***What are the qualifications to be a registered voter in North Carolina?***

NCSBE says you have to:

* Be a U.S. citizen;
* Live in the county of his/her registration, and have resided there for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election;
* Be at least 18 years old or will be by the date of the general election. 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;*and
* Not be serving a sentence for a felony conviction, including probation, parole, or post-release supervision. Once an individual has completed a felony sentence or been pardoned, he/she is eligible to register and vote. No additional documentation is needed.

***Am I registered to vote*?**

Look yourself up on the North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) website: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>

***I checked and I’m not registered! How do I register to vote?***

Generally, if you have a North Carolina driver’s license you are able to register online through the NC DMV. You are not able to complete a name change online. This is the link to the website with the voter registration application: <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/offices-services/online/Pages/voter-registration-application.aspx>

\*If you do not currently have a North Carolina drivers license, the application to register to vote is available on the NCSBE website. <https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voters/Registering-to-Vote##RegisteringtoVoteinNorthCarolina>

***When do I need to register by?***

This year, **election day is November 3, 2020**. Registration must be completed 25 days before the election. This year that is **October 27, 2020**. The county board of elections **must** receive your application by this date. If an application is received after the deadline, it will still be timely if it is postmarked on or before the voter registration deadline. Otherwise, the application will not be processed until after the election.

***Can I vote via absentee ballot?***

Especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, absentee is expected to be popular in the 2020 general election. Traditionally, it was reserved for those who for whatever reason were not able to vote on election day. This year, all registered voters may request an absentee ballot. NCSBE says:

* Any North Carolina registered voter qualified to vote in an election may request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot for any election in which absentee voting is allowed. **All registered voters may request an absentee ballot for the November 2020 general election.**
* No special circumstance or reason is needed to receive and vote a mail-in absentee ballot.
* Most voters who want to vote by mail must request a ballot for each election.
* Military or overseas voters have special rights under the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). See [www.fvap.gov](https://www.fvap.gov/) and the [Military and Overseas Voters page](https://www.ncsbe.gov/Vote/Vote-as-a-Military-or-Overseas-Voter) for more information on military and overseas citizens absentee voting.

***How do I request an absentee ballot?***

More information about voting absentee can be found on the NCSBE website: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voting-Options/Absentee-Voting>

There is a form to fill out and return to your county board of elections. There is also information available on the website for what to do if you or someone else needs assistance requesting a ballot.

***What about early voting?***

Each county sets their early (one-stop) voting hours and locations. Your local county board of elections will have this information available on their website. NCSBE also has the information by county closer to election day on <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/ossite/>

***Where is my polling place?***

Put your address into the NCSBE website, <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/PPLkup/>, and it will tell you your current polling place.

***I’ve heard a lot about a voter ID requirement the past few years, what’s that about?***

You do **not** need to present identification to vote. A poll worker will ask you to confirm your address and then process you to get a ballot. There have been many laws passed in the past few years that would require you to show a valid ID at your polling place, but they are all in litigation. Again, you do **not** need to show an ID to vote in the 2020 general election.

***I’m worried about the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to voting.***

Valid concern. NCSBE has created a page with up to date COVID-19 information: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/coronavirus>. There are many precautions that NCSBE and the county boards will be taking to make sure that citizens are protected when casting votes. Use the previous link to say up to date with what the plans are to run an election during a pandemic.