

Voting By Mail (Absentee Voting) for Patients & Residents of Healthcare Facilities

Voting by mail is easy. Any registered voter may use this method, called Absentee Voting. You don't need an excuse or to be absent on Election Day to vote this way.

There are 4 steps, the 4 Rs: (1) Register to vote. (2) Request a ballot. (3) Receive the ballot and vote. (4) Return the ballot. *Special rules apply for residents in nursing and rest homes and patients in hospitals or clinics.*

Turn this page over for deadlines, phone numbers, and where to get and send forms.

1 Register to Vote: Your voting address is where you reside 30 days before an election or where you consider home. It is where you intend to return OR where you live now in a facility because you are not sure when you might return to another address.

If you are unsure if you are registered, go to www.demnc.co/myreg or call the local Board of Elections. To register, fill out and send in a registration form by 25 days before the election. Anyone may help you register to vote.

The absentee request form has a section you may use to register or change your name or address, but remember the 25-day deadline.

2 Request a Ballot: Anyone can provide you with the Absentee Ballot Request Form and mail it in if you fill it out. But by law only certain people can assist you if you need help filling it out. Staff at a healthcare facility are not allowed to help with this.

Who Can Help: A near relative or legal guardian may fill out and submit a form for you. Or you may ask the facility staff to call the Board

of Elections and ask for a MAT or Multi-partisan Assistance Team. The MAT has members from the political parties who are trained by the elections board to help voters. They will come to your facility. They are the only people* other than your family or guardian who may assist completing the request form.

Provide ID #: The request form asks for an ID number from your NC driver's license or DMV ID card or last 4 digits of your Social Security Number. If you don't remember the number, ask the facility staff to check your file for it.

Instead of an ID #, you may send a copy of a bank statement, utility bill, or government document (letter, bill, etc.) with your name and voting address. The form asks for a Voter Registration # but you may leave that blank.

Submit the Form: The completed form may be mailed, faxed, scanned and sent by email or hand delivered. (*See back for where.*) It's okay for someone else to pay for postage.

3 Receive the Ballot. Election officials will review your request form and then mail you a ballot and return envelope. Mark your ballot secretly but in the presence of two witnesses or one notary public. Other residents may be witnesses, but candidates and facility staff may not be witnesses.

Only a family member, guardian or the MAT team may help you complete the ballot.* Candidates may provide campaign literature or learn about them at www.NCVoter.org.

*** If the Board does not send a MAT by 7 days after the request, other people may assist you except facility staff, party/precinct officers, or candidates.**

4 Return the Ballot. Put the marked ballot inside the return envelope and complete the form on the back of the envelope. Witnesses must sign and put their addresses on this form. Seal and mail the envelope to your county Board of Elections.

Or ask a family member or guardian to deliver it to an Early Voting site during Early Voting or to the Elections Board. Follow the instructions carefully. If a signature is missing, the ballot will not count. Confirm the ballot was received at demnc.co/myreg or call the county board.

Dates & Locations for Mail-In Absentee Voting

30 to 60 days before election: Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who request them beginning 60 days prior to a statewide general election, 30 days before a municipal election, and 50 days before a statewide primary, county election, or other election.

25 days before the election: Last day to register to vote or to postmark and mail the completed registration form to your county board of elections.

7 days before the election: Your county elections board must receive your ballot request by 5 PM a week before the election. *If you're confined to bed on this date due to a health emergency, ask a family member to call the county elections board for your options.*

Election Day: Last day to deliver or postmark the envelope with your absentee ballot. If it's close to this deadline, take the envelope inside the post office to get it hand postmarked. Some mail does not routinely get a postmark.

Where to Get Forms

- ▶ Get a voter registration form from a library or download at: www.demnc.co/rform
- ▶ Download an absentee ballot request form: www.demnc.co/absform
in Spanish: www.demnc.co/abspanish
- ▶ Ask the county Board of Elections to send you a form: www.demnc.co/myboard

Where to Send Forms: To Your County Board of Elections

- ▶ Get the address, phone and email of the county Board of Elections at demnc.co/myboard

For questions, go to websites (1) www.demnc.co/mail or (2) www.NCVoter.org or (3) call the nonpartisan resource group Democracy North Carolina in Durham at 919-286-6000 or 1-888-OUR-VOTE.