

# HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL

Any North Carolina registered voter may request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot. No special circumstance is needed. Uniformed service members and U.S. citizens living outside of the country may request absentee ballots under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). For more UOCAVA information, go to [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov).

## 1. COMPLETE THE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

A registered voter or their near relative or legal guardian must complete and sign the request form. A near relative is the voter's spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent or stepchild.

### *What if I need help?*

- ▶ If a voter needs help completing the request form due to blindness, disability, or inability to read or write, and a near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter may get help from another person, who must list their name and address on the form.
- ▶ Voters in a facility (a hospital, clinic, nursing home or adult care home) may contact their county board of elections to request assistance from a Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT). A MAT can help a voter in a facility complete their absentee request form.

## 2. RETURN THE REQUEST FORM

The voter or their near relative/legal guardian must sign the request form and deliver it by email, fax or in person to their county board of elections or have it delivered by the U.S. Postal Service or other delivery service (DHL, FedEx or UPS). For voters in a facility, a MAT may return the request form.

- ▶ The request form must be received by the county board of elections by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the election.  
Deadline: **October 27, 2020 for November 3 general election**

### *Important Changes:*

- ▶ No person other than the voter or their near relative/legal guardian, or a MAT, may possess or return a completed absentee request form.

## 3. COMPLETE THE BALLOT

Once the county board of elections receives the request form it will mail the voter their ballot. The voter must vote in the presence of two witnesses or one notary public, who must respect the voter's privacy. The voter and the witnesses or notary must each complete and sign the return envelope. **For 2020, only one witness is required.**

- ▶ **Only the voter may vote their ballot.** A voter may receive assistance marking their ballot, but the assistant may only mark the ballot in the presence of and at the direction of the voter.

### *Who may not serve as a witness?*

- ▶ A candidate may not serve as a witness unless the candidate is the voter's near relative.
- ▶ Employees of a facility may not serve as a witness for voters in a facility. See the instructions included with the absentee ballot for a complete list of individuals prohibited from serving as witnesses for voters in a facility.

## 4. RETURN THE BALLOT

The voter or voter's near relative or legal guardian must return the voter's ballot in the container-return envelope in-person or by mail to the county board of elections by **5 p.m. on Election Day (November 3, 2020 for general election)**. It is a Class I felony for any other person to possess an absentee ballot.

- ▶ Mailed ballots received after 5 p.m. on Election Day will be counted only if postmarked by Election Day and received by mail by 5 p.m. three days after the election (**November 6** for general election)
- ▶ A voter who, due to a disability, needs assistance placing their ballot in the closest mailbox may receive assistance by anyone not disqualified from assisting the voter.

### *Important Update:*

- ▶ **Voters are not currently required to provide photo ID with their absentee ballot. Federal and state courts have temporarily blocked North Carolina's voter photo ID requirement from taking effect until further court order. Visit [ncsbe.gov](https://ncsbe.gov) for the updated information.**



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