



NORTH CAROLINA

HOW TO VOTE IN THE 2024 ELECTION

KEY DATES

Voter registration deadline
Friday, Oct. 11, 5 p.m. (unless you do same-day registration during early in-person voting)

Deadline to request an absentee ballot
Tuesday, Oct. 29, 5 p.m.

Early in-person voting
Thursday, Oct. 17, to Saturday, Nov. 2, 3 p.m.

Deadline for absentee ballot to be received
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Election Day
Tuesday, Nov. 5, with polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

★ ★ ★

WHAT'S NEW

Due to a state Supreme Court ruling in 2023, voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting. Litigation over the state's voter ID law is ongoing in the courts.

A law passed in 2023 eliminated a three-day grace period for returning absentee ballots and tightened requirements for registering during early voting. The rules are being challenged in court.

Redistricting in 2023 changed boundaries of state legislative and U.S. congressional districts and may affect which candidates appear on your ballot.

WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

How can I register to vote?
Online: If you have a driver's license or ID issued by the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, go to ncdot.gov/dmv, click Other Services and then Voter Registration Application.
By mail: Go to ncsbe.gov, select Registering and then How to Register from the drop-down menu. Download an application under Ways to Register to Vote. Mail or drop off the completed voter registration application to your county board of elections office. For addresses, go to vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo.
In person: Visit your county board of elections office or the DMV.

The regular deadline to register to vote by mail or on Election Day is Friday, Oct. 11, at 5 p.m. If you miss that deadline, same-day registration is available at early voting sites in your county during early voting, but for most voters not on Election Day. Find your registration status at vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup.

How can I get an absentee ballot?
Request a ballot online at ncsbe.gov and under Voting select Vote By Mail to download a request form. No reason is needed. You can also request the form from your county board of elections office or pick one up at a county or state board of elections office. A close relative—such as a spouse, sibling or child—or legal guardian can also request a ballot on your behalf.

On the application, include your date of birth plus one of the following: North Carolina driver's license number, North Carolina DMV-issued state ID number or the last four digits of your Social Security number. Paper absentee ballot request forms can be mailed to or dropped off at your county board of elections office, which must receive them by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29.

How do I submit my absentee ballot?
Two witnesses (18 or older) or one notary public must be present when you mark your absentee ballot. Include a copy of an approved photo ID, or fill out an exception form. Mail your ballot or return it in person to your county board of elections office or an early voting site in your county. Ballots must be received by your county board of elections—not just postmarked—by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. For details, see ncsbe.gov, and under Voting select Vote By Mail.

Where can I track my ballot?
At northcarolina.ballottrax.net.

Can I vote in person before Election Day?
Vote in person at any early voting site in your county from Thursday, Oct. 17, through 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. For locations, go to vt.ncsbe.gov and click Early Voting Sites.

When is Election Day?
Tuesday, Nov. 5; polls are open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Find your polling place at vt.ncsbe.gov by selecting Election Day Polling Place Search. Those in line by 7:30 p.m. can vote.

Do I need ID to vote in person?
You'll be asked to show a photo ID—such as a driver's license or ID issued by the North Carolina DMV—when voting in person during early voting or on Election Day. You can vote without one but must fill out additional paperwork and cast a provisional ballot. Voters without ID can get a free ID card from the DMV or their county elections board. Those 65 and older may use an expired ID if it was current on their 65th birthday. For a list of acceptable IDs and other rules, go to ncsbe.gov, and under Voting select Voter ID.

What about military or overseas voters?
Go to ncsbe.gov. Under Voting, click Military and Overseas Voting.

What if I have a disability?
Go to ncsbe.gov. Under Voting, click Help for Voters with Disabilities. —*Natalie Missakian*

IMPORTANT: As of press time, election issues were still being contested in some states. Before voting, AARP recommends confirming details at the North Carolina official site, **ncsbe.gov**, or by scanning the code to the right. You can also call the state board of elections office at 919-814-0700. More updates at **aarp.org/ncvotes**.

RACES TO WATCH

- **U.S. President**
- **U.S. House:** All 14 seats
- **Governor**
- **State Senate:** All 50 seats
- **State House:** All 120 seats
- **State Supreme Court:** 1 of 7 seats

Instructions are for computer use and may differ on mobile devices. As a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, AARP does not endorse candidates or make political donations.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS O'RILEY