

North Carolina Voter's Bill of Rights

You have the right to vote – it's the law and the proof is in your hands! You'll notice letters and numbers after each of your rights listed below. These codes tell lawyers and poll-workers where to find the N.C. statute that protects your rights as a properly registered voter. You can take this document with you to vote. Learn more about the rules for voting at NCElectionConnection.com.

You Have the Right to Vote

1. HOURS. Each polling place is open between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm on Election Day. If you are in line or inside the polling place before 7:30 pm, you must be allowed to vote. (NCGS 163-166.01)

2. IDENTIFICATION. Until 2016, you generally do not have to show identification to poll workers when you vote. (NCGS 163-82.8). However, if you are a first-time voter in the state or county, identification may be required. It makes sense to take a form of ID: a current NC driver's license or one of these documents with your name and current address: utility bill (electric, gas, phone, water, cable bill), pay-stub/W-2, bank statement, or any document from any government agency. (NCGS 163-166.12)

3. PROVISIONAL BALLOT. If any problem arises, you have a right to vote with a provisional ballot and to learn later if it was counted and, if not, the reason why not. For example, ask for a provisional ballot if you believe you have registered but your name is not on the rolls. The ballot won't count if you vote in the wrong precinct on Election Day. (NCGS 163-166.11)

4. IF YOU MOVE. If you move within your county and have lived in your new location more than 30 days, you have the right to vote in your new precinct or at a central location. If you have moved, but have lived in your new location less than 30 days, you must vote in your old precinct or cast a provisional ballot in your new precinct. If you have moved within your precinct, you have the right to update your information at the polls and vote. (NCGS 163-82.15)

5. NAME CHANGE. If your name has changed since you registered to vote, you have the right to vote even if you have not reported your name change to election officials. (NCGS 163-82.16)

6. SPOILED BALLOT. If you make a mistake and "spoil" your ballot, you have a right to new ballot. You can spoil up to three ballots. (8 NCAC 10B.0104)

7. ASSISTANCE. You have the right to receive assistance from a family member. If you have a disability or difficulty reading (due to language ability, vision, etc.), you have a right to assistance from anyone of your choice, except your employer or union agent. Some counties offer ballot instructions in Spanish, but that's not required under current law. (NCGS 163-166.8, 168-165-5A)

8. CURBSIDE. If the polling place is inaccessible to you due to a disability, you have a right to vote at the curb, in the vehicle you came in, or at the door of the polling place. (NCGS 163-166.9)

9. JUSTICE SYSTEM. You have a right to vote if you are serving a sentence for a misdemeanor, or if you are in jail on a felony charge but have not been convicted, or if you register to vote after completing a felony sentence, including probation or parole. A person who completes a felony sentence does not need a special document to register; your right to vote returns automatically when the sentence has been served. (NCGS 13-1)

10. INTIMIDATION. You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote for anyone you don't wish to vote for. (NCGS 163-271)

No Photo ID Required Until 2016

Starting in 2016, you will be asked to show an acceptable photo ID if you vote in person (but not if you use a mail-in absentee ballot or curbside voting). In 2014 and 2015, the poll worker will ask if you have an acceptable photo ID, but you do not need to show one to vote. Visit www.GotIDNC.com for details.