

Forsyth County, North Carolina

Board of Election Electronic Election Returns Service

FTP Documentation:

The Forsyth County MIS department works closely with the Forsyth County Board of Elections to provide election results (updated about every 15 minutes) during the election and a permanent archive of the official results when they become available after the election. The information is freely and publicly available from our website.

In addition to posting the results for public viewing via the Internet, the data files are posted to our FTP Server where they can be downloaded. The remainder of this document describes the files and layouts available on the FTP Server.

The FTP Server provides all the files and programs used in the creation of the election return web pages. The files and program elements can be useful to anyone who might wish to process election data for their own purposes. There are two file elements:

1. The raw data files. The raw ascii data files are produced from a data export module of the larger software system used to tabulate election results. This larger system was created by the Business Records Corporation (BRC).
2. Using the raw data files, the FC MIS department uses Microsoft Access to process the data and create the web pages. The reports, queries and procedures used in the provided MS Access database are not represented to be a finished product whatsoever, but are simply a set of tools our staff changes and uses as appropriate to produce the required end result - web pages. Even the web pages generated by the system sometimes must be manually changed to fit the presentation needs. Therefore all files are provided on an "as is" basis and no completeness or service levels are implied or guaranteed. The database **can be useful** to 1) allow you to import the summary and precinct detail raw data into MS Access data tables and 2) serve as an example on creating html code from MS Access.

These files listed below contain either documentation, raw data, html output or the MS Access database used to process the raw data into output data.

Raw data files (ascii data, fixed column format):

sum.asc	Election results summary records
det.asc	Detailed precinct results records

See the MS Access table layouts below for field information.

Import drive and path specifications must be corrected in certain macros "Transfer Text" action.

MS Access v7.0 database files:

results.mdb

The database contains Macros and file import specifications to import the raw data files.

The precinct table in the database is used in the current processing.

BOE VOTE COUNT Table - Summary results table

Name	Type	Size
Race Nbr	Text	4
Candidate Nbr	Text	3
Eligible Precs	Text	4
Votes	Text	5
Counted Prec	Text	4
Party	Text	3
District Type	Text	3
District Code	Text	4
Race	Text	56
Candidate	Text	38
Race Type	Text	25

BOE VOTE COUNT DETAIL Table - Precinct detail results table

Name	Type	Size
Race Nbr	Text	4
Candidate Nbr	Text	3
Precinct Nbr	Text	4
Votes	Number (Long)	5
Party	Text	10
Race	Text	56
Candidate	Text	38
Precinct name	Text	25

Precincts file: The precinct file should be manually synchronized with any new precinct numbers and names for each election. Numbers must match those in detail file for each election or detail processing will not work! Precinct names used in presentation are taken from the Precinct file! The Participating Field must be updated each election!

Name	Type	Size
ID	Number (Long)	4
Precinct Nbr	Text	50
Precinct name	Text	50
Precinct address	Text	50
Participating?	Yes/No	1

Output

MS Access database asks for the output file names. (Note that the MS Access creation of these files depends on using a printer defined as Generic Text and routed to a file.) The names used below have been chosen to mesh with FC's Board of Elections www page references and links to each other. Browsers used must support TABLE views (html v2.0).

sum.htm HTML formatted results summary report

detail.htm HTML formatted results precinct detail report (large file).

999.htm When Official results are put out, some days AFTER the election, individual files are created for each precinct as a replacement for the large detail.htm above to facilitate web access. The 999 is where the number of each precinct is used for the files' names. Two different, yet almost identical, reports are used- one for the combined detail, the other for individual precinct detail. This must be coordinated carefully with the correct Reporting Precincts report.

precinct.htm HTML formatted reporting precincts report. This file is replaced when the Office results are put out with one that individually accesses each detail precinct file. (note two different reports in Access).