

# North Carolina

## Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 25 days before an election.<sup>1</sup>

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## Database Implementation Status

North Carolina built its centralized statewide voter registration database (“SEIMS”) in-house. The database is complete, but is also being updated.<sup>2</sup>

## Entering Voter Registration Information

*Who inputs voter registration information?* County boards of elections generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the appropriate county database. Records are immediately replicated to the statewide voter registration database.

*What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies?* Forms received by the DMV are entered at the DMV directly into the statewide database. This data and a scanned image of the original form will then be sent to the appropriate county board of elections. Forms received by another voter registration agency are required to be sent within five business days to the appropriate county board of elections for review and entry.<sup>3</sup>

*How are most forms submitted?* North Carolina reported that in 2004, 20% of forms were submitted by mail, 23% were submitted in person to election officials, 47% were submitted at the DMV, 9% were submitted at another voter registration agency, and 1% were submitted by other means.<sup>4</sup>

## Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

## Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

*How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number?* The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number; if the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered, but may have to show identification at the polls.<sup>5</sup>

*How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number?* If uncorrected (see below), the application will be considered “incomplete.”<sup>6</sup> At most, an applicant with an “incomplete” registration will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot, but North Carolina has not yet determined whether it will count, or under what conditions.

*How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible?* If uncorrected (see below), the application will be considered “incomplete.” At most, an applicant with an “incomplete” registration will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot, but North Carolina has not yet determined whether it will count, or under what conditions.

## **Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records**

*What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records?* Identifying number, name, maiden name (for driver’s license matches only), address (for driver’s license matches only), and date of birth.

*How precise is the match standard?* North Carolina will use a “substantial match” standard to match information on forms with a driver’s license number: discretion is left to the county election official to determine whether any of several returned “possible matches” identify the applicant. North Carolina will use the standard AAMVA criteria for matching information on forms with SSN digits: exact match of the SSN-4, first name, last name, month of birth, and year of birth.

*How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched?* For matching information on forms with driver’s license numbers, the system will return a list of substantially matching records, if no exact match can be found; the county official has the discretion to determine whether a likely match exists among the possible matches returned. The process for matching information on forms with SSN digits is fully automated.

*Description of matching process:* Information entered into the statewide voter registration database is automatically sent to the DMV. For matching information on forms with a driver’s license number, the system will seek an exact match of the license number, last name (including a check for maiden name), and date of birth. If all of these fields match exactly, the system returns a “verified” flag. If the records do not match exactly, the system will return a set of possible matches for the county election official’s review. Information on forms listing SSN digits will be automatically checked against the SSA database through the standard AAMVA process: the DMV will automatically submit the appropriate fields to the SSA and return a code indicating whether the record was successfully matched or not.

*Note:* North Carolina also mails a nonforwardable verification notice to every voter submitting an application; if the notice and a follow-up notice are returned as undeliverable, the application is rejected.<sup>7</sup>

*What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match?* The application will be labeled “incomplete.” At most, an applicant with an “incomplete” registration will be permitted to vote a provisional ballot, but North Carolina has not yet determined whether it will count, or under what conditions.

## Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form?* Yes. The applicant may correct missing or incomplete information at any point before the voter registration deadline.

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match without submitting a new form?* Yes.

*If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely?* No.

*Description of notice and correction process:* The county elections official will attempt to notify by mail an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible or unverified. The applicant may attempt to resolve the error before the voter registration deadline.<sup>8</sup>

## Identification Requirements at the Polls

*Who must provide identification at the polls?* A first-time voter who registered by mail after January 1, 2003, whose identifying number has not been verified, and who has not previously presented a copy of valid identification to a county elections official, must provide identification at the polls.<sup>9</sup>

### Forms of ID:

1st-time voters registering by mail after 1/1/03 without verified identifying number:	current and valid photo ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov't document w/ name, address
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*What forms of identification are accepted?* A current and valid photo ID, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.<sup>10</sup>

*What are the consequences of failing to show identification?* The voter may cast a provisional ballot.<sup>11</sup> The chairperson of a county board of elections will conduct an internal review of the initial voter registration application submitted by a provisional ballot voter. If the chairperson determines that no significant error was made on that application, the ballot will be counted.

## Statutes and Regulations

N.C. GEN. STAT. ch. 163, art. 7A generally concerns registration. N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-82.11(a) directs the state board of elections to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration system. There are no applicable regulations.

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-82.6(c).

<sup>2</sup> electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 21.

<sup>3</sup> N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-82.20(g).

<sup>4</sup> Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at [http://www.eac.gov/NVR\\_Spreadsheets/NVRA\\_table\\_2.html](http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html). Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

<sup>5</sup> N.C. GEN. STAT. § 163-82.4(a1).

<sup>6</sup> *But see id.* § 163-82.4(a) (“The county board shall make a diligent effort to complete for the registration records any information requested on the form that the applicant does not complete.”).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* § 163-82.7(c)-(e).

<sup>8</sup> North Carolina will “accept” corrections to the identifying number after the voter registration deadline, but such corrections will not be considered timely for the upcoming election.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* § 163-166.12.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* § 163-166.12.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* § 163-166.12(c).

# North Carolina Voter Registration Application/Update Form

## A. Information

You can use this form to:

- Register to vote in your county of residence in North Carolina
- Change your voter information

### Qualifications:

- You may register to vote only in the county where you reside.
- You must be a US citizen by birth or naturalization, and affirm this in the **Answer First** box shown below.
- You must be 18 years of age by the next general election, and affirm this in the **Answer First** box shown below.
- If you have been convicted of a felony, you must have been unconditionally discharged so that your rights of citizenship have been restored. (After the completion of any sentence, including probation or parole, North Carolina restores your rights/citizenship.)

### Requirements for New Registrations:

- Complete the sections below by printing legibly.
- If you answered YES to both questions in the **Answer First** box, the information required to process this as an application to register to vote includes: name, residence address, mailing address if different from residence address, date of birth, and signature.
- You may mail or hand-deliver this form to the board of elections in the county where you live.

If you choose to use this form to register to vote, the location where you received this form will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes. If you decline to register to vote, the fact that you so declined will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.

Please detach before mailing

## B. Cancel Your Previous Registration in Another County or State

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If you were previously registered to vote in another county or State, you must fill out the information below to cancel your prior registration.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous City/State/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Previous Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

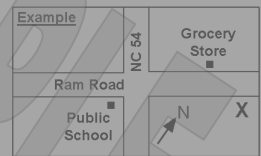
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

If you do not have a driver's license or social security number, are submitting this form by mail, and have never registered to vote in the county in which you are now registering, you must send, with this application, either a copy of current and valid photo identification, OR a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address. If you do not provide the information requested above, you will be required to provide ID to election officials when you vote for the first time.

Use this map to show where you live if you do not have a street number or you have no address.

- Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live.
- Draw an X to show where you live.
- Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.
- Draw an arrow pointing North.



In order to vote in an election, the form shown below must be postmarked or delivered to the Board of Elections no later than the 25th day before the election.

## C. Application to Register to Vote/Update (Print Information and Sign Below)

**Answer First** Are you a citizen of the United States of America?  YES  NO  
 Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?  YES  NO  
 If you checked NO in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form

**Office Use Only**  
 New Registration VRN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change of Information Filing No. \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name		First Name		Middle/Maiden Name		Suffix	
Residence Address - where you now live (Number and Street/Road/Dorm)				Apt/Lot	City		County
					State	NC ZIP Code	
					NC		
Address where you get your mail, if different from above (Include ZIP Code)						Previous Name	
Previous Address, if you moved within the same county				Apt/Lot	City		State
						NC	NC ZIP Code
Date of Birth		Birthplace (State)		Gender		Telephone Number (Optional)	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		( ) ( )	

**Ethnicity (Any Race)**  
 Hispanic/Latino  
 Not Hispanic/Latino

**Political Party Affiliation**  
 Democrat  
 Republican  
 Libertarian  
 Unaffiliated  
 Other Qualified Party  
 You must register with a party to vote in that party's primary unless that party allows unaffiliated voters to vote in its primary. If you indicate a political party that is not qualified or indicate no choice, you will be listed as "Unaffiliated."

**Race**  
 White  Asian  
 Black or African American  
 American Indian or Alaska Native  
 Two or More Races  Other

**ID Number**  
 If you have a NC driver's license, check here and print the number where indicated below.  
 License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you have no NC driver's license, check here and print your Social Security No. where indicated below.  
 SSN (Last 4 Digits) \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you have no NC driver's license or SSN, check here.  
 I have no NC driver's license or SSN

**I Attest, Under Penalty of Perjury, that:**

1. I have been a resident at the address listed above, and will have resided at that address for 30 days before the next election.
2. I am 18 years old, or will be at the time of the next general election.
3. I am a United States citizen.
4. I will not vote in any other county or state after submission of this form. If I am registered elsewhere, I am cancelling that registration at this time.
5. If I have been convicted of a felony, I have been unconditionally discharged, and my rights of citizenship have been restored.

**Warning:**  
 If you sign this card and know it to be false, you can be convicted of a Class I felony.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_