New Election Law Will Make It Easier to Vote by Mail This November

Earlier this summer, Gov. Roy Cooper signed legislation aimed at helping North Carolinians safely vote in the upcoming November 2020 election. Passed by the NCGA on a bipartisan basis, this new law will help prepare the state for the November election amidst the coronavirus pandemic and the likely influx of voters who opt to vote by mail rather than in person on November 3rd.

While any registered voter in North Carolina could, the new law now allows voters to submit their absentee ballots with only one witness’s signature. This provision applies to the 2020 General Election only.

What to expect when you vote in November:

Make sure you’re registered to vote in North Carolina and view your sample ballot here: https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/

You can register to vote here: https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voters/Registering-to-Vote

Absentee Voting (via the NC State Board of Elections)
- Any registered voter can request an absentee ballot.
- A signed and completed absentee ballot request form must be received by the county board of elections office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27th. You can fax, email, or mail the ballot request to your county board of elections office.
- The county board of elections will mail you a ballot upon receipt of the request. Request your ballot early to avoid any potential mail delays.
- For the November 2020 election, you only need one witness’s signature for your absentee ballot. For all subsequent elections, you must have two witnesses or a notary public.
- Completed ballots must be returned to the county board of elections by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, November 3rd).
- Important Note: For absentee ballots returned by mail, they must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the date of the election (November 3rd) and postmarked on or before November 3rd.
- A completed and signed absentee ballot may be mailed or delivered in person to the county board of elections office or an open early voting site during the early voting period. Find your county board of elections here: https://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo

In Person Voting
- You can vote during the early voting period (also referred to as “in person absentee voting”) at any one stop location in the county where you are registered to vote or on Election Day at your polling place. You can also register to vote during the early voting period.
- At this time, you do not need to show an ID to vote in person. There is a possibility this could change before November 3rd, so be sure to check the NC State Board of Election’s website before voting.
- Polls will be open statewide from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.