General and North Carolina Senate.

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★ **Pre-Register**  
Did you know? North Carolina's 16 and 17 year-olds once were eligible to pre-register to vote. The NC General Assembly ended this practice in 2013 when it passed new voting laws (NC SL 2013-381).

★ **Register**  
If you are eligible to vote, you can register through North Carolina agencies including the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Employment Security Commission, and WorkFirst and Medicaid programs. Contact your county board of elections or visit your public libraries and high schools to request mail-in registration forms that can be completed and sent to the county board of elections office.

★ **Vote Early**  
For early voting, NC counties open at least one location, starting the second Thursday before an election. This is sometimes called "One Stop Absentee Voting" or "In-Person Absentee Voting." One Early Voting site must be at the county Board of Elections office or a nearby site. The county may open other sites on different days/hours until 3 days before Election Day.

Citizens may also vote early by mail with an Absentee Ballot. The voter or a close relative must make the request in writing to the county board of elections before the absentee voting deadline.

★ **Vote on Election Day**  
Each county board of elections divides its county into polling precincts. Each precinct designates a site where voters living in the precinct go to vote on **Election Day**. Registration cards list voters' polling precincts. Check your registration card or request your polling site from your county boards of elections.

## Think more!

Voters who visit the website for the North Carolina State Board of Elections [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) can identify their precinct, print off a sample ballot and obtain other information about the election process.

How do voters make decisions about candidates? Interview registered voters to find out where they get their news and information about candidates and ask which sources the voters consider most reliable. Discuss with friends and classmates where they gather news and information about candidates and voting.