

2026 VOTING GUIDE

Are you eligible to vote?



You can register and vote if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Have lived in your county for at least 30 days before Election Day*
- Are 18 years old, or will be by the general election**
- Are not currently serving a felony sentence, including probation or parole

See page 3 for more info!

*If you're a **college student**, you can register and vote in the county where you go to school if you don't plan to move back home after graduation. If you intend to move home, you should stay registered in your hometown.

****16- and 17-year-olds** may preregister to vote. 17-year-olds may vote in a primary election if they will be 18 at the time of the general election.

Are you registered to vote?

You can check if you're registered vote by searching your name on the voter search page.



If you're not registered, you can fill out an application online, register in person at the DMV, or mail in a paper application. The form is available in English and Spanish.



The voter registration deadline is 25 days before an election. If you miss the deadline, you can still register and vote on the same day during the early voting period.



Who is on your ballot?

See front page!

Search your name on the [voter search page](#) to find your sample ballot which includes the races and candidates in your area.

Once you've decided which candidates to vote for, write down your choices and bring them with you into the voting booth.

You can bring your phone into the voting booth as long as you do not take photos or videos of your completed ballot.

Note: Photographing a marked ballot is illegal!

Are you voting in person or by mail?

In person

There will be an early voting period where you can register and vote on the same day. You can vote at any early voting polling site in your county.

If you vote on Election Day, you have to vote at your specific polling place. You can find it by [searching your address](#).

By Mail

See page 3!

First, you have to request an absentee ballot, which you can do online or by completing a [physical form](#). The form can be dropped off or mailed to your local Board of Elections (BoE) office. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5:00 PM the second Tuesday before Election Day.

For November 3rd Election, 5:00pm on October 20th

You have to include a photocopy of your ID (either a driver's license or a free voter ID) or fill out a Photo ID Exception Form with the absentee ballot return envelope. Your absentee ballot will be counted as long as it's received on Election Day by 7:30 PM by the County Board of Elections.

As of 2023, voters will need to present a photo ID when voting. If you have a driver's license, you can use that. If not, you can get a free voter ID from the State Board of Elections or from the DMV.



Voting with
felonies:



Access our
transgender voting
guide:



Find your Election
Day polling place:



Request an
absentee ballot:

For questions or
concerns about the
2026 elections, call:
888-OUR-VOTE
(888) 687-8683

*support available in
multiple languages

For more information,
visit our website:



**The ACLU of North Carolina is a non-partisan
organization and does not endorse candidates.**