

What is a “Multipartisan Assistance Team”?

A Multipartisan Assistance Team, or “MAT,” is a group of persons appointed by the local county board of elections office to provide assistance with mail -in absentee voting to voters living at facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, or rest homes. The makeup of the Team includes, at minimum, two people who have different party affiliations (or, in the alternative, persons who were appointed by a bipartisan county board of elections). So, if you request help from a MAT, you should receive impartial, professional assistance. Their job is to help you vote, but your voting choices will remain confidential.

What does a Multipartisan Assistance do?

MATs can assist in requesting or casting a mail -in absentee ballot.

- **Requesting a mail -in absentee ballot:** To receive an absentee ballot by mail, a request must be made on the official Absentee Ballot Request Form. MATs can provide this form and help you fill it out if necessary. The MAT can then deliver the form back to the County Board of Elections office, and the ballot will be mailed to you in the following days.
- **Casting a mail -in absentee ballot:** If you have requested a mail -in absentee ballot, it will arrive in the mail, along with a special return envelope. On the back of the return envelope, you must enter some information and sign your name. It is also required that two witnesses (or a Notary Public) are present while you mark your absentee ballot, and those witnesses sign on the return envelope as well. MATs can help with marking the ballot, completing the required information on the return envelope, and serving as witnesses to the act of voting.

I work at a facility such as a nursing home. How do I arrange a visit by a MAT?

First, it is extremely important to be aware of the law that prohibits employees of such facilities from providing assistance with mail -in absentee voting. **Employees of hospitals, clinics, nursing homes or rest homes are prohibited by law from providing assistance with absentee voting.** Employees of the facility can arrange a MAT visit for residents. It is most helpful if the facility informs residents about MATs and determines a time when the most voters who need help will be available. That way, the MAT can help the maximum number of voters during the visit. It is also important, if possible, to know whether or not some voters have already received assistance in voting from family members (or if a family member plans to drive the resident to vote in person), particularly if the voter has memory difficulties.

How do I request help from a MAT?

Contact the activity coordinator of your facility. If you do not know who the activity coordinator is, or if there is no activity coordinator, talk to staff or management at your facility. Ideally, the local elections office can schedule a MAT visit to help several voters in one visit, so it is preferable that the visit is arranged by the facility. The Absentee Ballot Request Form includes a checkbox to request assistance from a MAT in casting a mail-in absentee ballot. If you check that box, someone from the county board of elections will be in contact about arranging a visit.

[CLICK HERE](#) to request help from the MAT

How Do I Become a MAT Member?

Qualifications:

- Must be registered to vote in Forsyth County
- Must not accept payment by any political party or candidate for work as a MAT team member.
- Must not hold any office in a State, congressional district, or county political party or organization
- Must not be a manager or treasurer for any candidate or political party (convention delegates are exempt)
- Must not be an owner, manager, director, or employee of a covered facility where a resident requests assistance
- Must not be a registered sex offender in this State or any other state
- You understand that submitting fraudulent or falsely completed declarations and documents associated with absentee voting is a Class I felony under NC G.S. 163

What to Expect:

- Must be appointed by five-member Board of Elections
- Must complete the certification training (certification is good for two years)
- Must sign a declaration swearing or affirming abidance of the law regarding voter assistance
- MAT members are responsible for assisting voters with the absentee by-mail voting process
- Members will receive compensation for their service (\$10.86/hour + mileage)

[CLICK HERE](#) to join the MAT

Changes for 2020 General Election

A Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT) may assist any voter in completing an absentee request form, delivery the absentee request form, and serving as a witness for the casting of the absentee ballot. This section expands MAT teams to be able to serve any voter who requests assistance for the November 2020 election.

The Democratic member of the MAT must be recommended by the Democratic Board of Elections members, and the Republican member of the MAT must be recommended by the Republican Board of Elections members. If the Board of Elections finds an insufficient number of voters available to serve on MAT teams, the Board of Elections, upon a unanimous vote of all of its members, may appoint unaffiliated team members to serve.

The State Board of Elections and DHHS will develop guidance to safely allow MAT teams to assist voters in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living, or other congregation living situations during the general election.