

# Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is comprised of two methods by which registered voters may cast ballots other than the traditional method of appearing in person and casting a ballot on the day of the election. These methods are absentee by mail and absentee one-stop.

## Absentee by Mail

Any registered North Carolina voter can request an absentee ballot from his/her respective [county board of elections](#) prior to the last Tuesday before the election. A handwritten request from the voter or near relative\* must include the following:

- Name of voter
- Residential Address of voter
- Mailing Address of voter (if different from residential address)
- Date of Birth of voter
- Signature of voter or near relative (indicate relationship with voter)

If the voter is qualified, an application and ballots will be mailed to the voter after the receipt of the written request. The voted ballot must be received in the County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election in order to be counted.

### **SPECIAL POSTAGE NOTICE FOR MAIL-IN ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Be sure to affix proper postage when you return your absentee balloting materials to your county board of elections. Please check with your postmaster to determine the proper postage amount. Some counties use ballot return envelopes that do not qualify for standard letter rates (11 1/2" X 6 1/8" maximum). The postage on these envelopes costs at least **\$0.83**. Again, check with the post office before mailing your absentee ballot.

\*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.

### **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens (UOCAVA)**

UOCAVA citizens are members of one of two groups:

- Member of the uniformed services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent
- U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.

To request an absentee ballot, a UOCAVA citizen must:

1. Complete the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) available from the Federal Voting Assistance website <http://www.fvap.gov/> where you can download instructions and a copy of the FPCA form (OR) you may request a form from your Voting Assistance Officer assigned to your military installation.
2. Upon completion of the FPCA mail, fax, or email it to your county board of elections.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail or fax for any election is the day prior to Election Day. Ballots can be faxed to a number you provide on the FPCA. To request and receive faxed ballots, transmit the completed FPCA to the NC State Board of Elections by mail or fax. Our secure fax line is 919-715-0351.

Questions regarding any of these procedures should be directed to the State Board of Elections at 919-733-7173 or by email at [elections.sboe@ncmail.net](mailto:elections.sboe@ncmail.net).

## **Absentee One-Stop**

### **In the County Board of Elections Office**

Any registered North Carolina voter may choose to vote in person using One-Stop Absentee Voting which begins the third Thursday before the election and ends the Saturday prior to the election. North Carolina voters are able to vote by Absentee One-Stop at all county boards of elections offices during regular office hours.

For more information regarding One-Stop locations, consult our website or contact your county board of elections.

### **Additional Absentee One-Stop Voting Sites**

Some county boards of elections offer additional absentee one-stop voting sites within the county along with the county board of elections site.

Each county board of elections is responsible for the operation of its Absentee One-Stop Voting sites and are required to submit a Plan for Implementation to the State Board of Elections for approval.

North Carolina State Board of Elections • 506 North Harrington St, Raleigh, NC 27603 • (919) 733-7173

Powered by [SOE Software](#)