

PRIMARIES AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

In primaries in North Carolina, you vote only in the primary of the party with which you are affiliated. If you register unaffiliated, you may be allowed to vote in a primary if a party allows unaffiliated voters to vote in their primary. In the primary you **NOMINATE** party candidates and in a general election you **ELECT** officials.

Elections held in the even numbered years:

Partisan Offices

- President (4 year term)
- United States Senator (2 seats, 6 year staggered terms)
- United States Representative (2 year terms)
- Governor and Council of State (4 year terms)
- State Senate and State House (2 year terms)
- Clerk of Superior Court (4 year term)
- Register of Deeds (4 year term)
- Sheriff (4 year term)
- District Attorney (4 year term)
- County Commissioner At Large (1 seat, 4 year term)
- County Commissioner District A (2 seats, 4 year terms)
- County Commissioner District B (4 seats, 4 year staggered terms)

Non-Partisan Offices

- Board of Education District 1 (2 seats, 4 year staggered terms)
- Board of Education District 2 (4 seats, 4 year staggered terms)
- Board of Education at Large (3 seats, 4 year staggered terms)
- Justice of NC Supreme Court (8 year terms)
- Judge of Court of Appeals (8 year terms)
- Judges of Superior Court District 21A, 21B, 21C & 21D (4 separate seats, 8 year staggered terms)
- District Court Judge (10 seats, 4 year staggered terms)
- Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (3 seats, 4 year staggered terms)

Municipal elections held in the odd numbered years:

Partisan Offices

- City of Winston-Salem - Mayor, 1 Council Member from each Ward (North, Northeast, East, Southeast, South, Southwest, West and Northwest Wards) (4 year terms)

Non-Partisan Offices

- Town of Kernersville - Mayor (2 year term) and Aldermen (5 seats, 2 year terms)
- Town of Rural Hall - Mayor (4 year term) and Councilman (4 seats, 4 year staggered terms)
- Town of Walkertown - Mayor (4 year term) and Councilman (4 seats, 4 year staggered terms)
- Village of Clemmons - Mayor (2 year term) and Councilman (4 seats, 4 year staggered terms; 1 seat, 2 year term)
- Town of Lewisville - Mayor (2 year term) and Councilman (6 seats, 2 year terms)
- Village of Tobaccoville – Mayor (2 year term) and Councilman (4 seats, 4 year staggered terms)
- Town of Bethania - Commissioners (5 seats, 4 year staggered terms)

ABSENTEE VOTING

ONE-STOP NO EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

The one-stop no excuse absentee process permits a registered voter to vote at the Board of Elections office or satellite one-stop locations when available beginning the third Thursday before an election but no later than 1:00 pm on the Saturday before the election. Locations, dates and times will be available on the Board of Elections website prior to that election.

MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING REQUEST

NO EXCUSE REQUIRED: A qualified voter or the voter's near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild) or verifiable legal guardian shall request in writing an application for absentee ballots, so that the county board of elections receives the request not later than 5:00 PM on the Tuesday before the election (NCGS § 163-230.1).

A written request is valid only if it is written entirely by the requester personally, or is on a form generated by the county board of elections and signed by the requester (NCGS § 163-230.2). If a requester, due to disability or illiteracy, is unable to complete a written request, the requester may receive assistance in writing the request from an individual of the requester's choice.

To complete an absentee ballot request, the voter, near relative or verifiable legal guardian should include the following details:

- Statement requesting absentee ballots. Identify the specific election.
- Voter's name
- Voter's Forsyth County residence address and address where ballot is to be mailed
- If a Primary election and voter is Unaffiliated, designate the party preference
- Voter's date of birth
- Daytime telephone number
- Voter's signature if ballot is requested by voter
- The near relative or verifiable legal guardian must also provide their name, residence address, relationship and signature *if the absentee ballot is requested by them.*

Send requests to: Forsyth County Board of Elections, Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-4120

or Fax to: (336) 727-2893

Deadline: REQUEST FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON THE TUESDAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REQUESTS DUE TO AN ILLNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY.

ANNUAL REQUEST BY PERSON WITH SICKNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY

– If a person has a sickness or physical disability that is expected to last for the calendar year, an absentee request may be made for all elections to be held in that year. The application must state that the voter has a sickness or physical disability that is expected to last for the entire year. Absentee ballots will be mailed for all of the primaries and elections to be held during the calendar year when the application is received.

RETURN OF ABSENTEE BALLOT

Absentee ballots must be properly executed by the instructions in order to be counted in the election.

THE VOTER, A NEAR RELATIVE*, VERIFIABLE LEGAL GUARDIAN, UNITED STATES MAIL OR COMMERCIAL COURIER SERVICE MUST RETURN THE BALLOT TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE BY 5:00 PM THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION.

***NEAR RELATIVE MEANS** spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, and stepchild.

VOTING

You will be assigned a voting place within the precinct where you live. Your precinct will be assigned when you register or change address, and you will be notified by mail. You will receive a voter card after you register if you are a new voter or have made changes since the last election. The voter card will indicate the name and location of your voting place and it will also reflect your voting districts. You may telephone the Board of Elections office for the location of your voting place.

AT THE VOTING PLACE

Upon entering the voting place, give your name, address and party (primary only) to the election officials. You will be asked to sign your name. If you are properly registered, you will be allowed to vote. If precinct officials are unable to locate your registration record, you may be asked to vote a provisional ballot. The voter will place the ballot in an envelope and SEAL the envelope. The voter must return the provisional ballot in the sealed envelope to the precinct official. The provisional ballot system allows the voter to provide registration information and to check whether his vote counted.

CURBSIDE VOTING

If you are unable to enter the voting place because of age or physical disability, you will be allowed to vote outside the voting place. Have someone enter the voting place and inform the election officials of your desire.

TRANSFER VOTING

If you fail to change your address by the registration deadline, there is a procedure that allows you to vote. On Election Day, you may go to your old precinct, complete the Election Day Transfer section of the Authorization to Vote form and then take the form to your new precinct where you will be allowed to vote. To avoid this paperwork, change your address by the registration deadline.

HANDICAPPED TRANSFER VOTING

Handicapped accessibility rules are in place to assure that all polling places are accessible. However, if the precinct to which you are assigned is not accessible on Election Day, you may ask to be transferred. You would receive a handicapped transfer form at your assigned precinct to take to the Board of Elections office, Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem. Otherwise, you may vote a curbside ballot as described above. Contact the Board of Elections office if assistance is needed.

ALL VOTING PLACES IN FORSYTH COUNTY ARE OPEN FROM 6:30 AM UNTIL 7:30 PM ON EVERY ELECTION DAY.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register to vote in Forsyth County if you are:

- A citizen of the United States (if convicted of a felony, citizenship rights must have been restored)
- A person 18 years of age or older
- A legal resident of Forsyth County for 30 days by the date of the next election

Forsyth has a permanent registration system. You need to provide a change of information only if you:

- Have moved since you registered in Forsyth. If you move, it is a violation of the law to vote at your old precinct after 30 days
- Wish to change your party affiliation
- Have changed your name

A voter registration card will be mailed to you once your registration application has been processed. Keep the card, as it may be used to change your address by mail should you move within Forsyth County, change your name, or party, or cancel your Forsyth County registration should you move out of Forsyth County.

A registration form must be postmarked 25 days before an election or delivered to the Board of Elections office no later than 25 days before an election in order for your registration to be official for that election.

Registration may be placed in an inactive status if a voter card is returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable.

HOW TO REGISTER AND VOTE DURING ONE-STOP

If you are a North Carolina resident and missed the 25 day deadline for voter registration and have lived at your current address for at least thirty (30) days, you may register and vote at the one-stop location the same day. You will be required to fill out a voter registration application and provide appropriate identification with current name and current address. (Please read the IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT information below for appropriate forms of identification). **THE NEW REGISTRANT MAY VOTE ONLY AT A ONE-STOP ABSENTEE VOTING SITE AND NOT ON ELECTION DAY.**

IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

If you do not have a driver's license or social security number, are submitting this form by mail, and have never registered to vote in the county in which you are now registering, you must send, with the application, either a copy of current and valid photo identification, OR a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address. If you do not provide the information requested above, you will be required to provide ID to election officials when you vote for the first time.

PARTY AFFILIATION

When you register, you will need to declare your party affiliation. You may register with any recognized party in the State of North Carolina. Party affiliation determines the primary in which a voter is eligible to vote. You may also register unaffiliated. During a partisan primary election, an unaffiliated voter may vote only in a party primary that authorizes unaffiliated voters. If no party authorizes unaffiliated voters, they may only vote in non-partisan races and bond issues.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE REGARDING VOTER REGISTRATION, ELECTIONS AND VOTING IN FORSYTH COUNTY, CONTACT THE FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OR STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICES.

Forsyth County Board of Elections
(336) 703-2800
www.fcvotes.com

State Board of Elections
(919) 733-7173
www.sboe.state.nc.us
elections.sboe@ncmail.net

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Voter Guide

Forsyth County

Board of Elections



REGISTRATION FORM LOCATIONS

- Board of Elections office
(Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm)
- Forsyth County Public Libraries
- Registration drives
- Winston-Salem City Hall, Town Halls of Clemmons, Kernersville, Lewisville, Rural Hall, Tobaccoville and Walkertown
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Various Agencies (Social Services, Agencies for Disabilities, Employment Security Commission, Armed Forces Recruitment offices)
- Political Party Headquarters

Information may also be changed by completing the back of your voter registration card and returning it to the Board of Elections. **All APPLICATIONS AND CARDS MUST BE POSTMARKED 25 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION OR RECEIVED IN THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE BY 5:00 PM, 25 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION.**

*Forsyth County Board of Elections
Forsyth County Government Center
201 N. Chestnut Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-4120
(336) 703-2800
www.fcvotes.com*

Forsyth County Board of Election Members

*Linda J. Sutton, Chair
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary
Jerry D. Jordan, Member*

Rob Coffman, Director of Elections