

## NC BOARD OF ELECTIONS - VOTING in NC and COLLEGE STUDENTS

*College Students may have questions about voting, residency, and Voter ID.  
This guide will assist you with exercising your right to vote.*

**VOTER ELEGIBILITY** - To be eligible to vote in NC, you must be a US born or naturalized US citizen; be 18 years old as of the date of the election (17 year olds may vote in a primary if they will turn 18 by the general election); not serving any part of a felony sentence; *and reside in the County where you live for at least 30 days*. If you meet these requirements you are eligible to vote in NC!

**REGISTERING TO VOTE AT SCHOOL OR HOME** - Regardless of whether you are an out-of-state student, or are just going to school in a different county, you must first decide where you reside, or where you call “home”. NC law says you can call your college community “home” if you do not have a clear intent to return to another place (like your parent’s address) after graduation. In this case you can register at your college address. If you clearly intend to return “home” after graduation, then you need to register (or remain registered) at that home (parent’s) address. If you are not sure, you can choose either place. Choose only one. It is a crime to vote in more than one place! If you move your registration, it is your responsibility to notify the Board of Elections that you have moved.

**HOW TO REGISTER** - You can register to vote by completing a voter registration form and returning it to the County Board of Elections in the County where you choose to reside. County Board of Elections can be found here: <http://enr.ncsbe.gov/cbeseearch/>. You can register to vote during a voter registration drive, at the NC DMV, at your local Board of Elections, public assistance agencies, public health agencies, or download the form online at and mail it in. Online forms are here: <http://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/FilesP/NCVRRRegFormv102013eng.pdf>. **You must register to vote at least 25 days before the election.** Note - you may still register to vote during early voting at one-stop voting sites in your County. You will need to provide proof that you live in the county.

**WAYS TO VOTE** - You can vote in-person either at a one-stop early voting site or at the polling place on Election Day, or you can vote by mail-in absentee ballot.

**In-person voting at the voting site** – Voting in person is offered at your assigned polling place on Election Day, or at a one-stop early voting site in your county during the days before the election. One-stop early voting is generally offered at the County Board of Elections office, but an alternate site or additional sites may be available. For more information about early voting sites and precincts, contact your local County Board of Elections office or [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov).

**Mail-in absentee voting** – Absentee voting generally does not require a photo ID.<sup>1</sup> Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot so long as the request is received in time. You

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<sup>1</sup> The Absentee Ballot Request Form provides a space to list the last four digits of the requestor’s Social Security number or their NC license or identification number. If a voter does not provide those either of those numbers, or if a voter’s registration cannot be verified, the voter must provide a copy of document showing proof of residence or a photo identification to complete the verification processes.

do not need a special reason. Absentee ballot request forms can be obtained from your county board of elections or downloaded here:

<http://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/FilesP/AbsenteeBallotRequestForm.pdf>. Absentee ballots may be obtained no later than 5 pm on the Tuesday before the date of election.

**NC VOTER ID LAW** - Beginning in 2016, persons **voting in-person at the polls** will be asked to show a valid and acceptable photo ID to vote. There are **exceptions and options** for persons who do not have an acceptable photo ID.

**ACCEPTABLE VOTER ID CARDS** - ID cards issued by the NC DMV are the NC Drivers License and NC Identification Card. These cards can be *expired* for up to 4 years.

Also acceptable are *unexpired* US Passports and Passport Cards, Military IDs, VA Benefits Card, Federal Tribal ID Cards, and certain State recognized Tribal ID cards. Out-of-State DMV issued cards are acceptable only if the voter has registered to vote within 90 days of the election. *Your student ID is not acceptable for voting.*

- **In-state students** can typically use their NC Drivers License or NC ID Card (or any of the above acceptable cards). *Tip - The address does not have to match your voter registration card.*
- **Out-of-state students** can use their unexpired out-of-state DMV card **if** you register to vote within 90 days of the election. After 90 days, you should get one of the acceptable forms of ID listed above. You can get an NC ID for free if you need one for voting. *Tip: you can use your out-of-state photo ID to help get a free NC Voter ID card.*

**FREE VOTER ID CARD** – If you are a registered voter in NC *and do not have any of the acceptable photo ID's for voting* you may get one for free from the DMV. You will need certain documents to prove citizenship, identity, and residency. Your out-of-state DMV ID, Social Security Card, and your Student ID can be used as identity documents, along with others. *Tip: Make sure you have the correct documents before you go to your local DMV office. Once there, tell them you are there to get your free voter ID card.* A more complete list of acceptable documents is here: <http://voterid.nc.gov/> or here: <http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver/id/>

**IMPORTANT -- IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO GET A PHOTO ID YOU CAN STILL VOTE** - Voters *unable* to get an ID because of a “reasonable impediment” may cast a provisional ballot. The voter will have to sign a declaration describing the impediment, provide either their date of birth or last four digits of their social security number, or their voter registration card, or a current copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document. Examples of reasonable impediments and more complete information are here: <http://voterid.nc.gov/exceptions.html> . If you *forget* to bring your ID, you have several options that include casting a provisional ballot or voting by mail-in absentee ballot. (See absentee voting above)

**EXCEPTIONS FOR VOTER ID** – There are several exceptions to the voter ID law, including exceptions for curbside voters, absentee voters, persons with a sincere religious objection to being photographed, and for natural disasters. The full list of exceptions is here - <http://voterid.nc.gov/exceptions.html>. *No one will be turned away or not allowed to vote because they do not have a photo ID.*

**IMPORTANT 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION DATES:**

- Absentee voting begins 01/25/2016
- Voter registration deadline 02/19/2016
- One stop voting begins 03/3/2016
- Election day is 03/15/2016

Other important election dates are here:

[http://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/FilesP/PDF/Important\\_Dates\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/FilesP/PDF/Important_Dates_2016.pdf)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOU LOCAL COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, DOWNLOAD VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT FORMS:** <http://enr.ncsbe.gov/cbeseach/>

**OTHER INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE - More detailed information and assistance can be found here:** <http://voterid.nc.gov/> and [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov)

The North Carolina State Board of Elections is the state agency charged with overall responsibility for administration of the elections process and campaign finance disclosure in North Carolina. The office of the State Board of Elections works in conjunction with County Board of Elections offices to ensure that elections are conducted lawfully and fairly.

The North Carolina State Board of Elections can provide more information, materials, and other assistance. Outreach teams are available to conduct workshops or give presentations on photo ID and other election laws. **Contact:** Ted Fitzgerald – NC State Board of Elections: (919) 715-7480 [ted.fitzgerald@ncsbe.gov](mailto:ted.fitzgerald@ncsbe.gov)



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Elections