



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

# A Candidate's Guide to the 2024 Statewide Primary and General Election

# CONTENTS

Important Dates.....	3
1 Candidate Filing.....	4
1.1 Notice of Candidacy.....	4
1.2 Filing Jurisdiction, Filing Period, and Filing Fees.....	4-7
1.3 General Candidacy Requirements.....	7
1.4 Only One Office Per Office.....	7
1.5 Candidate’s Name on the Ballot.....	8
1.6 Candidate’s Signature.....	9
1.7 Disclosure of Felony Conviction.....	9-10
1.8 Withdrawal of Candidacy.....	10-11
1.9 Party Affiliation.....	11
1.10 Verification by County Board of Elections.....	11
1.11 Candidate Challenge.....	12
1.12 Election Protest.....	12
2 Voter Registration Drive.....	13
2.1 Capturing voters’ Personal Identifying Information is Unlawful.....	14
2.2 Voter Challenges.....	14
3 Voting in North Carolina.....	15
3.1 Voting Methods.....	15
3.2 Voter Assistance.....	15-16
4 Election Results.....	16
4.1 County Canvass.....	16
4.2 State Canvass.....	17
5 Campaign Etiquette.....	17
5.1 No Electioneering near the Front Entrance to a Voting Site.....	17
5.2 Curbside Voting.....	17
5.3 Issues or Complaints at Voting Sites.....	18
6 Candidacy Forms.....	18
7 Voter Photo ID.....	19

## A Candidate’s Guide to Elections in North Carolina

This resource has been created to give general guidance and assistance to candidates. This guidance does not absolve a candidate from the responsibility of reading the North Carolina General Statutes and any other state or federal rule, regulation or code related to election administration and campaign finance laws.

If you have any questions concerning this Guide, please contact your county board of elections or the State Board. If your inquiry rises to the level of a request for legal advice to assist you in your campaign, we will encourage you to seek legal counsel.

Information in this guide is current as of November 12, 2023, and reflects changes in the election laws in Session Law 2023-140 that will become effective on January 1, 2024.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Candidate Filing Period

	Primary
Candidate Filing Period Begins <a href="#">G.S. § 163-106.2</a> ; <a href="#">G.S. § 139-6</a>	12/04/2023 (noon)
Last Day to Withdraw as a Candidate <a href="#">G.S. § 163-106.4</a>	12/12/2023 (5 p.m.)
Candidate Filing Period Ends <a href="#">G.S. § 163-106.2</a> ; <a href="#">G.S. § 139-6</a>	12/15/2023 (noon)
Last Day to File a Candidate Challenge <a href="#">G.S. § 163-127.2</a>	12/29/2023 (5 p.m.)

### Election Event Schedule

Event	Primary Election	General Election
Absentee Voting by Mail Begins <a href="#">G.S. § 163-227.10</a>	01/12/2024	09/06/2024
Voter Registration Deadline <a href="#">G.S. § 163-82.6(d)</a>	02/09/2024	10/11/2024
Voter Challenge Deadline <a href="#">G.S. § 163-85(a)</a>	02/09/2024	10/11/2024
Early Voting Begins <a href="#">G.S. § 163-227.2</a>	02/15/2024	10/17/2024
Last Day to Request a Civilian Absentee Ballot <a href="#">G.S. § 163-230.1(a)</a>	02/27/2024	10/29/2024
Early Voting Ends <a href="#">G.S. § 163-227.2</a>	03/02/2024	11/02/2024
Last Day to Return an Absentee Ballot (by 7:30pm) <a href="#">G.S. § 163-231</a>	03/05/2024	11/05/2024
Election Day <a href="#">G.S. § 163-1</a>	03/05/2024	11/05/2024
County Canvass <a href="#">G.S. § 163-182.5</a>	03/15/2024 (11am)	11/15/2024 (11am)
Deadline to File an Election Protest (before 11am) <a href="#">G.S. § 163-182.9</a> (re: vote count or tabulation)	03/15/2024	11/15/2024
Deadline to Request a Recount (by 5pm) <a href="#">G.S. § 163-182.7(b)</a> (county board jurisdictional contest)	03/18/2024	11/18/2024
Deadline to Request a Recount (by noon) <a href="#">G.S. § 163-182.7(c)</a> (state board jurisdictional contest)	03/19/2024	11/19/2024
Deadline to File an Election Protest (by 5pm) <a href="#">G.S. § 163-182.9</a> (re: other than vote count or tabulation)	03/19/2024	11/19/2024
State Canvass <a href="#">G.S. § 163-182.5(c)</a>	TBD	11/26/2024 (11 am)


# 1 CANDIDATE FILING

The date of the general election is **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. To determine a political party's nominee for certain contests, there is a primary election on **Tuesday, March 5, 2024**. If no candidate wins the first primary under the provisions of [G.S. § 163-111](#), there may be a second primary for that contest on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024**.

## 1.1 NOTICE OF CANDIDACY

Each person seeking to become a political party's candidate must file a notice of candidacy with the appropriate board of elections. The State Board provides a *Notice of Candidacy* form, which is available on its website or from any county board of elections.

*The notice of candidacy is a public record in the office of the board of elections where the candidate files.*

 <b>North Carolina</b> <b>Notice of Candidacy</b>		G.S. 163-106
<b>Election information</b> This information will be public.	1 Title of the office sought _____ District or ward (if applicable) _____ Seat (judicial contest) _____ Election _____ Election date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____	<b>Affidavit attesting to nickname</b> Complete only if you would like an acceptable nickname to appear on the ballot in lieu of your legal name. Even if your nickname is accepted, your legal last name will still appear on the ballot. I, _____, have been duly sworn, hereby state under oath that I have been commonly known by the nickname _____ for at least five years and request that my name be placed on the ballot as follows: _____ In the event that another candidate with the same last name as mine files notice of candidacy for the same office for which I am a candidate, my name should be listed as: _____ State of North Carolina _____ County _____ I hereby certify that _____, the candidate who signed this Affidavit attesting to nickname, personally appeared before me this day and signed this document in my presence. Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ Name of notary _____ My commission expires (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ Notary seal Notary, sign here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Candidate information</b> You must provide your full legal name in this section. This information will be public.	2 Last name _____ Suffix (Jr., Sr., II, III, IV) _____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Name to appear on ballot _____ Campaign phone number _____ Campaign email _____ NC State Bar number (judicial and District Attorney candidates only) _____	
<b>Residential address</b> This information will be public.	3 Address (not P.O. Box) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____	
<b>Mailing address</b> This information will be public.	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Same as above Address or P.O. Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
<b>Candidate's pledge</b> Check 1 box and complete the pledge that applies to the office that you are seeking candidacy for.	5 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I am filing for a partisan contest:</b> I hereby file notice as a candidate for nomination as _____ in the _____ party primary election to be held on (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ I affiliate with the _____ party (and I certify that I am now registered on the registration records of the precinct in which I reside as an affiliate of the _____ party). I pledge that I have been affiliated with that party for at least 90 days as of the date of the filing of the notice of candidacy. I pledge that if I am defeated in the primary, I will not run for the same office as a write-in candidate in the next general election. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I am filing for a non-partisan contest:</b> I hereby file notice that I am a candidate for election to the office of _____ (District/Ward) _____ for the governing body of _____ in the regular election to be held on (mm/dd/yyyy) _____.	
<b>Felony disclosure</b>	6 Have you ever been convicted of a felony? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you have been convicted of a felony, you must complete a Candidate Felony Disclosure form within 48 hours of submitting this notice (G.S. 163-106). The required form can be obtained from any election office or from the NC State Board of Elections website at www.NCSBE.gov. A prior felony conviction does not preclude holding elected office if rights of citizenship have been restored. (Candidates who are running for Sheriff must have no previous or current felony convictions. If there are any felony convictions, the candidate is ineligible to file for this office.) Felony conviction need not be disclosed if the conviction was dismissed as a result of reversal on appeal or resulted in a pardon, innocence or expungement.	
	<b>Acknowledgment of notice of candidacy</b> This section must be completed by a certifying officer or notary. See G.S. 163-106(a). Each candidate shall sign the notice of candidacy in the presence of the chairman or secretary of the board of elections, judge or county, with which the candidate files. In the alternative, a candidate may have the candidate's signature on the notice of candidacy acknowledged and certified to by an officer authorized to take acknowledgments and administer oaths, in which case the candidate may mail or deliver by commercial courier service the candidate's notice of candidacy to the appropriate board of elections. State of North Carolina _____ County _____ I hereby certify that _____, the candidate who signed this notice of candidacy, personally appeared before me this day and signed this document in my presence or acknowledged his/her signature to be the same. Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ Name of certifying officer or notary _____ Title of certifying officer _____ My commission expires (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ Notary seal Certifying or notary, sign here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>County board of elections certification</b> If you are requested to file your notice of candidacy with the State Board of Elections, you must have this certificate signed by the chairman of the board of elections or the director of elections of the county. See G.S. 163-106.5. I have examined the voter registration records in _____ County, and found that _____: <input type="checkbox"/> is a registered voter in this county <input type="checkbox"/> is registered as _____ (indicate candidate's party affiliation or "none/listed", if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> will have been affiliated with that party for three months as of the end of the filing period <input type="checkbox"/> (superior court or district court judge only) is a resident of superior court district _____ or district court district _____ Title of county official _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ Board chair or director of elections, sign here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Candidate's certification</b> I swear or affirm that the statements on this form are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge or belief. Candidate, sign and date here (Required) Fraudulently or falsely completing this form is a Class I Felony under Chapter 163 of the NC General Statutes. 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ Sign and date this section in the presence of the certifying or notary from section 8. Submit this form to the board of elections in the jurisdiction in which you plan to be a candidate.	

## 1.2 FILING JURISDICTION, FILING PERIOD, and FILING FEES

Candidates for the following office types must file their Notice of Candidacy with the State Board of Elections:

- US House of Representative (**districts 1-14**)
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- All State executive officers
- Associate Justice, State Supreme Court (**seat 06**)
- Judge, State Court of Appeals (**seats 12, 14, and 15**)
- Judge, Superior Court (**various districts**)
- Judge, District Court (**various districts**)
- District Attorney (**districts 12, 29, 32, and 37**)

Candidates for State Senator, Member of the State House of Representative, and all county offices must file their notice of candidacy with their county board of elections.

Filing for contests subject to party nomination begins at noon on **Monday, December 4, 2023**, and ends at noon on **Friday, December 15, 2023**.

### **Filing Fees**

***PLEASE NOTE:*** Only the candidate may file the notice of candidacy and pay the filing fee in person at the appropriate board of elections. Alternatively, a candidate may have the candidate's signature on the notice of candidacy acknowledged and certified by an officer authorized to take acknowledgments and administer oaths, in which case the candidate may mail or deliver by commercial courier service the candidate's notice of candidacy to the appropriate board of elections. Any candidate seeking an office that falls under the jurisdiction of the State Board, must first have the Certification of Registration-Section 9 of the Notice of Candidacy form completed and signed by the county board of elections director for the county that he or she is registered to vote in.

### **Filing fee when filing with the State Board of Elections**

You must pay the filing fee when you file a notice of candidacy. The fee is generally 1% of the office's base salary, payable by cashier's check, money order, personal check, or campaign check. See N.C.G.S § 163-107 for an overview of filing fees. Refer to G.S. § 163-107.1 to learn about filing a petition in lieu of payment of a filing fee. Visit the State Board's Petitions webpage for more information, <https://www.ncsbe.gov/candidates/petitions>.

The following offices file with the State Board and pay the filing fee listed below:

Office	Salary	Filing Fee
Agriculture Commissioner	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
Associate Justice, State Supreme Court (seat 06)	\$197,802	\$1,978.02
Attorney General	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
District Attorney (districts 12, 29, 32, and 37)	\$167,337	\$1,673.37
Governor	\$203,073	\$2,030.73
Insurance Commissioner	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
Judge, District Court (various districts)	\$162,620	\$1,626.20
Judge, State Court of Appeals (seats 12, 14, and 15)	\$189,621	\$1,896.21
Judge, Superior Court (various districts)	\$169,125	\$1,691.25
Labor Commissioner	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
Lieutenant Governor	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
Secretary of State	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
State Auditor	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
State Treasurer	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
Superintendent of Public Instruction	\$168,384	\$1,683.84
U.S. Representative (Districts 1-14)	\$174,000	\$1,740

## Filing fee when filing with the County Board of Elections

The following office types file with a county board of elections office. Find county board of elections contact information here: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo/>.

Office	Salary	Filing Fee
<u>County Offices</u> such as County Commissioner, Board of Education, etc.	Contact county	Contact county
Member of State House of Representatives	\$13,951	\$139.51
State Senator	\$13,951	\$139.51

## 1.3 GENERAL CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all candidates must be registered to vote in the state, qualified to vote in an election for the office sought, and 21 years old by the date of the general election. The following table lists additional requirements for certain offices.

Office	Additional Requirements
U.S. House	Candidates must be at least 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years, and a resident of the state by the date of the general election (a candidate running for U.S. House is not required to be a resident of the congressional district in which the candidate is seeking election).
Governor & Lieutenant Governor	Candidates must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States for at least five years, and a resident of North Carolina for at least two years prior to the general election. Candidates must also not have served more than two consecutive terms of the same office.
Attorney General	Candidates must be duly authorized to practice law in the courts of the state.
NC House	Candidates must have resided in the district for one year immediately prior to general election.
NC Senate	Candidates must be at least 25 years of age and have resided in the state as a citizen for two years and in the district for one year prior to the general election.
Judicial and District Attorney	Candidates must be duly authorized to practice law in the courts of the state.

## 1.4 ONLY ONE OFFICE PER ELECTION

No person may file for more than one office for any one election. A person who has filed a notice of candidacy may not subsequently file for any other office when the election is on the same date unless the notice for the first office is withdrawn by the deadline.

## 1.5 CANDIDATE'S NAME ON THE BALLOT

No title, appendage, or appellation indicating rank, status, or position shall be printed on the official ballot in connection with a candidate's name, though candidates may use the title Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Ms. Legitimate nicknames may be permitted on official ballots, but only if listed on the notice of candidacy. The nickname, which appears in parentheses on the ballot, may not mislead voters or unduly advertise the candidacy. If a candidate is providing an affidavit to permit the use of a nickname with his or her legal last name, the affidavit shall include the way the ballot shall list the candidate's name (as permitted by law) in the event that another candidate with the same last name files for the same office.

See [G.S. § 163-165.5\(a\)\(3\)](#) for more information, and Section 1.6 below regarding the name to be used when signing the notice of candidacy.

The table below provides examples of what is and what is not acceptable for the candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate's name is George Eugene Smith.

Candidate Name on Ballots		Candidate Name on Ballot Examples:	
		Allowed	Not Allowed
①	A candidate may use either first or middle name before the last name (no nickname affidavit necessary)	George Smith Eugene Smith	
②	A candidate may abbreviate using the first letter of either his first or middle name (but not last name) (no nickname affidavit necessary).	G. Smith G.E. Smith George E. Smith G. Eugene Smith	George S. G.E.S.
③	A candidate may choose to include a suffix (no nickname affidavit necessary)	George Smith George Smith, Jr. George Smith III	George Smith, Esq. George Smith, MD
④	The ONLY title allowed along with a name is Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.	Mr. George Smith	General George Smith Judge George Smith Hon. George Smith
⑤	If a nickname affidavit is completed, the nickname must either be used in place of the first or middle name, or following the first or middle name in parentheses. Nicknames that indicate rank, status, or position, are prohibited. Any shortening of a proper name as it appears in the voter record, other than abbreviation to the first letter, requires a nickname affidavit (such as "Dave" if the voter registration lists the first name as "David")	George (Joey) Smith George E. (Joey) Smith George Eugene (Joey) Smith Eugene (Joey) Smith Joey Smith	George (Da Bomb) Smith George (Vote For Me) Smith George (The Judge) Smith George (Winner) Smith
⑥	Hyphenated surname as listed on the candidate's voter registration record unless the candidate's voter registration has been updated, his or her surname to appear on the ballot must match the voter registration record.	George Eugene-Smith (how candidate's name appears on the voter registration record)	George Eugene Smith (not allowed unless voter registration has been updated)



## 1.6 CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE

Each candidate must sign the notice of candidacy in the presence of the chair or secretary of the appropriate board of elections. Alternatively, a candidate may have his or her signature on the notice of candidacy acknowledged and certified to by an officer authorized to take acknowledgments and administer oaths (e.g., by a Notary Public), in which case the candidate may mail or have the notice of candidacy delivered by commercial courier service to the appropriate board of elections before the candidate filing deadline.

In signing the notice of candidacy, the candidate shall either:

- use his or her legal name (an initial may be used for a middle name, if applicable), and in the candidate's discretion may also include any nickname by which he or she is commonly known; or
- provide a signed affidavit that the candidate has been known by a certain nickname for at least five years prior to the date of the affidavit, in which case he or she may sign with the nickname in lieu of the legal first name and any middle initial or name. A candidate may not use a last name other than his or her legal last name.

See [G.S. § 163-106\(b\)](#) for more information.


## 1.7 DISCLOSURE OF FELONY CONVICTION

The *Notice of Candidacy* form provided by the State Board of Elections includes a statement that addresses whether the candidate has ever been convicted of a felony. Candidates are required by law to file a statement that answers the following question: "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" Candidates who answer "yes" to this question must provide the name of the offense, date of conviction, date of restoration of citizenship rights, and the county and state of conviction. Candidates must complete the Felony Disclosure Form, available on the State Board of Elections' website ([NCSBE.gov](#)), for this purpose. It is unlawful for an individual to knowingly provide untrue information in response to this question.

A candidate is not required to disclose a felony conviction if the conviction was dismissed as a result of reversal on appeal or resulted in a pardon of innocence or expungement. A prior felony conviction does not preclude holding elective office if the candidate's rights of citizenship have been restored.

If a candidate fails to answer the felony question, the board of elections that accepted the filing will notify the candidate of the omission, at which point the candidate has 48 hours to provide the missing information. If a candidate does not provide this information at the time of filing or within 48 hours after the notice, the individual's filing is not considered complete, the individual's name shall not appear on the ballot as a candidate, and votes for the individual will not be counted. It is unlawful to complete the felony disclosure knowing that information as to a felony conviction or the restoration of citizenship is untrue.

**Refer to the North Carolina Felony Disclosure Form shown below:**



## North Carolina Felony Disclosure

Use this form to  
disclose a felony

---

**Election information**  
Please print.

**1** Title of the office sought \_\_\_\_\_  
Election \_\_\_\_\_ Election date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
If the office you are seeking has a district, enter the jurisdiction type (e.g. NC Senate) and district (Dist 10):  
Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Candidate information**

**2** Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix (Jr, Sr., II, III, IV) \_\_\_\_\_  
First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Residential address**

**3** Address (not P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Felony disclosure**  
Provide the details of your felony convictions.

**4** A felony conviction need not be disclosed if the conviction was dismissed as a result of reversal on appeal or resulted in a pardon of innocence or expungement.  
A prior felony conviction does not preclude holding elective office if the candidate's rights of citizenship have been restored.

Offense	Date of conviction	County of conviction	State of conviction	Date citizenship rights restored

---

**Candidate's affirmation for felony disclosure**  
Fraudulently or falsely completing this form is a Class I Felony under Chapter 163 of the NC General Statutes.

**5** I affirm that the information disclosed here is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.  
Candidate, sign and date here (Required)

X

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

The information on this form is public record.  
Submit this form to the same board of elections where you file your Notice of Candidacy form.

## 1.8 WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY

Under [G.S. § 163-106.4](#), any person who has filed a notice of candidacy for an office has the right to withdraw it at any time prior to the close of business on **December 12, 2023**, which is the third business day prior to the filing deadline. If a candidate does not withdraw before the deadline, their name will be printed on the primary ballot, any votes for them will be counted, and they will not be refunded their filing fee.

Under [G.S. § 163-113](#), certain persons who have been declared the nominee of a political party for a specified office under the provisions of [G.S. § 163-182.15](#) or [G.S. § 163-110](#) are not permitted to resign as a candidate unless they submit to the board of elections which certified their nomination a written request that they be permitted to withdraw. This request must be submitted prior to **September 6, 2024**, which is the first day on which military and overseas absentee ballots are transmitted to UOCAVA voters for the general election.

If there is a vacancy in a party's nomination, it is filled according to [G.S. § 163-114](#).



# North Carolina Withdrawal of Notice of Candidacy

Use this form to withdraw  
your Notice of Candidacy

## Election information

Please print.

1

Title of the office sought \_\_\_\_\_  
Election \_\_\_\_\_ Election date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

## Candidate information

Use the same information  
that you used to complete  
your notice of candidacy.

2

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix (Jr, Sr., II, III, IV) \_\_\_\_\_  
First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Candidate's affirmation for withdrawal of candidacy

Fraudulently or falsely  
completing this form is a  
Class I felony under  
Chapter 163 of the NC  
General Statutes.

3

Any person who has filed notice of candidacy for an office shall have the right to withdraw it at any time prior to the close of business on the third business day prior to the date on which the right to file for that office expires. If you withdraw within the deadline, you are entitled to a refund of the candidate's filing fee.

I hereby affirm that I have filed as a candidate for office and I am withdrawing my notice of candidacy.

**Candidate, sign and date here (Required)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form to the office where you filed. Find the contact information for your local board of elections at the NCSBE website ([vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo](http://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo)).

**Please note:** Withdrawal of your notice of candidacy does not close your candidate committee. Your treasurer must continue to file disclosure reports until your committee is eligible to close under 08 NCAC 21 .0202 or to obtain inactive status under N.C.G.S. § 163-278.10.

## 1.9 PARTY AFFILIATION

No one is permitted to file as a candidate in a party primary unless he or she has been affiliated with that party for at least 90 days as of the date of that person's filing of their notice of candidacy. A person registered as "unaffiliated" is ineligible to file as a candidate in a partisan primary election.

## 1.10 VERIFICATION BY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Candidates required to file their notice of candidacy with the State Board must file, along with their notice, a certificate of registration signed by the chair of the board of elections or the director of elections of the county in which they are registered to vote. For this reason, candidates required to file their notice of candidacy with the State Board must first visit their local county board of elections prior to submitting the notice to the State Board. This certificate serves to verify that the person filing for candidacy is registered to vote in that county and that they have affiliated with the party whose nomination the candidate seeks within the three months prior to the filing deadline. See [G.S. § 163-106.5](#) for more information.

## 1.11 CANDIDATE CHALLENGE

A challenge to a candidate must be filed with the board of elections that received the notice of candidacy or petition no later than ten business days after the close of the filing period. The challenge must be made in a verified affidavit by a challenger, based on the challenger’s reasonable suspicion or belief of the facts stated. The grounds for filing a challenge are that the candidate does not meet the constitutional or statutory qualifications for the office, including residency. The State Board has created a Candidate Challenge Guide for the process, which can be accessed on the State Board’s website and at this link: [Candidate Challenge Guide](#).

## 1.12 ELECTION PROTEST

If a challenger discovers grounds for challenging a candidate after the deadline to file a candidate challenge, those grounds may be the basis for an “election protest.” Only registered voters eligible to participate in the election in question and candidates in the election in question are permitted to protest the election.

The timing for filing a protest depends on the nature of the alleged irregularity. A county board will not delay the canvass of a contest for election protests that do not relate to the counting or tabulating of votes.

Alleged Irregularity	Filing Deadline
<b>Manner in which votes were counted or results tabulated</b>	Before the beginning of the county canvass meeting
<b>Manner in which votes were counted or results tabulated AND protest states good cause for delay in filing</b>	5 PM on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> business day after the county has completed canvass and declared results
<b>Irregularity other than vote counting or results tabulation, if protest filed on or after Election Day</b>	5 PM on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> business day after the county has completed its canvass and declared results

If a protest filed before Election Day concerns an irregularity other than vote counting or results tabulation, the protest proceedings will be stayed until after Election Day (unless a party defending against the protest moves otherwise) if any one of the following conditions exists:

- The ballot has been printed
- The voter registration deadline for that election has passed
- Any of the proceedings will occur within 30 days before Election Day

Persons who wish to file a protest must use the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections ([08 NCAC 02 .0111](#)). The State Board has created an Election Protest Procedures Guide for this process, which can be accessed on the State Board’s website and at this link: [Election Protest Procedures Guide](#).

## 2 VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is fundamental to elections. Assisting qualified citizens in becoming registered voters and involving them in the democratic process is a worthy cause and carries with it certain responsibilities. Candidates and their campaigns *may* distribute voter registration applications and conduct voter registration drives. Voter registration applications may be picked up in county boards of elections offices in quantities up to 100. Larger quantities may be requested from the State Board. Anyone conducting a voter registration drive must adhere to the following guidelines:

- You must provide individuals with current, state-approved voter registration forms. These forms may be obtained from county board of elections offices or ordered from the State Board of Elections (if quantities are over 100) by completing a NC Voter Registration Supplies Request Form (if quantities are below 5,000) at this website: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering/hosting-voter-registration-drives/voter-registration-drive-supplies-request-form>.
- You must refrain from coercing, threatening, or intimidating any person engaged in the registration or voting process.
- You should encourage individuals to complete the entire form. Do not alter the form once the voter has finished marking it. Any incomplete form should be given to the county board of elections as is. Any assistance filling out the form must be in the voter's presence and must be at the voter's request.
- If assisting a person in filling out a voter registration form, you must place information on the form that accurately reflects the intent and direction of the person.
- Do not coerce a person into marking a party affiliation other than what the voter desires.
- You may not refuse to accept completed voter registration forms.
- A person may not be compensated based on the number of forms submitted for assisting persons in registering to vote. To do so is a violation of the law.
- You must not compensate another or accept compensation based on the number of returned written requests for absentee ballots. To do so is a violation of the law.
- **You are strongly encouraged to submit completed voter registration forms and any accompanying documentation to the county board of elections in the county in which the applicant resides within 5 business days of receiving the forms. You must return the forms, so they are received no later than the 25th day before an election. Failure to do so is a violation of the law.**

Applications received by the State Board of Elections will be routed to the proper county board of elections, but voter registration drive organizers are strongly encouraged to route completed applications directly to applicants' proper county board of elections to ensure timely processing.

## 2.1 CAPTURING VOTERS' PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION IS UNLAWFUL

No person may retain a voter's full or partial social security number, date of birth, electronic mail address, photocopies of identification for voting, or driver's license number when that information is generated in the voter registration process. This information, whether held by the State Board of Elections or a county board of elections, is confidential and shall not be considered a public record or subject to disclosure to the general public. Cumulative data based on those items of information may be publicly disclosed, as long as information about any individual cannot be discerned from the disclosed data.

Further, it is unlawful for any person who is not an election official, or who is not otherwise authorized by law, to retain a registrant's signature, full or partial Social Security number, date of birth, or the identity of the public agency at which the registrant registered to vote, or any electronic mail address, or driver license number from any form after submission of the form to the county board of elections or elections official.

**Do not make photocopies or scans of completed voter registration forms that contain such confidential information.**

## 2.2 VOTER CHALLENGES

A voter challenge is the legal process for a voter to contest a person's eligibility to register and/or vote. In the absence of affirmative proof, the presumption is that a voter is properly registered or affiliated. Each challenge must be made separately, in writing, under oath, and on the State Board's Voter Challenge Form. The challenger must show that he or she knows, suspects, or reasonably believes the voter is not qualified or entitled to vote and must attach any evidence to support the challenge.

There are restrictions on the reasons for a voter challenge, when a voter challenge can be made, and who can make a voter challenge. Different processes and restrictions can apply depending on what kind of challenge is made and when the challenge is made.

The challenge process is set out in Article 8 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The State Board has created a Voter Challenge Procedures Guide for this process, which can be accessed on the State Board's website and at this link: [Voter Challenge Procedures Guide](#).

## 3 VOTING IN NORTH CAROLINA

Candidates should be aware of the options for voting in North Carolina.

### 3.1 VOTING METHODS

There are four methods by which a registered voter may cast a ballot in North Carolina:

#### **Absentee By-Mail**

Absentee voting by-mail permits any registered voter to request, receive, and return a ballot by mail. Absentee ballots for the March Primary election will be available as of January 12, 2024. If a second primary is necessary, the board of elections must provide absentee ballots, of the kinds needed, as quickly as possible after the ballot information for a second primary has been determined. Absentee ballots for the general election in November will be available as of September 6, 2024.

#### **Early Voting**

Early Voting permits a person to request a ballot in person, receive the ballot and cast the ballot at any early voting site in the county. The early voting period begins on the third Thursday prior to the date of an election and ends on the last Saturday before Election Day.

#### **Election Day**

The hours for voting on Election Day are 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Any voter who is in line at 7:30 p.m. will be allowed to vote. On Election Day, registered voters should vote in their assigned precincts to receive the correct ballot style. A voter's precinct is assigned according to the address where the voter has resided for 30 or more days prior to the date of an election. Voters who present to vote at a polling site other than their assigned precinct, will be directed to their correct precinct or offered a provisional ballot. The county board of elections will review all provisional applications and use current North Carolina laws to determine whether to count part or all of the ballot.

#### **Provisional Voting**

Provisional Voting is a process where voters, whose eligibility to vote cannot be immediately determined, are allowed to vote a ballot that is sealed inside an envelope until the County Board of Elections staff researches the voter's information to determine their eligibility to vote.

### 3.2 VOTER ASSISTANCE

Any voter is entitled to assistance from the voter's near relatives, which state law defines as 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, as chosen by the voter. The voter need not be disabled to receive such assistance.

A voter who needs assistance in the voting process due to a disability (including inability to read or speak English) is entitled to assistance from a person of the voter's choice, excluding the voter's employer or agent of that



employer or an officer or agent of the voter’s union. Voters who request assistance at early voting sites are entitled to the same assistance as voters on Election Day. There is no prohibition against a candidate assisting a voter if the voter is entitled to assistance. There is also no prohibition against a person assisting multiple voters if those voters are entitled to assistance.

See [Numbered Memo 2016-16](#) (Voter Assistance) and [Numbered Memo 2022-11](#) (Court Order Regarding Assistance for Absentee Voters with Disabilities) on the State Board’s website for additional information.

## 4 ELECTION RESULTS

All election results on election night are unofficial. Election results are not made official until all relevant canvasses are completed (the county canvass for local contests and the state canvass for multicounty or statewide contests).

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee-by-mail ballots received before Election Day are counted at 5:00 PM on Election Day. In some cases, they may be counted as early as 2:00 PM. County boards of elections will not release absentee results until after the close of the polls. Absentee ballots that are received on Election Day and, in the case of military and overseas citizen ballots, received *after* election day by the statutory deadline, will be counted at or prior to the county’s canvass meeting.

### ELECTION DAY AND EARLY VOTING BALLOTS

Ballots cast on election day or at an early voting site are counted after the close of the polls. Polls close at 7:30 PM.

### PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Provisional ballots are researched after Election Day. If the provisional voter is determined to be eligible, his or her ballot will be counted before the county’s canvass meeting.

## 4.1 COUNTY CANVASS

The county canvass meeting is the meeting that culminates in a county’s election results becoming official. The county canvass meeting is conducted 10 days after Election Day. During the 10-day canvass period, county boards of elections will also count eligible absentee ballots from military and overseas citizens that are received after Election Day. Until the county canvass, all election results posted by the county or by the State Board of Elections are unofficial.

These are the specific dates for the 2024 county canvass meetings:

Election Event	County Canvass
<b>March Primary Election</b>	March 15, 2024, at 11 a.m.
<b>November General Election</b>	November 15, 2024, at 11 a.m.



## 4.2 STATE CANVASS

National offices, state offices, multi-county legislative offices, superior court judge, district court judge, district attorney, and statewide and multi-county referenda contests must be canvassed by the State Board. All contests are authenticated by the State Board. The date for the state canvass of any primary or second primary will be set by the State Board closer to the time of the election event. The date of the state canvass for the November general election is **Tuesday, November 26, 2024**, at 11:00 a.m.

## 5 CAMPAIGN ETIQUETTE

### 5.1 NO ELECTIONEERING NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO A VOTING SITE

No electioneering may occur within the area immediately outside of the front entrance of a voting place. This area will be marked by signage to designate the area of the “buffer zone,” which is typically 50 feet from the front entrance, but in any case must be at least 25 feet from the front entrance. Persons may not engage in electioneering in this restricted area. If a political sign is placed in this restricted area, it will be removed. For more information about the area in which electioneering is restricted for a specific voting site, please contact your county board of elections office.

### 5.2 CURBSIDE VOTING

Every voting site will offer curbside voting in a designated area. Curbside voting allows voters to cast their vote in a vehicle when they are unable to enter the voting enclosure to vote in person without physical assistance due to their age or physical disability. If curbside voting is located outside of the “buffer zone,” electioneering restrictions will be in place to ensure the privacy of curbside voters.

Curbside Voters must sign the following affidavit to receive a ballot curbside:

“Do you swear (or affirm) that you are a registered voter in \_\_\_\_\_ County and \_\_\_\_\_ precinct. That because of age or physical disability, you are unable to enter the voting place to vote in person without physical assistance. That you desire to vote outside the voting place and enclosure, and that you understand that a false statement as to your condition will be in violation of North Carolina law.”

## 5.3 ISSUES OR COMPLAINTS AT VOTING SITES

Any issue or complaint relating to a voting site should first be brought to the attention of the polling place's chief judge (the head election official at the voting site). If the issue cannot be resolved by the election official at the voting site, the relevant county board of elections office should be contacted.

## 6 CANDIDACY FORMS

Form Name	Description of the Form
<b>General Notice of Candidacy Form</b>	This form is used to place a candidate's name on the ballot for a primary and general election.
<b>Felony Disclosure Form</b>	The Felony Disclosure Form should be completed if a candidate has previously been convicted of a felony. The candidate must complete within 48 hours after being notified of the need to complete it when they file for candidacy.
<b>Felony Disclosure Statement (for sheriff candidates only)</b>	Pursuant to <a href="#">G.S. § 163-106(f)</a> and <a href="#">G.S. § 17E-25</a> , candidates for sheriff must complete several forms and a disclosure statement verifying that they have had no prior felony convictions or expungements.
<b>Withdrawal of the Notice of Candidacy Form</b>	The Withdrawal Form is used when a candidate wishes to withdraw his or her notice of candidacy form within the timeframe allowed pursuant to the North Carolina General Statutes.
<b>Notice of Candidacy via Petition</b>	The Notice of Candidacy via Petition is used when a petitioner candidate has obtained the required number of signatures set forth by the North Carolina General Statutes and the petition has been certified by either the State Board of Elections or the county board of elections.
<b>Candidate Challenge Form</b>	It is recommended that the challenger use this form to ensure they provide all necessary information. The form is not required, as the statute provides that the challenge be made on an "affidavit."
<b>Candidate Challenge Appeal Form</b>	To file an appeal of a hearing panel's decision on a challenge to candidacy, use this form and include a copy of the panel's decision when you file the appeal.

## 7 VOTER PHOTO ID

### In-Person Voters

All voters will be asked to show an acceptable photo ID when they check in at their voting site during early voting or on Election Day. Election workers check to see if the picture on the ID reasonably resembles the voter and if the name on the ID is the same as or substantially similar to the voter's name in their registration record. The address on the photo ID does not have to match the voter registration records.

If the voter does not show an acceptable ID, the voter may proceed to vote in one of the two following ways:

1. complete an ID Exception Form and then vote with a provisional ballot, *or*
2. vote with a provisional ballot and then return to their [county board of elections office](#) with their photo ID by the day before county canvass.

### Absentee-By-Mail Voters

Voters who vote by mail must include a photocopy of an acceptable ID when returning their ballot, or they may complete an ID Exception Form. The voter places the photocopy of ID or ID Exception Form in a pocket on the outside of the ballot envelope, which is then placed in an outer return envelope to protect the privacy of the voter while their ballot and photo ID documentation is transmitted to their county board of elections.

### Acceptable Photo IDs for Voting

Any of the following that is unexpired, or expired for one year or less:

- North Carolina driver's license
- State ID from the NCDMV (also called a "non-operator ID")
- Driver's license or non-driver ID from another state, District of Columbia, or U.S. territory (*only if voter registered in North Carolina within 90 days of the election*)
- U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport card
- North Carolina voter photo ID card issued by a county board of elections
- College or university student ID approved by the State Board of Elections
- State or local government or charter school employee ID approved by the State Board of Elections

*Note: A voter 65 or older may use an expired form of acceptable ID if the ID was unexpired on their 65th birthday.*

Any of the following, regardless of whether the ID contains an expiration or issuance date:

- Military or veterans ID card (with photo) issued by the U.S. government
- Tribal enrollment card (with photo) issued by a tribe recognized by the state or federal government
- ID card (with photo) issued by an agency of the U.S. government or the State of North Carolina for a public assistance program (*Note: Although this is an acceptable form of ID under North Carolina law, the State Board is not aware of any such ID in circulation that contains a photo. All IDs for voting are required to have a photo.*)

To learn more about the photo ID requirements for voting in North Carolina, visit the State Board's website at the following link: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id>.