

VOTING EQUIPMENT

Every voting place must have at least one accessible voting system available for use by voters with special needs. These voting systems allow voters with disabilities to have the same opportunity for access and participation as non-disabled voters.

Some counties use Direct Record Electronic (DRE) touch screen voting machines. The DRE has the capacity for audio cues to assist visually impaired people to mark the electronic ballot based upon the voter's touching the screen. The DRE machine produces an oral report to the voter as to their selections prior to the voter casting the completed ballot.

Other counties use Optical Scan voting systems where marked paper ballots are submitted into a tabulator by the voter where they are counted based upon the marks on the ballot. An AutoMark marking device makes the use of paper ballots accessible to visually impaired voters. The AutoMark also uses audio cue capacity that allows the visually impaired to have their paper ballot marked according to their wishes. The AutoMark has a feature that can magnify the ballot for voters that have limited visual impairment. An oral report is produced by the AutoMark to the voter as to their selections prior to the voter casting the ballot. After the ballot is marked by the AutoMark, it is removed and placed into the Optical Scan tabulator where it will be counted with all the other ballots.

The North Carolina State Board of Elections is committed to making voting accessible for all voters. If you have a concern or complaint as to voter accessibility, first share it with the pollworkers on site. Then feel free to contact your CBE or our office. Please let us know how we can improve voting accessibility by calling us at 866-522-4723 (toll free) or e-mailing us at elections.sboe@ncmail.net.

You can find information as to the location of your CBE and how to contact them also at the website listed below.

County Board of Elections

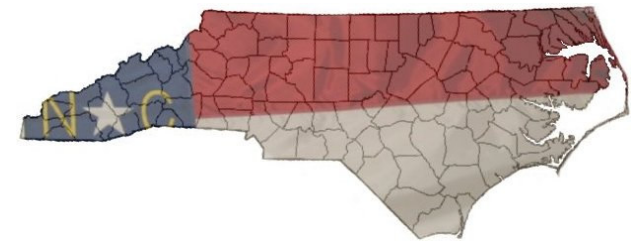
NC State Board of Elections
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
Telephone: (919) 733-7173
Toll free: 1-866-522-4723
Fax: (919) 715-0135
Website: www.sboe.state.nc.us

If you would like to download this brochure go to:

www.sboe.state.nc.us

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Voting Accessibility:



A Citizen's Guide

NC State Board of Elections
506 North Harrington Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

You can find voter registration applications at your local County Board of Elections (CBE), at local libraries, or other voter registration agencies. You can also download an application from the State Board of Elections (SBE) website.

Governmental offices that are primarily engaged in providing disability services and public assistance are known as "mandatory" voter registration agencies. Such agencies must make available to their clients voter registration forms and assistance in completing them, and accept completed applications and transmit them to state officials.

Also a North Carolina resident who is qualified to register to vote may register in-person and vote at a one-stop voting site in the person's county.

ABSENTEE BY MAIL VOTING

Any registered North Carolina voter can request an absentee ballot from his/her respective CBE prior to the last Tuesday before the election. Absentee ballots are sent out starting the 50th day before an election and voters are encouraged to send their requests in early. A handwritten request from the voter or near relative* must include the following:

- Name of voter
- Residential Address of voter
- Mailing Address of voter (if different from residential address)
- Date of Birth of voter

- Signature of voter or near relative (indicate relationship with voter)

If the voter is qualified, an application and ballot will be mailed to the voter after the receipt of the written request. The voted ballot must be received in the CBE office by 5:00 pm on the day before the election in order to be counted.

*A near relative is a: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild.

ABSENTEE ONE-STOP VOTING

Any North Carolina voter may choose to vote in person using One-Stop Absentee Voting which begins the third Thursday before the election and ends the Saturday prior to the election. A non-registered person can even register for the first time and vote at these sites.

You can vote one-stop at your local CBE or at any additional one-stop voting site in your county.

ACCESSIBILITY ON ELECTION DAY

Each CBE office is responsible for making voting places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling site, accessible to individuals with disabilities in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters.

Digital pictures and accessibility surveys have been completed for every voting

place in North Carolina in regards to pathways, accessibility from outside, and accessibility within the voting place. Pictures of your local voting place can be found on the SBE website.

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Upon request by the voter:

Voters who on the account of physical disability; illiteracy; or blindness are unable to enter the voting booth or to mark a ballot without assistance can obtain assistance from a person of the voter's choice excluding their employer, union, or their agents.

Any voter, regardless of disability, is entitled to assistance from the voter's spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild, as chosen by the voter.

CURBSIDE VOTING

A voter who is able to travel to the voting place, but is unable to enter the voting place or enclosure to vote in person without physical assistance, has the option to vote in the vehicle they came in or in the immediate proximity of the voting place. The curbside voting area will be clearly marked at the voting place.

The voter will be required to fill out a curbside affidavit. The ballot will be brought to the voter. A curbside voter has the same rights to assistance and voter privacy as other voters.

Curbside voting is open during the same hours as the voting place.