



SCOTLAND COUNTY CANDIDATE GUIDE

2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

**SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
231 E. CRONLY STREET, SUITE 305
LAURINBURG, NC 28352
(910) 277-2595
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SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

231 E Cronly Street, Suite 305
Laurinburg, NC 28352
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Normal Office Hours:
Monday – Friday: 8AM -5PM

*Scotland County observes the following Holiday Schedule and the Board of Elections office will be **closed** on these days:*

New Year's Day	January 1, 2021	Friday
Martin Luther King, Jr. B-Day	January 18, 2021	Monday
Good Friday	April 2, 2021	Friday
Memorial Day	May 31, 2021	Monday
Independence Day	July 5, 2021	Monday
Labor Day	September 6, 2021	Monday
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2021	Thursday
Thanksgiving	November 25 & 26, 2021	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	Dec 23, 24, & 27, 2021	Thurs, Fri, & Mon



2021 Municipal Important Candidate Dates

<p>Voter Registration Deadline</p>	<p>Postmarked by 5 PM 10/08/2021 or in the Board of Elections Office by 5 PM</p>
<p>Mail In Absentee Ballot Application – Request Dates <i>Maxton Voters <u>ONLY</u></i></p>	<p>Requests must be in the Board of Elections Office by 5 PM on 10/26/2021.</p>
<p>Mail-In Absentee Ballots Due <i>Maxton Voters <u>ONLY</u></i></p>	<p>Received by 5 PM on 11/2/2021 (Election Day) in the Elections office or postmarked by 5 PM on 11/2/2021 (Election Day) and in office by 11/5/2021, no later than 5 PM.</p>
<p>Absentee One Stop Early Voting <i>Maxton Voters <u>ONLY</u></i></p>	<p>Voting Site: Elections Office Scotland County Annex 231 E Cronly Street, Suite 305, Laurinburg</p> <p><i>October 14-30, 2021</i> <i>Time: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm weekdays only</i></p>
<p>Election Day</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 2, 2021 (6:30 AM – 7:30 PM)</p>

** Canvass will be November 9 at 11AM, Scotland County Board of Elections

** The Municipalities of East Laurinburg, Gibson, and Wagram opted out of absentee voting.

** The City of Laurinburg's Election was postponed until March 2022 per SB722.

PHOTO ID IS NOT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME

Sample Ballots

G.S. 163 – 1106 Sample Ballots

- (b) Document Resembling and Official Ballot to
- (c) Contain Disclaimer

No person other than the board of elections shall produce or disseminate a document substantially resembling an official ballot unless the document contains on its face a prominent statement that the document was **not** produced by a board of elections and is **not** an official ballot.

**It is strongly recommended
that sample ballots be
printed on another color
other than yellow & white.**

Campaign Signs

G.S. 136-32. Regulation of Signs-

(b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. – During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163A-1300 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this subsection.

Signs can go up 30 days before the beginning of One Stop Early Voting, and they are to be taken down within 10 days of Election Day. Please reference the following schedule:

Municipal Election Important Sign Dates

Election Date:	November 2, 2021
Signs can go Up:	September 14, 2021
Signs need to be Down By:	November 12, 2021

The state has strict requirements for political signs placed on highway right-of-ways. First, the person putting up the sign “must obtain permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected.”

The signs must be placed according to the following regulations:

- No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
- No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
- No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.
- No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
- No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches (six square feet)
- No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

There are also strict penalties for unlawful removal of political signs. It’s considered a Class 3 misdemeanor to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed.



Do I Need a Legend?

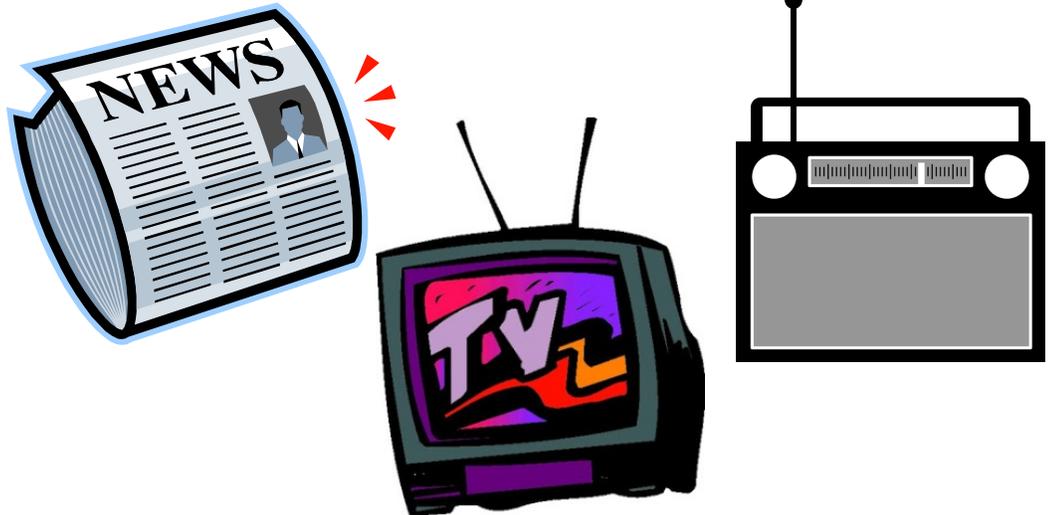
What is a legend? A legend is the statement “Paid for by...” or “Sponsored by...” and includes the committee name. This legend should be used on all types of media including, but not limited to, radio advertisements, newspaper advertisements, political signs, etc.

Requires a legend

- Newspaper Ads
- Magazines
- Periodicals
- Outdoor Advertising Facilities
- Radio Ads
- Television Ads
- Billboards
- Sound-Truck Ads
- Airplane Streamers
- Portable Signs
- Pamphlets
- Fliers
- Mass Mailings
- Cards
- Campaign Literature

DOESN' T REQUIRE A LEGEND

- Buttons
- Bumper Stickers
- Yard Signs
- Window Posters
- Barn Signs
- Campaign Paraphernalia
(Balloons, Shopping Bags, Nail Files, etc.)



Legends should be at least 5% of the height of the advertisement or 12 point font; whichever is greater. Television disclosures must be 32 scan lines and radio ad disclosures must be a minimum of 2 seconds.

For Best Practice- If you don't know if it is required, add a legend anyway.

*This is 12 point font.



CAMPAIGN FINANCE

WHO CAN BE MY TREASURER?

You may be your own treasurer or you can have someone else be your treasurer. Your treasurer may ***NOT*** be your spouse, anyone under the age of 18, or a non-resident of NC.

WHO NEEDS TO TAKE TREASURER TRAINING AND WHEN?

Campaign finance training is ***required*** for the treasurer of a candidate's committee, but it is also the main venue for learning about what is accepted and prohibited for a candidate's campaign. It is recommended that the candidate attend training with the treasurer, as well as anyone who will be handling campaign transactions. All treasurers must attend training within 3 months of appointment, and once every 4 years thereafter.

WHAT IF I DO NOT INTEND ON GOING ABOVE THE \$1,000 THRESHOLD?

Although you do not intend on going over the threshold limit, you must still appoint a treasurer to your committee and the treasurer must still attend training. You are still expected to keep up with your expenditures in the instance that you meet the threshold limit. You will not need to complete campaign finance any further than the packet you received when you filed. If you see that you are reaching the \$1,000 threshold limit and are going to exceed it, you must amend your paper work with the Scotland County Board of Elections as soon as you reach that limit.

I WILL EXCEED THE \$1,000 THRESHOLD, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

After you complete the initial paperwork from filing, including the 10 Day Financial Report, the treasurer will need to follow the reporting schedule provided in the folder given to the candidate at filing. The candidate and the treasurer will both receive letters from the Board of Elections office when reports are coming due. If the committee exceeds \$10,000, you will be required to file electronically through the State Board of Elections website (www.ncsbe.gov). How to find the forms needed to complete your financial reports can also be found on the State's website. The 2021 Campaign Finance Schedule can be found on the next page of this guide as well as some campaign finance reminders/tips.

2021 Municipal Nonpartisan Campaign Finance Schedule

Event	Report End Date	Report Due Date
Organizational Report		Within 10 days of organizing
Election Day	11/02/2021	
2021 Mid-Year Semi Annual Report	06/30/2021	07/30/2021
2021 35-Day Report	09/21/2021	09/28/2021
2021 Pre-Election Report	10/18/2021	10/25/2021
2021 Year End Semi Annual Report	12/31/2021	01/28/2022

Campaign Finance Law Regarding Contributions and Expenditures

A. What is the law regarding contributions?

- A contribution is anything of value given to support the candidate or candidate committee. Contributions include those received “in-kind,” which are goods and services given to support a candidate or committee (for example, food contributed by individuals for fundraising events). Candidates required to file disclosure reports must report all contributions. Violations of the campaign finance laws could result in criminal or civil penalties.
- If a contributor contributes \$50 or less for the entire election period, that contributor’s name, occupation, and contact information are not required to be reported. Such contributions may be reported on a form CRO-1205, which requires disclosure of only the date, amount, and form of payment. HOWEVER, please note that the treasurer must nevertheless collect that contributor’s name, address and occupation. This information must be kept on file by the treasurer, since any contributor may eventually exceed \$50 and become subject to full disclosure.
- Only individuals, other NC political committees, and qualified entities may make contributions to a candidate committee. For “qualified entities,” see G.S. §163-278.19(h).
- Effective January 1, 2019, the contribution limit is \$5,400 per election (except that candidates and their spouses may make unlimited contributions to the candidate's committee). The election period is:
 - o January 1 of the previous year through the date of the primary.
 - o the day after the primary through the day of the second primary (only for candidates on the ballot in the second primary), or
 - o the day after the primary through December 31 of the election year.
- Contributions may be collected whether the candidate is opposed or unopposed in the election.
- Executive committees of political parties recognized under G.S. §163-96 may give unlimited contributions to the candidate’s committee.

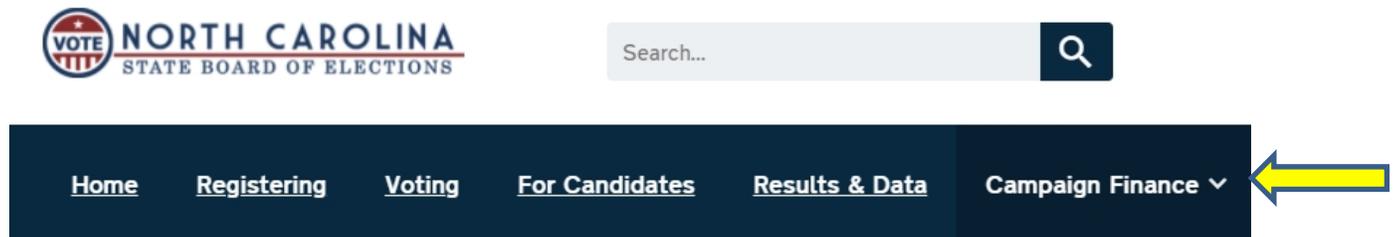
- Contributions from corporations, business entities, labor unions, professional associations, and insurance companies are prohibited. Unregistered political committees are also prohibited from making contributions.
- Anonymous contributions are prohibited. Whenever funds (contributions) are collected the committee must collect from each contributor his or her full name and mailing address. Anonymous “pass the hat” collections are prohibited. The contributor name and contact information MUST be collected by the committee even if the contributor name is not required to be reported. For all contributions in excess of \$50 in an election, the committee must also collect and report the contributor’s job title or profession, and employer’s name or employer’s specified field of business activity. This includes funds raised through the sale of any good or service.
- All contributions of more than \$50 must be made with a verifiable form of payment. No cash contributions of more than \$50 may be accepted. This includes cash given to the campaign by the candidate.
- No contribution may be given in the name of another.
- All prohibited contributions are subject to forfeiture to the NC Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund. A person who knowingly receives prohibited contributions may also be subject to criminal or civil penalties.

B. What is the Law Regarding Expenditures?

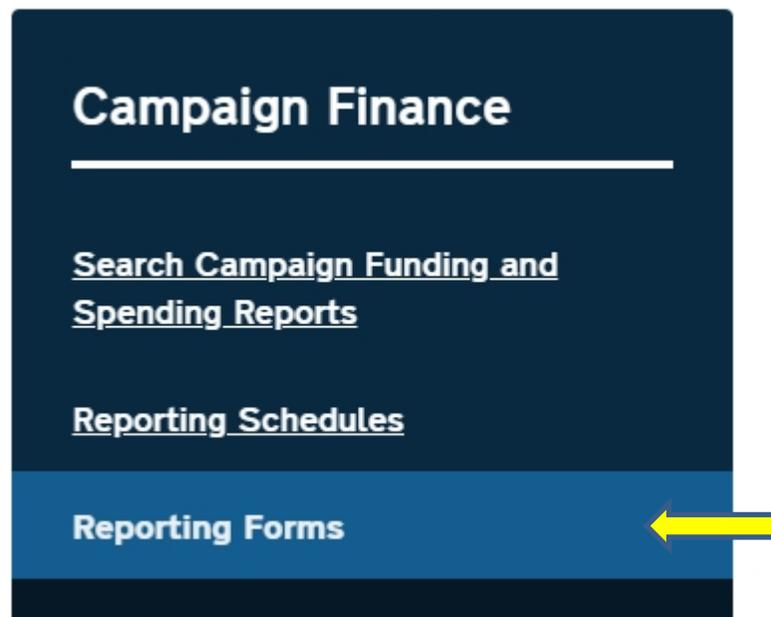
- Candidate committees may only make expenditures for nine purposes:
 1. Expenditures resulting from the candidate’s campaign for public office.
 2. Expenditures resulting from holding public office.
 3. Donations to an organization described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. § 170(c)), provided that the candidate or the candidate’s spouse, children, parents, brothers, or sisters are not employed by the organization.
 4. Contributions to a national, State, district or county committee of a political party or a caucus of the political party or an affiliated party committee.
 5. Contributions to another candidate or candidate's campaign committee.
 6. To return all or a portion of a contribution to the contributor.
 7. Payment of any penalties against the candidate or candidate's campaign committee for violation of North Carolina’s Campaign Finance Laws.
 8. Payment to the Escheat Fund established by Chapter 116B of the General Statutes.
 9. Legal expense donation not in excess of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per calendar year to a legal expense fund established pursuant to Article 22M of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.
- If the candidate committee is required to file disclosure reports, all expenditures must be reported.
- Any expenditure that is made for media purposes must be paid for by check or other verifiable form of payment. All expenditures of more than \$50 must be made with a verifiable form of payment.
- Expenditures for non-media purposes that are less than \$50 may be reported without disclosing the payee. The report must still disclose the form of payment, date, amount, purpose and account code for the account from which the expenditure was made.

How to find your Campaign Finance Forms

1. Go to www.ncsbe.gov. Click on Campaign Finance on the top ribbon.



2. Choose "Reporting Forms" on the right hand side of the screen.



3. All of the Reporting Forms are categorized by type. Click on the type of form you need and all of the forms for that category will be listed on the next page with instructions and samples.

The Do's and Don'ts of Campaign Reporting



- DO Keep accurate records of contribution and expenditures, and you will avoid unnecessary problems. Remember reporting simply requires full disclosure of all monies received or expended. (You must disclose the Bank and account number).
- DO Calendar all due dates of reports and file timely. The candidate or chairman should follow up with the treasurer to be certain reports are filed timely.
- DO Remember to notify the Scotland County Board of Elections within *ten days* of a change in your treasurer.
- DO Contact the Scotland County Board of Elections @ (910) 277-2595 if you need assistance.



Don't

- DON'T Accept contributions in excess of \$50.00 in cash, anonymous contributions, or contributions given in a name other than the actual contributor.
- DON'T Accept contributions from corporations, business entities, labor unions, professional associations, churches, clubs, fraternal organizations or any group unless the group is registered as a political committee.
- DON'T Accept contributions from Federal PACS unless registered. Remember Non candidates committees may not accept contributions from Federal PACS even if registered.
- DON'T Make cash payments in excess of \$50.00 to any individual. Checks must be written. (Exercise extreme caution when disbursing funds for Election Day expenses).

The law on ELECTIONEERING

163A- 1134: Limitation on activity in the voting place and in a buffer zone around the voting place.

No person or group shall access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity in the voting place or in a buffer zone which shall be prescribed by the county board of elections around the voting place. In determining the dimensions of that buffer one for each voting place, the county board of elections shall, where practical, set the limit at 50 feet from the door of the entrance of the voting place, measured when that door is *closed*, but in no event shall it set the limit at less than 25 feet. The county board of election shall also, where practical, provide an area adjacent to the buffer zone for each voting place in which persons or group to solicit votes, or otherwise engage in *election-related* activity. No later than 30 days before each election, the county board of elections shall make available to the public the following information concerning each voting place:

1. The door from which the buffer zone is measured.
2. The Distance the buffer zone extends from that door.
3. Any available information concerning political activity, including sign placement that is permitted beyond the buffer zone.

Each polling place in Scotland County will have a designated area adjacent to the buffer zone and will be set by the standards named above. On the next page you will find the rules for electioneering in Scotland County.

**TENTS ARE NO LONGER
ALLOWED IN THE
ELECTIONEERING AREA DUE TO
SAFTEY CONCERNS FOR STAFF
AND VOTERS AFTER DARK.**



Electioneering in Scotland County

In Scotland County interest in electioneering has increased tremendously and in result there have been some rules put into place to keep the area as effective as possible.

If you as a candidate are going to have electioneers at the polling place(s), please make sure they are aware of the rules as well as the consequences listed below:

The Rules*:

1. You are not to distribute campaign literature or solicit votes outside of the designated electioneering area while at the polling place.
2. Do not harass voters, candidates, elections staff, poll workers or other electioneers at the polling place.
3. You are not to use profanity or offensive/aggressive language towards others at the polling place. This includes but not limited to voters, candidates, poll workers, elections staff, or other electioneers.
4. Do not use bull horns or any device that projects sound that may be heard in the voting enclosure.
5. You are not to give any voter anything, other than campaign literature that includes the legend "Paid for by:", that may be considered as a bribe or payment for a vote. This includes food, money, promises or favors, etc.

The Consequences:

1. The Scotland County Board of Elections staff will remind electioneers of the rules or rules that he/she is not following.
2. If the electioneers are found still breaking any rules or become unruly, the candidate in which they work for, will be contacted and asked to address the issue.
3. If the board of elections staff has to go to the electioneer for the 3rd time, the director of elections or the assistant to the director, where practical, has the authority to ask the electioneer to leave the premises for the remainder of the day.

Although the board of elections staff does not consistently monitor the electioneering area, we hold the authority to enforce the rules as well as consequences as deemed necessary.

*- The Rules are subject to change and are not limited to the ones listed above.

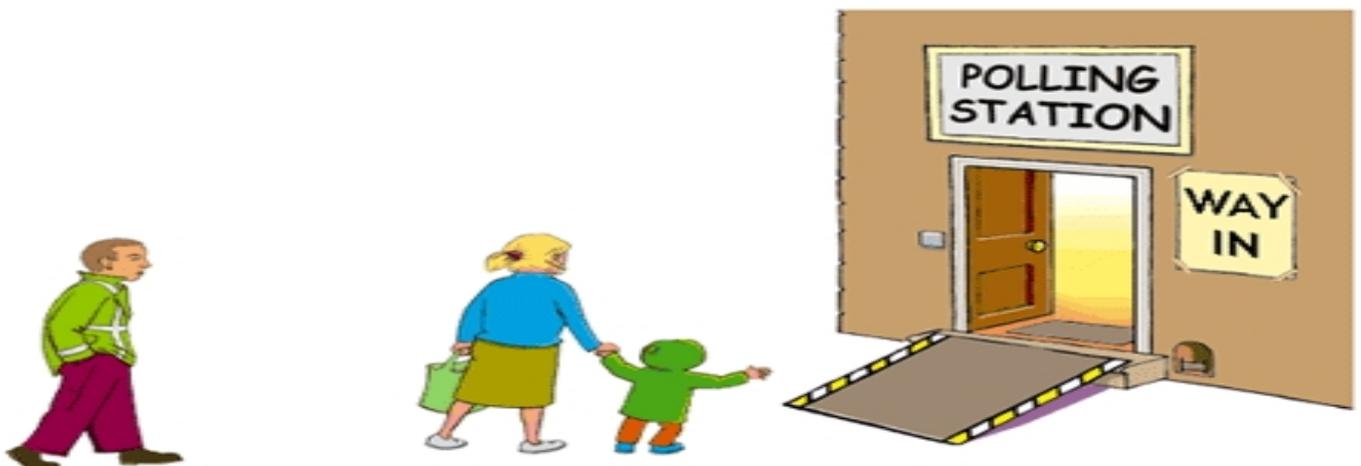
Who is allowed inside the polling place?

G.S 163-166.3 LIMITED ACCESS TO THE VOTING ENCLOSURE

During the time allowed for voting in the voting place, only the following persons may enter the voting enclosure:

1. The Chief Judge, Judges, Assistants, Board Members (State Board Members and Scotland County Board Members), Directors and Staff
2. An observer appointed according to G.S 163-45
3. A person seeking to vote in that voting place on that day but only while in the process of voting or seeking to vote.
4. A voter in that precinct while entering or explaining a challenge according to G.S 163a-1913 or G.S 163A-915
5. A person authorized under G.S 163-166.8 to assist a voter but, except as provided in subdivision of this section, only while assisting that voter.
6. Minor children of the voter under the age of 18, or minor children under the age of 18 in the care of the voter, but only while accompanying the voter and while under the control of the voter.
7. Any other person determined by election officials to have an urgent need to enter the voting enclosure but only to the extent necessary to address that need.

At no time should a candidate enter the voting enclosure other than to vote or to assist a voter who specifically requests the candidate's assistance!





ABSENTEE BY MAIL

IMPORTANT NEW LAW/STATUTE

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020

(*Senate Bill 683*)

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS

request forms can be obtained at the Board of Elections office or online

-ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS – ARE ONLY VALID IF RETURNED BY:

1. THE VOTER
2. THE VOTERS NEAR RELATIVE OR VERIFIABLE LEGAL GUARDIAN
3. M.A.T. TEAM (MULTIPARISAN TEAM APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS)

ABSENTEE REQUEST FORMS

**CANNOT BE TURNED IN TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS BY ANY OTHER PERSON
OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE.**

RETURNING AN ABSENTEE BY MAIL BALLOT

1. VOTER- Must sign the Voter Section of the Envelope
2. WITNESS- Must be completed by two (2) witnesses or a notary

ABSENTEE BALLOT VIOLATION INFO

Certain violations of absentee ballot law made criminal offenses:

- (a) False Statements under Oath made a Class 2 Misdemeanor. – If any person shall willfully and falsely make any affidavit or statement, under oath, which affidavit of statement under oath, is required to be made by the provisions of this Article, he shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.
- (b) False statement Not under oath made Class 2 Misdemeanor- Except as provided by G.S 163-275(16), if any person, for the purpose of obtaining or voting any official ballots under the provisions of this article, shall willfully sign any printed or written false statement which does not purport to be under oath, or which, if it purports to be under oath, was not duly sworn to, he shall be guilty of a Class 2 Misdemeanor.

(1) Candidate Witnessing Absentee Ballots of Nonrelative Made Class 2

Misdemeanor- A Person is guilty of a Class 2 Misdemeanor if that person acts as a witness under G.S 163-231(a) or G.S 163-250(a) in any primary election in which the person is a candidate for nomination or election, unless the voter is the candidate's near relative as defined in G.S 163-230.1(f).

- (c) Fraud in Connection with Absentee Vote; Forgery. – Any person attempting to aid and abet fraud in connection with any absentee vote cast not to be cast, under the provisions of this article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Attempting to vote by fraudulently signing the name of a regularly qualified voter is a Class I felony.
- (d) Violations not Otherwise Provided for Made Class 2 Misdemeanors.- If any person shall willfully violate any of the provisions of this Article, or willfully fail to comply with any of the provisions thereof, for which no other punishment is herein provided, he shall be guilty if a Class 2 Misdemeanor.

NEAR RELATIVES ARE:

- Spouse
- Sibling
- Child / Step Child / Grandchild
- Parent / Step Parent / Grandparent
 - Son/Daughter-in-law
 - Father/Mother-in-law
 - Legal Guardian

Scotland County Polling Place Locations For the 2021 Municipal Elections

One Stop Early Voting Site

Scotland County Board of Elections Office
231 E Cronly Street Laurinburg, NC 28352

Precinct 1:

Scotland County Annex Conference Room
231 E Cronly Street Laurinburg, NC 28352

Precinct 2:

The Learning Center
420 Stewartsville Road Laurinburg, NC 28352

Precinct 5:

Gibson Fire Station
6280 Gibson Road Gibson, NC 28343

Precinct 7:

Wagram Recreation Center
24441 Marlboro Street Wagram, NC 28396