

ABSENTEE VOTING

NO EXCUSE REQUIRED. In North Carolina, absentee voting is broadly divided into three categories: absentee-by-mail voting, military and overseas citizens voting (also called UOCAVA voting), and absentee one-stop voting. These processes are all considered absentee, because the voting takes place away from the traditional Election Day precincts.

ABSENTEE-BY-MAIL VOTING

Absentee-by-mail voting is fairly self-explanatory. A voter fills out a request form for an absentee ballot, then mails it to their county board of elections. The BOE will process the form and mail the voter a ballot, which the voter should complete, have witnessed, and return by mail.

Any registered North Carolina voter may request an absentee ballot by mail. To request an absentee ballot, complete the North Carolina Absentee Ballot Request Form. The Absentee Ballot Request Form may only be signed by the voter or a voter's near relative or legal guardian. According to the law, a "near relative" can be any of the following: spouse, sibling, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild of the voter.

A completed Absentee Ballot Request Form may be scanned and emailed, faxed, or mailed to the county board of elections.

MILITARY/OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING

Uniformed service members (and their eligible dependents), as well as U.S. citizens living outside of the United States, may request an absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). This federal act and corresponding laws in North Carolina allow uniformed service members and overseas citizens who are absent from their county of residence in North Carolina to request, receive and return an absentee ballot under special rights.

VOTER REGISTRATION

A voter registration card will be mailed to you once your registration application has been processed. Keep the card, as it may be used to change your address by mail should you move within Scotland County, change your name, or change your party. It can also be used to cancel your registration should you move out of Scotland County.

The registration form must be postmarked 25 days before an election or delivered to the Scotland County Board of Elections office no later than 25 days before an election in order to be good for that election. Your registration may be placed in an inactive status if your voter card is returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable.

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

Be sure that you check the boxes stating that you are a U. S. Citizen and you are at least 18 years of age. You must provide identification by giving your driver's license number, last 4 digits of your social security number, or your NC ID number. If you do not have any of the above and are registering by mail you can either send, (a) a copy of a current and valid photo ID, or (b) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government or pay check, or another government document that shows the voter's name and address. If you do not provide the above information, you will be required to provide any of the above stated ID the first time you vote in person or by absentee ballot.

PARTY AFFILIATION

You will need to declare your party affiliation when you register. You may register with any recognized party in the state of North Carolina. Party affiliation determines the primary in which you are eligible to vote. You may also register unaffiliated. An unaffiliated voter during a partisan primary election may vote in a party's primary election if the party authorizes unaffiliated voters. If no party authorizes unaffiliated voters, they may only vote in non-partisan races and bond issues.

You may register to vote in Scotland County if you are:

- **A citizen of the United States (if convicted of a felony, citizenship rights must have been restored)**
- **Be at least 18 years old by the next general election**
- **A resident of NC and Scotland County for 30 days before the election**

REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

- Board of Elections Office (Regular Hours)
- Public Libraries (Regular Hours)
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Various Agencies (Social Services, Employment Security Commission, etc)
- Political Party Headquarters
- Various Registration Drives

In addition to registering for the first time, you can fill out a new card at any of these locations if you move, have a name change or change your party.

REGISTRATION CARDS MUST BE POST-MARKED 25 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION OR RECEIVED IN THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE BY 5:00 PM, 25 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION.



Voter Guide

Scotland County



Scotland County Board of Elections
231 East Cronly Street
Laurinburg, NC 28352
910-277-2595
Fax-910-277-2928

GENERAL, MUNICIPAL, PRIMARY ELECTIONS

In General and Municipal Elections you elect officials. In Primary elections you nominate party candidates. In primaries in North Carolina, you vote only in the primary of the party that you are registered in. **If you are registered unaffiliated, you can only vote in a party's primary that allows unaffiliated voters to vote.**

PARTISAN OFFICES

Elections held in the even numbered years

- President— 4 year term (2 consecutive)
- U S Senator— 2 Seats, 6 year staggered terms
- U S Representative— 2 year term
- Governor— 4 year term (2 consecutive)
- State Offices— 4 year term
- NC State Senate and NC State House— 2 year term
- District Attorney— 4 year term
- Clerk of Court— 4 year term
- Sheriff— 4 year term
- County Commissioner— 4 year term, staggered by district
- Register of Deeds— 4 year term

NON- PARTISAN

- NC Supreme Court Chief & Associate Justice— 8 year term
- NC Superior Court Judge— 8 year term
- NC Court of Appeals— 8 year term
- District Court Judge, 16A — 4 year term
- School Board— 4 year term
- Soil & Water Supervisor— 4 year term staggered

NON—PARTISIAN

Elections held in the odd numbered of years

- City of Laurinburg— Mayor, 4 year term, Council Members, Districts 1 & 2, 4 year staggered, At-Large, 4 year term
- City of Wagram— Mayor, 2 year term, Council Members, 2 & 4 year term
- City of Gibson— Mayor, 2 year term, Commissioners, 4 year term, staggered
- East Laurinburg— Mayor, 2 year term, Commissioners, 2 year term

PRECINCT ASSIGNMENT

After the Board of Elections processes your registration card, you will be assigned a polling place within your precinct. A card will be mailed to you notifying you of your polling place. Keep this card on file. You can use it if you have a name or address change and a new one will be sent to you. You can also call the Board of Elections office for the location of your polling place.

To maintain your active verified voter status, inform the Scotland County Board of Elections of any change of address or name as soon as possible.

VOTING AT POLLING PLACE

Upon entering the voting place, you will give your name, address and party, primary only, to the election officials. If you are properly registered at the voting place, you will be given an ATV Form to sign, then you will be allowed to vote a regular ballot. If you are in need of any information on how to mark your ballot, ask a precinct official at the help desk. They are there to assist you in any way they can.

If the precinct officials can not find your registration information, you may be asked to vote a provisional ballot, at which point you will be turned over to the Provisional Voter Coordinator. You will be instructed on how to fill out the provisional envelope and given a ballot. After you have completed your ballot, seal it in the envelope and return it to the Coordinator.

You will be given a pin number and instruction sheet on how to check to see if your ballot was counted. To avoid voting a provisional ballot, keep your voter registration updated and vote at your assigned precinct.



CURBSIDE VOTING

If you are unable to enter the polling place because of age or physical disability, you are allowed to vote in your vehicle. Look for the curbside voting sign. If someone is driving you and they are able to enter the precinct, they must vote inside the precinct.

TRANSFER VOTING

If you move from one precinct to another and it has been more than 30 days and you fail to change your address, there is a procedure that allows you to vote on Election Day. Go to your old precinct and fill out a voter update/transfer form. Then you can take the form to your new precinct and vote a regular ballot. To avoid this, change your address by the registration deadline. This can be done by either filling out a new registration card or you can mail or fax a written notice, signed by the voter, that includes the voter's full name, old address, new address and the voter's confirmation that they moved at least 30 days before the next primary or General Election from the old to the new address.

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Any near relative* of the voter may offer assistance to the voter regardless of the voter's physical or mental ability. A voter may request assistance from someone other than a near relative if the voter meets one or more of the following conditions: (1) they are unable to enter the voting place or booth without assistance, (2) they are unable to mark their ballot without assistance, (3) the voter, due to illiteracy, is unable to mark their ballot, (4) the voter, due to blindness is unable to mark their ballot. The voter must ask for assistance and indicate who they wish to assist them. The request may also be made in writing. There are some restrictions on who can assist a voter. The voter's employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union, may **not** assist a voter unless qualified by reason of kinship. This is governed by G.S. 163-166.8

***A near relative, as defined by law, is a spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, stepchild**

ONE-STOP NO EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

The one-stop no excuse absentee voting process allows a registered voter to appear at the one-stop voting site and cast their ballot. One-stop voting starts the third Thursday before an election and ends on the Saturday before the election. Unless otherwise posted, normal hours for one-stop voting are Monday— Friday 8:00 am till 5:00 pm and 8:00 am till 1:00 pm the Saturday before the election. The one-stop voting site is the conference room at the County Annex building, 231 East Cronly Street. At one-stop voting only, a registered voter can vote regardless of their normal assigned precinct. Also, during the one-stop early voting period, you may register to vote and vote on the same day.