North Carolina Voter’s Bill of Rights

You have the right to vote – it’s the law and the proof is in your hands! You’ll notice letters and numbers after each of your rights listed below. These codes tell lawyers and poll-workers where to find the N.C. statute that protects your rights as a properly registered voter. You can take this document with you to vote.

The 2013 rules for voting are the same as in 2012. For details about new rules for 2014, the photo ID requirement for 2016, or for other questions call 1-888-OUR-VOTE or go to NCElectionConnection.com.

**You Have the Right to Vote**

1. **HOURS.** Each polling place is open between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm on Election Day. If you are in line or inside the polling place before 7:30 pm, you must be allowed to vote. NC General Statute. (NCGS 163-166.01)

2. **IDENTIFICATION.** Until 2016, you generally do not have to show identification to poll workers when you vote. (NCGS 163-82.8). However, if you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail without sending in a form of identification, or if you are a first-time voter who registered through a voter registration drive, identification may be required. It makes sense to take a form of ID: a current NC driver’s license or one of these documents with your name and current address: utility bill (electric, gas, phone, water, cable bill), pay-stub/W-2, bank statement, or any document from any government agency. (NCGS 163-166.12)

3. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT.** If any problem arises, you have a right to vote with a provisional ballot. For example, ask for a provisional ballot if you believe you have registered but your name is not on the rolls; or if you question the voting district (or ballot) assigned to you; or if you are told that you are in the wrong precinct. You must also be given a way to find out if the provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason it was not counted. (NCGS 163-166.11)

4. **IF YOU MOVE.** If you have moved and have lived in your new location more than 30 days, you have the right to vote in your new precinct or at a central location. If you have moved, but have lived in your new location less than 30 days, you must vote in your old precinct or cast a provisional ballot in your new precinct. If you have moved within your precinct, you have the right to update your information at the polls and vote. (NCGS 163-82.15)

5. **NAME CHANGE.** If your name has changed since you registered to vote, you have the right to vote, even if you have not reported your name change to election officials. (NCGS 163-82.16)

6. **SPOILED BALLOT.** If you make a mistake and “spoil” your ballot, you have a right to a new ballot. You can spoil up to three ballots. (8 NCAC 108.0104)

7. **ASSISTANCE.** You have the right to receive assistance from a family member. If you have a disability or difficulty reading (due to language ability, vision, etc.), you have a right to assistance from anyone of your choice, except your employer or union agent. You can also receive ballot instructions in Spanish. (NCGS 163-166.8, 168-165-5A)

8. **CURBSIDE.** If the polling place is inaccessible to you due to a disability, you have a right to vote at the curb, in the vehicle you came in, or at the door of the polling place. (NCGS 163-166.9)

9. **EX-FELONS & MISDEMEANANTS.** You have a right to vote if you are in jail for a misdemeanor or if you have completed all terms of a felony sentence, including probation, and you have re-registered to vote. (NCGS 13-1)

10. **INTIMIDATION.** You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote for anyone you don’t wish to vote for. (NCGS 163-271)

**2013 VOTER REGISTRATION KIT**

Voter registration is the necessary first step in making sure the voices of “we the people” are heard by our elected officials. With the right information, anyone can register voters!

The 2013 rules for voting are the same as in 2012, except for no pre-registration. No voter ID required until 2016.

**Ten Tips for Voter Registration Drives**

1. **Choose the right time and location** for your registration drive so plenty of people will see you.

2. **Get permission to conduct a drive** if the location is on private property.

3. **Have plenty of registration forms with you** – in English and in Spanish. Get forms from the County Board of Elections or Democracy North Carolina.

4. **Other supplies:** Clipboards, pens (black and blue ink only), a visible sign saying “Register to Vote,” a bin or large envelope for completed forms, stickers and fun stuff to give away, and flyers about voting rights, how and when to vote, and this guide for volunteers.

5. **Recruit plenty of volunteers.** About 25% of those who say they’ll help will not show up!

6. **Be non-partisan.** Don’t tell people what party to register for or who to vote for; don’t have signs for a candidate. You must help register anyone regardless of what party they choose. Note: You can state your position on an Amendment or Bond issue and still be non-partisan.

7. **It is illegal to pre-fill out the party affiliation** or to throw away or destroy a person’s form.

8. **Offer to fill out the form for people and let them sign.** Or let them fill it out BUT review it before they leave. Some people will want to take it home but those forms are rarely turned in. Say you can help get it done correctly and quickly.

9. **Train your volunteers** to know how to fill out forms, review them — and get a signature!

10. **Turn in all forms** to the elections board, even if parts are incomplete.

**Democracy North Carolina can provide voter registration forms, “Register to Vote Here” signs, and handouts about voting rights and other topics. Call 919-286-6000.**

**Resources for More Information**

NC State Board of Elections | www.ncsbe.gov or 866-522-4723
Democracy NC | www.democracy-nc.org or 919-286-6000
NC Election Connection | www.ncelectionconnection.com
Instructions for Completing the NC Voter Registration Form

Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the form MUST be completed before it can be processed by the Board of Elections. Many, but not all, of these items are marked with red (Required).

People most often leave out Date of Birth; ID number (Section 3); Signature & Date!

Section 1: Begin with the box about being a citizen. On the right, note that although the form hasn’t yet changed, 16 and 17 year olds can no longer pre-register. Citizens who are at least 18 on the day of the General Election check both boxes.

Section 2: Ask people to print their name as it appears on the Driver’s License or Social Security Card referred to in Section 3. This will make the matching (verification) process go more smoothly. Be sure to get the Date of Birth. The County and State of Birth are optional.

Section 3: Ideally, list the person’s NC Drivers License or NC state ID card number here. The last 4 numbers of their Social Security Number also works. If someone does not have either, they can still register, but they will be asked to show a form of ID (not necessarily a photo ID) when they first go to vote.

Section 4: This must be a street address, not a PO Box number. Include any apartment number. Ask everyone for their phone number; it is used by the Board of Elections to call the registrant if there are questions about missing information.

Section 5: Give a mailing address if the mail is not delivered at the address in Section 4 or if the registrant has a different permanent address (like a student or member of the military).

Section 6: Filling in Gender, Race and Ethnicity helps monitor the election process to ensure that it is not biased against any class of voters. These items and political party affiliation are optional. If a party is not marked, the Elections Board will list the voter as “Unaffiliated.” In NC, Unaffiliated voters are allowed to vote in the Primary election of either political party.

Section 7: Use this section to cancel a previous registration. Some people can’t remember all parts of their previous address, but at least list the county where they were registered.

I ATTEST: The registrant must personally sign/date the form after reading the items. (Someone convicted of a felony anywhere can register in NC after finishing his or her sentence.)

What should I do with the completed forms?

Deliver or mail the forms to the County Board of Elections office within 7 days of completion and at least 25 days before the next election. Turn in all of the forms even if some sections are not completed.

Frequently Asked Questions for Voter Registration

Q: Who is eligible to register to vote?
A: To register to vote in NC, people must be: (1) a US citizen by birth or naturalization; (2) at least 18 years old by Election Day; (3) not serving a felony sentence, including probation; (4) a resident of the county for at least 30 days before the election.

Q: Can a person register if they do not provide a driver’s license or Social Security number?
A: Yes - but when they first vote, they will need to show one identification document, such as (1) a current photo ID or (2) a utility bill (phone, electric, etc.), bank statement, pay stub, or any government letter, license, or document with their name and current address.

Q: How does someone know if their registration was approved?
A: After a person’s registration form is processed, a verification card is mailed to the voter. The card lists the voter’s polling place. If any information on this card is incorrect, the voter should make changes in the space provided, sign the card, and return it to the County Board of Elections. The card verifies the registration but a voter doesn’t need to show it to vote. If no card is received by three weeks after registration, the voters should call the Elections Board for an explanation or check their registration status online at www.ncsbe.gov/VoterLookup.aspx.

Q: What if a person skips a section on the registration form?
A: All required sections (marked in red) of the form must be completed for it to be properly processed – especially the signature! Always ask people to include their daytime phone number on the form so the election staff can call with any questions about missing information!

Q: Do people have to fill out all of the demographic information in Section 6?
A: No – but this information helps the Board of Elections track voter participation to ensure everyone is treated fairly. Encourage people to fill in this information.

Q: What if someone asks the volunteer what political party to select in Section 6?
A: Volunteers should simply tell people to choose a party they think most closely reflects their values. If they do not know, they can register UNAFFILIATED or leave that section blank. If it’s left blank, the person will automatically be registered as Unaffiliated. Note: Unaffiliated voters in NC may vote in either major party’s primary. Voters who do affiliate with a party can still vote for another party’s candidate in the general election.

Q: What if someone thinks they may already be registered?
A: It doesn’t hurt to fill out a registration form again. If they think they are registered at another address, they should fill out Section 7 (Previous Registration). If you have Internet access, you may look up a registration at www.ncsbe.gov/VoterLookup.aspx.

Q: Does a person need to show a photo ID to vote?
A: Until 2016, voters generally do not need to show ID – but if you are a first-time voter or moved, you may need to show a photo ID or other ID document with your address, such as a utility bill, bank statement, or a license or letter from any government agency. It’s generally smart to carry a photo ID or other ID document with you. From 2016 on, you’ll need to show one of these to vote in person. NC driver’s license or ID card; military or veterans card; passport; tribal ID card. A student ID and most non-NC driver’s licenses are not OK.

Q: How will the new Voter ID law affect voting and voter registration in 2013?
A: The 2013 voting laws are the same as in 2012. The only change that goes into effect this year is the repeal of pre-registration. Beginning this September, 16 and 17 year olds may no longer pre-register to vote.

Do you have any other questions?
Contact the NC State Board of Elections at 866-522-4723.