

CONDUCTING A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN NORTH CAROLINA

 Fair Elections Center

 Nonprofit VOTE

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

- Applications must be received or postmarked at least 25 days before Election Day.
 - The State Board of Elections indicates drives must submit forms within 5 days or by the registration deadline, whichever comes first.
- Voters can register and vote the same day only during early voting, but not on Election Day.

GETTING STARTED

State Guide: Please refer to the BOE's guide on conducting a voter registration drive, which contains additional details and information regarding penalties for failure to abide by registration drive rules: ncsbe.gov/registering/hosting-voter-registration-drives

Training Requirement: North Carolina does not require training for registration drives.

Notification and Registration Requirements: North Carolina does not have notification requirements for registration drives.

Compensation Restrictions: Do not compensate or be compensated for the number of registration forms collected/submitted. Quota systems in voter registration drives are illegal and subject to a class 2 misdemeanor.

OBTAINING APPLICATIONS

State Form: As of March 2026, the North Carolina State Board of Elections has indefinitely paused their practice of providing voter registration forms to organizations hosting voter registration drives. Some county elections authorities will continue to provide registration forms, so please contact your local county elections office to inquire about obtaining forms. If they cannot provide them, the voter registration form is available to print here: dl.ncsbe.gov/Voter_Registration/NCVoterRegForm_06W.pdf

Federal Form: The federal voter registration application may be used in voter registration drives: eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form

State officials ask that organizations return all unused applications.

HANDLING APPLICATIONS

Incomplete Applications: North Carolina prohibits changing a person's information on a voter registration form prior to delivering it to the County Board of Elections. All complete and incomplete forms must be submitted unaltered. Drives are prohibited from pre-marking party affiliation on the form unless the person receiving the form requested it. Any assistance filling out the form must be in the voter's presence and must be at the voter's request. The State Board of Elections states that although a voter may receive assistance on request, the voter must sign the application form.

Labeling Applications: Do not place sticky notes or flags on any incomplete forms.

Logging Applications: State officials ask that drives maintain a log of which staff / volunteers were responsible for which voter registration forms. Logs are requested to include the name of the person assigned to a batch and contact information to include a phone number, mailing address, and email.

Photocopying Completed Applications / Retaining Information: It is illegal in North Carolina to retain a registrant's signature, full or partial Social Security Number, date of birth, email address submitted under the voter registration laws, or driver's license number. Remove these before copying any application, and do not data-enter any information from the voter registration form.



HANDLING APPLICATIONS CONTINUED

Submitting Applications: The State Board of Elections indicates drives must submit forms within 5 days or by the voter registration deadline (25 days before an election), whichever comes first. Individual voters may register online with a valid NC Driver's License No. or DMV-issued ID No., but electronically captured signatures on registration forms including those generated by computer programs of third party groups are not accepted, except as provided by law for military and overseas voters. SBE requests that all applications - completed, incomplete and unused forms - be submitted directly to the county office. Find your county office here: vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo

Applications satisfy the registration deadline if:

- If submitted by mail, they must be postmarked at least 25 days before the primary or election, except that any mailed application on which the postmark is missing or unclear is validly submitted if received in the mail not later than 20 days before the primary or election.
- If submitted in person, by fax, or emailing a scanned form, it must be received by the county board of elections by 5 p.m. (or a later time if the county board allows it) on the 25th day before the election. If the application is submitted by fax or email of a scanned document, a permanent copy of the completed, signed form must be delivered to the county board no later than 20 days before the election.

Fair Elections Center and its Campus Vote Project intend the information contained herein to be used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed North Carolina legal professional.

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Find more information on voting in North Carolina: bit.ly/fecncvote

