



A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under North Carolina Law

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

In North Carolina, an individual may register to vote in North Carolina if she is:

1. A U.S. citizen,
2. A resident of North Carolina and of the county in which she wishes to vote for at least 30 days,
3. At least 18 years old before the next election,
4. Not registered in or intending to vote in any other county or state,
5. If convicted of a felony, she has completed her sentence, including probation and parole. The right to vote is automatically restored after that.¹

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS?

The deadline for voter registration is 25 days before the next election. The registration application must be received or postmarked by that date. An application on which the postmark is unclear or missing is considered timely if it is received at least 20 days before the election.²

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION?

- Name,
- Date of birth,
- Residence address, including county,
- Drivers license number, state identification number, the last four digits of the social security number, or voter registration identification number,
- Signature.
- Date of application,
- Checks in the appropriate checkboxes inquiring into age, citizenship, residence, whether applicant was convicted of a felony and, if so, have sentence, probation or parole been completed, registration status in other jurisdictions and intent to vote in no other county or state.

No application shall be denied because an applicant does not state race, ethnicity, gender, or telephone number.³

WHAT ARE THE STATE RULES GOVERNING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES?

A. Are there restrictions on copying completed voter registration applications prior to submitting them to the registrar?

No.

B. Are voter registration groups subject to time limits for submitting the voter registration applications they have collected?

Yes, a person who accepts a voter registration application from another person must submit the application to the proper election authority within the registration deadline: 25 days before the next ensuing election.⁴ Failure to do so is a misdemeanor.

C. Are voter registration groups prohibited from putting identifying marks on completed voter registration applications?

No.

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- D. *Are there special rules requiring a third party to sign her name to the completed voter registration application?*
No.
- E. *Does the state require voter registration organizations to register or file other information detailing its voter registration activities?*
No. The state board of elections provides a form that organizations may use to request voter registration applications. The applications come in boxes of one thousand.⁵
- F. *Does the state require any training in order to conduct a voter registration drive?*
No.
- G. *Does the state have restrictions on who may work for a voter registration drive?*
No restrictions found in the North Carolina code or regulations.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR CORRECTING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS?

- A. *If a voter registration application is incomplete, may the voter registration drive write the missing information on the application with the consent of the applicant?*
In North Carolina, it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to change a person's information on a voter registration form prior to its delivery to a county board of elections.⁶
- B. *How may an applicant correct an incomplete application after it has been submitted to county election officials?*
Yes, the county board of elections contacts the voter, if contact information is given, and notifies the voter of the missing information. The voter then has an opportunity to complete and correct the application by 5:00 P.M. on the day before the county canvass of votes.⁷

For more information, contact:

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DISCLAIMER

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¹ NCGS § 163 55

² NCGS § 163 82.6(c)(1)

³ NCGS § 163 82.4(a).

⁴ NCGS § 163 82.6.

⁵ <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/content.aspx?id=48>, last accessed July 19, 2008.

⁶ NCGS § 163 82.6.

⁷ NCGS § 163 82.4(e)