

WAYS TO VOTE: THE VOTING BOOTH INSIDE THE POLLING SITE IS NOT YOUR ONLY OPTION

Options for How to Vote:

At your assigned polling site on Election Day.

During the One-Stop Voting period (3 to 19 days before Election Day).

You can register and vote on the same day

If already registered, you may vote early

Curbside if you can get to the voting site, but cannot get inside due to age or disability on Election Day or during the One-Stop Voting period.

By requesting an absentee ballot be sent by mail

[Link the short answers above to their longer, more explanatory versions below, no need for a short answer to Satellite voting since it isn't overly common]

Never leave without voting. If you are denied the right to vote, you may always vote a provisional ballot. § 163-166.11. Also, if you are in line with the polling site closes, you are entitled to vote.

Voting Inside the Polling Site

Polling sites are generally accessible places, but some may not be fully accessible for voters with disabilities, or may be accessible to some types of disabilities and not to others. You can find out your assigned polling place by looking on your voter registration card, calling your local County Board of Elections, or going to the State Board of Elections website <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us> to check your voter registration and then find your polling place. The State website will not only tell you the location of your polling site, it will provide links to get directions and see pictures of the site to get an idea of the parking, pathway, and general area of the voting enclosure.

If a polling place is inaccessible to a disabled or elderly voter assigned to that place, the voter may make a request before Election Day to be assigned to an accessible polling place.¹ In order to be reassigned, there must be a problem with accessibility and not merely an issue of convenience.

Absentee One-Stop Voting (No-Excuse)

Absentee One-Stop voting allows voters to vote in person during the period 19 to 3 days before the Election Day. The County Board of Elections office during normal office hours is generally the One-Stop site, but some counties offer other sites/extended hours. This method of voting allows voters to avoid the crowds of Election Day and lets voters register and vote on the same day.² You may find your One-Stop Voting sites by contacting your local County Board of Elections. [<http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/content.aspx?id=13>]

¹ N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-131 (2007). State Board of Election to create rules regarding how to request.

² N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-227.2 (2007).

Curbside Voting

If you can get to the voting site, but getting inside the building or the accessibility of the voting booth without assistance is a problem due to age or disability, curbside voting is available at every voting site, including One-Stop sites.³ Curbside voting allows the voter to vote in the conveying vehicle or in the immediate proximity of the voting place. Some sites have designated parking areas for curbside voting, but others do not. If there is no designated parking or there is a delay in service, the voter may need to send someone in or ask a person going into the polling place to let a poll worker know there is a request for curbside voting.

Absentee Ballot by Mail

Any registered, qualified voter is authorized to vote by mail by using an absentee ballot⁴ and does not need to provide an excuse. The voter or the voter's near relative or verifiable guardian may send a **signed**, written request to the County Board of Elections beginning 50 days prior to Election Day and received no later than the Tuesday prior to Election Day.⁵ The written request must be signed by the voter or the voter's near relative or verifiable guardian as well as include the voter's name and address as they appear on the registration records and the address where the ballot is to be mailed. If the request is by the near relative, it should include the near relative's address and relationship to the voter. The voted ballot must be received in the County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. The voter can report a sickness or disability that is expected to last the remainder of the year and request an absentee ballot for the remaining primary and general elections in the calendar year.⁶

If the voter expects to be unable to go to the voting place to vote in person on Election Day because of the voter's sickness or other physical disability, the voter or the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian may make an **in person** written request for absentee ballots to their County Board of Elections after 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the election but not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. The County Board will give the requester the absentee ballot package that is to be returned to the County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. the day before the election.

Satellite Voting Sites

A County Board of Elections may establish a plan that allows elderly or disabled voters in a precinct to vote at designed sites within the precinct other than that precinct's regular voting place. The County Board of Elections must submit a written request to the State Board of Elections and if the State Board of Elections may approve the plan if it finds the plan meets several requirements.⁷

³ N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-166.9 (2007).

⁴ N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-226(a) (2007).

⁵ N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-227.3 (2007) (In some cases, 45 days is authorized.); N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-230.1 (2007).

⁶ N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-226(a2) (2007).

⁷ N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-130 (2007).