

2012

NC State Board of
Elections

VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING FACTS

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How do I register?

You may complete and download a printable voter registration form at www.NCSBE.gov, the State Board of Election's [website](#). In addition to the printable web application, voter registration applications are also available at county boards of elections' offices, public libraries, high schools and college admissions offices.

Voter Registration Deadline

The voter registration deadline for the **November 6, 2012** General Election is **October 12, 2012**. Follow these instructions on transmitting your signed voter registration application by the voter registration deadline.

- Mailing the application
 - The signed application must be received or postmarked by **October 12th**.
- Registering in-person
 - The signed application must be delivered to the county board of elections by **October 12th**.
 - If you complete a form at a voter registration drive, the organizer is responsible for delivering your signed application to the county board of elections no later than **October 12th**.
- Faxing or emailing a voter registration application
 - You may fax or email your signed application by **October 12th**, if you are only changing your name or updating your address in the county.
 - If you are registering for the first time in your county or you want to change your party affiliation, you *may* fax or email your signed application on or before **October 12th**, but you must forward the originally signed application so that your county board of elections receives the application no later **October 17th**.
- Registering at the DMV or other NVRA Agency
 - To register at the DMV or another NVRA agency, you must be at the agency for normal agency business. The signed application must be accepted at the agency on or before **October 12th**. Upon registering, you should receive your voter registration card in the mail within 1 to 2 weeks.

Registering after the deadline.

Individuals who miss the registration deadline may register in person and then vote at a [One-stop voting site](#) in the person's county of residence during the one-stop absentee voting period (October 18 – November 3, 2012). In order to register during a one-stop period, the applicant must show acceptable [proof of name and residence](#) in the county.

What is my legal voting residence?

Your legal voting residence is where you live or your place of domicile -- it is that place where if you leave, you have the intent of returning. If you have moved, you should update your address with the county board of elections. If you have moved to a new county or a new state, you must register in your new county or your new state of residence.

- Moved within the county
 - If you move *on or before* **October 7, 2012**, you should update your voter registration with your new address. You have lost voting eligibility using your old address. You should vote at your new precinct within the county on Election Day.
 - If you move *after* **October 7, 2012**, your legal voting residence for the General Election is your old address. You should vote at your old precinct in the county on Election Day.
- Moved to a new county in North Carolina
 - If you move *on or before* **October 7, 2012**, you must register to vote in your new county of residence. You have lost voting eligibility in your previous county.
 - If you move *after* **October 7, 2012**, your legal voting residence for the General Election is your old address in your previous county.
- Moved to a new state
 - If you move *on or before* **October 7, 2012**, you must register to vote in your new state of residence. You have lost voting eligibility in North Carolina.
 - If you move *after* **October 7, 2012**, your legal voting residence for the General Election is your old address in your previous North Carolina county.

Voting Residency Facts

Fact One: Your legal voting residence is your place of permanent domicile.

That place shall be considered the residence of a person in which that person's habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever that person is absent, that person has the intention of returning.

Fact Two: Citizens who are homeless may register and vote.

In the event that a person's residence is not a traditional residence associated with real property, then the location of the usual sleeping area for that person shall be controlling as to the residency of that person. Residence shall be broadly construed to provide all persons with the opportunity to register and to vote, including stating a mailing address different from residence address.

Fact Three: You may continue to vote in your same North Carolina county even if you temporarily move away.

A person shall not be considered to have lost that person's residence if that person leaves home and goes into another state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district of this State, for temporary purposes only, with the intention of returning.

Fact Four: You may not vote in a county if you are only living in the county on a temporary basis.

A person shall not be considered to have gained a residence in any county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district of this State, into which that person comes for temporary purposes only, without the intention of making that county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district a permanent place of abode.

Fact Five: When you move to a new county or state, you are no longer eligible to vote in your previous county.

If a person removes to another state or county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district within this State, with the intention of making that state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district a permanent residence, that person shall be considered to have lost residence in the state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district from which that person has removed.

Fact Six: If you move away and establish a new residence, but on an indefinite basis, you are no longer eligible to vote in your previous county, even if you believe that you may return to your previous residence in the future.

If a person removes to another state or county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district within this State, with the intention of remaining there an indefinite time and making that state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district that person's place of residence, that person shall be considered to have lost that person's place of residence in this State, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district from which that person has removed, notwithstanding that person may entertain an intention to return at some future time.

Fact Seven: If you move away and register and vote in another county or state, you will no longer be eligible to vote in your previous county.

If a person goes into another state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district, or into the District of Columbia, and while there exercises the right of a citizen by voting in an election, that person shall be considered to have lost residence in that State, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district from which that person removed.

Fact Eight: College students may register and vote in the county where they are attending college (in most situations, the college student could also opt to register or remain registered at the address where they lived previous to moving away for college, and could choose to vote absentee). If a student registers at his or her school address, that would cancel out any previous registration in another county.

So long as a student intends to make the student's home in the community where the student is physically present for the purpose of attending school while the student is attending school and has no intent to return to the student's former home after graduation, the student may claim the college community as the student's domicile. The student need not also intend to stay in the college community beyond graduation in order to establish domicile there.

[See G.S. § 163-57](#)

What if I moved, but failed to update my voter registration by October 12, 2012?

- You can still vote early during the One-Stop early voting period (October 18 – November 3, 2012), where you can still register to vote or update your voter registration. If you are registering for the first time in your county of residence, then you will need to show proof of your residential address in order to register during the One-Stop early voting period. If you are just updating your address in the same county in which you are already registered, then you will not be required to show proof of your new address. [Click here for more information on One-Stop early voting.](#)
- If you wish to vote on Election Day (**November 6, 2012**), and you move(d) *on or before October 7, 2012*,
 - You are no longer qualified to vote using your old address.
 - If you moved *within* the same county as your existing voter registration, then you may go to your new precinct in the county. The precinct officials will assist you with updating your address and voting the correct ballot. [Click here to find your correct polling location.](#)
 - If you moved to a new county, and you did not register to vote in the new county, then you are not eligible to participate in the 2012 General Election. Also, you are no longer qualified to vote in your previous county since you moved 30 or more days before the date of the election. [See G.S. § 163-57.](#)
- If you wish to vote on Election Day (**November 6, 2012**), and you move(d) *after October 7, 2012*,
 - You are still eligible to vote using your old address, even if you have moved to a new county or a new state.

Do I need a North Carolina driver license to register to vote?

No. If you do not have a North Carolina driver license or state-issued identification card, you may enter the last 4 digits of your Social Security number on your voter registration application. If you do not have a driver license or know the last 4 digits of your Social Security number, then you can still complete a voter registration application. You will be registered, but you will need to [show ID](#) the first time you vote.

I haven't updated my driver license. Can I vote?

You do not need to have updated your driver license in order to vote. In fact, most voters will not be required to show *any* ID in order to vote.

First-time voters who did not provide any ID information (North Carolina driver license, state-issued ID or the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number) that could be validated at the time that they registered *will* be asked to show ID. However, the ID that is shown does not *necessarily* have to be a driver license. It could be current and valid photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document. [Click here for a complete list of acceptable documents.](#)

Absentee Voting by Mail

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is **Tuesday, October 30, 2012**. Any registered North Carolina voter can request an absentee ballot by mail. No excuse is needed to vote by absentee. To request an absentee ballot, please send a signed, written request to your county board of elections. In the request, state “I am requesting an absentee ballot” and also include your:

- Voter’s full name
- residential address
- date of birth
- the address where you would like your ballot mailed, and
- a telephone number or email address where you can be contacted.

The request may only be made and signed by the voter or a voter’s near relative. 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. A relative’s request should also include the relative’s name, address, phone number, and relationship to the voter.

Upon receipt of a valid request, the county will mail you your absentee balloting materials. The ballot may not be faxed, emailed or hand-delivered to the voter. For more information on absentee voting, including military and overseas citizens absentee voting, please visit our website at www.NCSBE.gov and click the ABSENTEE VOTING [link](#). If you do not find what you need on our website, you should contact your county board of elections’ [office](#) directly.

Military and overseas citizens

If you are in the military (or you are a military spouse or dependent) and you are absent from your county of residence, or if you are a United States citizen who is outside of the United States during the election, please visit our [website](#) for information on registering to vote, requesting a ballot, and returning an absentee ballot.

Returning an Absentee Ballot

Civilian absentee voters must return their voted ballot in the container-return envelope provide to the board of elections in enough time for the ballot to be received by 5:00 p.m. on **November 5, 2012**. If mailed, the ballot is timely as long as the container-return envelope is postmarked by Election Day and received no later than **Friday, November 9, 2012**. If balloting materials are returned in person, only the voter or a near relative may deliver the ballot. Civilian absentee ballots may not be returned by fax or email.

Military and overseas citizens have until 7:30 p.m. EST on Election Day (or **November 6, 2012**) to return their voted ballot. Their voted ballots may be faxed, emailed or mailed. Additional time is granted for military and overseas citizens’ absentee ballots to be received, as long as the voter mailed the ballot by Election Day or started the electronic ballot transmission by 12:01 a.m. on Election Day, then the ballot will still be timely as long as it is received by **November 15, 2012**.

Witnessing an Absentee Ballot Application

A person, including a voter’s near relative or legal guardian, that is least 18 years of age, may witness a voter’s absentee ballot application. The application may not be witnessed by the following:

- An owner, manager, director, employee, or other person affiliated with a hospital, clinic, nursing home or rest home, where the voter is a patient.
- A person who is a candidate for nomination or election in the primary or election in which the voter is voting absentee, unless the voter is the candidate’s near relative.

The absentee application is the form on the back of the ballot’s container-return envelope. The witness is required to provide his or her complete address.

Postage on Absentee Envelope

The postage required on an absentee ballot return envelope is *at least* **\$0.90** – or two postage stamps.

ID at the Polls

Most voters will not be required to show ID in order to vote. In other words, there is no general requirement for voters to show their voter registration card or their driver license. Only first time voters who did not provide ID at the time of their initial registration that could be validated need to show ID. The county board of elections would have mailed them notification of this. If ID does need to be shown, then a driver license or other government ID is acceptable. Also, utility bills, bank statements, paystubs, W2s, etc. are acceptable. [Click here for a complete list of acceptable documents.](#)

Voting on Election Day When You Failed to Update Your Address

On Election Day, if you moved within your county, but failed to update your address with the county board of elections, you may go to your new precinct to vote (if it is within the same county as your voter registration) or you may go to your old precinct and be *transferred* to your new precinct. You may be required to vote a provisional ballot. Please see "[What is My Legal Voting Residence](#)" for more information.

Voting Out of Precinct

It is permissible to vote out of your precinct in the same county where you are registered, but you cannot vote a ballot that will be counted in a county that you do not reside. Voters who vote out of precinct will need to vote a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are researched after Election Day and will count if voter is registered and qualified to vote in the election. Voters may check the status of their provisional ballot [online](#).

Voting Provisionally

Any person who presents to vote whose name does not appear on the polling list, may vote a provisional ballot. Provisional ballot applications are researched after Election Day to determine (1) whether voter is registered; (2) whether person made a timely voter registration attempt and (3) whether person has already voted in the

election. Voters will be able to find out the results of their provisional ballots on or shortly after November 15, 2012.

Straight Party Voting

A "straight party" vote does not include the office of President/Vice President or any nonpartisan race or issue:

- You must vote for President/Vice President separately from the other offices.
- Nonpartisan offices and issues also must be voted separately.

More detailed instructions are on your ballot. For paper ballots, be sure to turn the ballot over because there are contests on the back of the ballot.