

The seal of Scotland County, North Carolina, is a circular emblem. It features a central figure of a woman, likely representing Justice or Liberty, blindfolded and holding a scale of justice. The figure is surrounded by a rope-like border. The text "SEAL OF SCOTLAND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA" is inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

Scotland County Candidate's Guide

2026 ELECTIONS

SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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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, 2026	Thursday
Martin Luther King, Jr. B-Day	January 19, 2026	Monday
Good Friday	April 3, 2026	Friday
Memorial Day	May 25, 2026	Monday
Juneteenth	June 19, 2026	Friday
Independence Day	July 3, 2026	Friday
Labor Day	September 7, 2026	Monday
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2026	Wednesday
Thanksgiving	November 26 & 27, 2026	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	Dec 24, 25 & 28, 2025	Thurs, Fri & Mon.



Partisan Primary Elections and Important Candidate Filing Dates

The information provided in this part of the guide is relevant to candidates running for office in the 2026 partisan primary elections, and includes information on election processes relevant to those candidates.

The statutes relevant to primary elections are found in Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes. These statutes may be accessed at the following link:

www.ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatutes

If legislative action or legal developments affect the information within this document, such changes will be noted on the website of the State Board of Elections. Candidates can direct questions to us here at the Scotland County Board of Elections.

Important Candidate Filing Dates:

Candidate filing will begin at 12:00 Noon on Monday, December 1, 2025 and ends at 12:00 Noon on Friday, December 19, 2025. Depending on the office sought candidates will file with the appropriate county board of elections office or with the State Board of Elections. Any person seeking to become a candidate must (1) file a notice of candidacy form and (2) pay the specified filing fee.

The candidate has two options: 1) file the notice of candidacy form and pay the filing fee in person at the appropriate board of elections; or 2) mail or deliver by commercial courier service the candidate's notice of candidacy to the appropriate board of elections, provided it is received by the end of the filing period. Notice of Candidacy may not be delivered by surrogates or staff.

In addition to filing a notice of candidacy, a candidate must affirm whether or not they have ever been convicted of a felony by submitting the Felony Disclosure Form. A candidate's prior felony conviction does not preclude holding elective office if the candidate's rights of citizenship have been restored. A felony conviction need not be disclosed if the conviction was dismissed as a result of reversal on appeal or resulted in a pardon of innocence or expungement. However, this form is for all not running for sheriff.

Effective 2021, candidates for sheriff may not file for candidacy if they have been convicted of a felony, even if the felony was expunged. Before filing, candidates must complete several forms and a disclosure statement verifying that they have had no prior felony convictions or expungements. Find the forms and additional information at [Sheriffs' Training & Standards](#)

[Division | NCDOJ](#). A person who receives an unconditional pardon of innocence for their felony may file for the office of sheriff or be appointed to that office.

The deadline for a candidate to withdraw the notice of candidacy and receive a refund is 5 pm on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. Any person who has filed a notice of candidacy for an office has the right to withdraw it. Candidates who wish to withdraw must complete a Candidacy Withdrawal Form, which can be obtained at the county board of elections office.

General Candidacy Requirements

The following are general candidacy requirements:

- Candidate must be a registered voter in the state of North Carolina.
- Candidate must be 21 years old by the date of the general election.
- Candidate must be qualified to vote in an election for the office sought.

Table: Additional Candidate Requirements by Office Type

Office	Additional Requirements
U.S. Senate	Candidates must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 30 years of age,• A U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and• A resident of the state by the date of the general election.
U.S. House	Candidates must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 25 years of age,• A U.S. citizen for at least 7 years, and• A resident of the state by the date of the general election. (A candidate running for U.S. House is not required to be a resident of the congressional district in which the candidate is seeking election.)
Governor & Lieutenant Governor	Candidates must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 30 years of age,• A citizen of the United States for at least five years, and• A resident of North Carolina for at least two years by the date of the general election. Candidates must also not have served more than two consecutive terms of the same office.
Council of State	N/A

Table: Additional Candidate Requirements by Office Type

Office	Additional Requirements
Attorney General	Candidates must be duly authorized to practice law in the courts of the state.
N.C. House	Candidates must have resided in the district for one year immediately prior to general election.
N.C. Senate	Candidates must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be at least 25 years of age and• Have resided in the state as a citizen for two years and in the district for one year prior to the general election.
Judicial and District Attorney	Candidates must be duly authorized to practice law in the courts of the state.

One Office per Election

No person may file for more than one office in any one election:

- A person who has filed a notice of candidacy may not subsequently file for any other office when the election is on the same date unless the notice for the first office is withdrawn by the deadline, which is the close of business on the third business day before the end of the filing period for that office.
- Relevant statute: [Prohibition on certain dual candidacies; exception \(N.C.G.S. § 163-106.6\)](#). A candidate who is defeated in the primary may not run for the same office as a write-in candidate in the next general election.
 - Relevant statute: [Notices of candidacy; pledge; with whom filed; date for filing \(N.C.G.S. § 163-106\(a\)\)](#).
- No individual is eligible to have that individual's name on the general election ballot for two separate offices unless one of the offices is for the remainder of the unexpired term for an office that requires an election to fill the unexpired portion of the term.
 - Relevant statute: [No run for two separate offices at the same time \(N.C.G.S. § 163-124\)](#).

Important Dates

Voter Registration Deadline	Postmarked by 5 PM Friday, February 6, 2026 or in the Board of Elections Office
Mail In Absentee Ballot Application – Request Dates	Absentee By Mail Begins January 12, 2026 All requests must be in the Board of Elections Office by 5 PM on February 17, 2026
Mail-In Absentee Ballots Due	Received by 7:30 PM in the Elections Office on March 3, 2026 (Election Day) NO GRACE PERIOD
Absentee Early Voting	Voting Site: Elections Conference Room Scotland County Annex 231 E Cronly Street, Laurinburg Feb. 12 th – Feb 27 th , 2026 (M-F) 8AM – 7:30PM Feb. 28 th , 2026 (Saturday) 8AM – 3PM
Election Day	Tuesday, March 3, 2026 (6:30 AM – 7:30 PM)

PHOTO ID WILL BE REQUIRED DURING THESE ELECTIONS

IDS CAN BE ISSUED DURING EARLY VOTING BUT NOT ON ELECTION DAY

SAME DAY REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING EARLY VOTING ONLY

Other Important Dates

PARTISAN PRIMARIES

Monday, January 12, 2026: Absentee-by-mail begins for the Primary Election

Tuesday, January 13, 2026: Campaign signs allowed in right of ways

Friday, February 6, 2026: Voter registration deadline

Thursday, February 12, 2026: Early Voting begins

Tuesday, February 17, 2026: Absentee request deadline **5:00 pm**

Saturday, February 28, 2026: Early Voting Ends – **3:00 pm**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026: Primary Election Day

Tuesday, March 3, 2026: Civilian Absentee Ballot Return Deadline – **7:30 pm**

Thursday, March 5, 2026: Sample Audit Count – 10:00 am

Friday, March 13, 2026: County Canvass Meeting – 11:00 am

Friday, March 13, 2026: Campaign Signs must be removed from right of ways

SECOND PRIMARY (IF NECESSARY)

Thursday, April 12, 2026: Early Voting begins

Tuesday, April 28, 2026: Absentee Ballot request deadline **5:00 pm**

Saturday, May 9, 2026: Early Voting Ends – **3:00 pm**

Tuesday, May 12, 2026: Primary Election Day

Tuesday, May 12, 2026: Civilian Absentee Ballot Return Deadline – **7:30 pm**

Thursday, May 14, 2026: Sample Audit Count – 10:00 am

Friday, May 22, 2026: County Canvass Meeting – 11:00 am

Other Important Dates Continues

NON-PARTISAN FILING

Monday, June 8th (12 Noon) – July 6th (5:00 pm) – Candidate Filing for Soil and Water

GENERAL ELECTION

Friday, September 4, 2026: Absentee-by-mail begins for the General Election

Tuesday, September 15, 2026: Campaign signs allowed in right of ways

Friday, October 9, 2026: Voter registration deadline

Thursday, October 15, 2026: Early Voting begins

Tuesday, October 20, 2026: Absentee request deadline **5:00 pm**

Saturday, October 31, 2026: Early Voting Ends – **3:00 pm**

Tuesday, November 3, 2026: General Election Day

Tuesday, November 3, 2026: Civilian Absentee Ballot Return Deadline – **7:30 pm**

Thursday, November 5, 2026: Sample Audit Count – 10:00 am

Friday, November 13, 2026: County Canvass Meeting – 11:00 am

Friday, November 13, 2026: Campaign Signs must be removed from right of ways

Voter Registration and Qualifications for Voting

To register to vote in this State, a person must sign a voter declaration attesting that:

- I am a U.S. citizen.
- I will have been a resident of North Carolina and this county for 30 days before the election.
- I will be at least 18 years old by the next general election.
- I am not registered nor will I vote in any other county or state.
- If I have been convicted of a felony, my rights of citizenship have been restored.

When is the deadline to register?

The deadline to register to vote in this State is 25 days before the day of the election. Forms that are received by the county board of elections office or postmarked by the deadline are accepted as valid applications for the upcoming election. Also, agency and DMV voter registration transactions that are completed by the deadline are accepted as valid for the upcoming election. Applicants will be notified by the county board of elections of their precinct and polling place assignments.

What about Same Day Registration during Early Voting?

Persons who are not registered may register at the early voting sites during the early voting period. Upon completion of registration, the newly-registered voter can immediately vote at that same site. This process is known as same-day registration.

Same-day registrants must attest to their eligibility and provide proof of residence. A voter attests to their eligibility by completing a Voter Registration Application and affixing his/her signature. Knowingly attesting to false information is a Class One felony. After the voter's attestation, he/she must prove his/her residence by presenting any one of the following showing his/her current name and current address:

- North Carolina driver license
- Other photo identification issued by a government agency. Any government-issued photo ID is acceptable, so long as the card bears the voter's current name and current address.
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing the voter's name and address
- A current college/university photo identification card paired with proof of campus habitation

Within two business days of the person's registration, the county board of elections will verify the registrant's driver license or social security number, update the voter registration database, search for possible duplicate registrations, and proceed to verify the registrant's address by mail. The registrant's vote will be counted unless the county board of elections determines that he or she is not qualified to vote.

Do we require ID for someone to register?

Voters who register do not need to show an ID when they register to vote. But Voters are required to provide their NC Driver's License number and/or the last four digits of their social security number on their registration form. Those numbers are then verified with the Department of Motor Vehicles or the Social Security Administration. If there are discrepancies, the Board of Elections is notified, and a letter is mailed to the applicant to resolve any problems.

Party Affiliation and Voting?

When a person registers to vote, the voter will declare a political affiliation. A voter may register as a member of any recognized party in the State of North Carolina. A voter's political party affiliation determines which primary election a voter is eligible to vote in. It does not determine whom the voter votes for in a general election, the choice is the voter's no matter what party the voter or the candidate are affiliated with. Voters also have the option of registering as unaffiliated. On the primary election day, the unaffiliated voter must choose

what political party primary they wish to participate in. Unaffiliated voters cannot vote in more than one primary and cannot choose between races on more than one ballot.

How Voter Registration Records are kept “clean”

The question is always asked, “Are there dead people voting in Scotland County?”

The Scotland County Board of Elections and the State Board of Elections are constantly striving to remove voters that are not eligible to vote for numerous reasons. Tremendous strides have been made over the last decade to ensure that Voter Registration Records are as “clean” as possible. Technology has allowed us to streamline the process. Computerized records and interfacing with numerous State Agencies have allowed us to become more efficient and most importantly, more accurate at removing voters that are deceased, moved out of the county or state, or have in some other way become ineligible to vote. Our goal is to make sure we remove ineligible voters but without disenfranchising those who are legally able to do so. The following are steps that the State and local Boards take to help trim off the “deadwood”.

List Maintenance

The list maintenance program is a computerized system that tracks a voter’s activity. Voters cannot be removed because of inactivity. In essence, a voter can register, never vote, and remain an active voter. After even numbered general elections, the system generates a list of voters who have not voted in the last two federal elections (8 years). The Board of Elections then takes that list and mails each voter a non-forwardable voter registration card. If the voter’s information is correct, then the card is delivered, and the voter must attest and confirm their information. But if the voter registration card is returned to the Board of Elections as undeliverable, a second forwardable Confirmation Card is sent to the voter at the old address or to a forwarding address that is provided by the Postal Service. The voter has 30 days to respond to the confirmation mailing, which explains to them that the Postal Service has deemed the address on record as undeliverable. The voter must respond, either by confirming the address on record, or updating their address. If the address is within the county, their record is updated, and a new voter card is mailed. If the address is outside

of the county, their registration record is marked as cancelled with moved from county as the reason.

If the confirmation mailing is not returned within 30 days, the voter's status is changed from active to inactive. If that voter shows up on Election Day, they must update their address before they are allowed to vote. If a voter remains inactive for a period of two federal elections (8 years) without any contact with the Board of Elections or by voting in person, they are removed.

Felony Lists

The Board of Elections receives lists of felony convictions from the North Carolina Department of Corrections. Boards of Elections compare those lists against the County's voter registration records. If a match is found, the voter is cancelled due to a felony conviction. Letters are then mailed to those that have been removed, which gives the voter 30 days to appeal their removal.

The State Board of Elections also interfaces with Department of Corrections to identify felons who were not identified from lists on the County level. Any potential matches are forwarded from the State Board of Elections to the County.

Note: A common misconception is that if a person has a felony conviction, they lose their right to vote for their lifetime. That is untrue. Once a felon has served their sentence in full, which could include incarceration, probation or parole, and paid all fines, their right to vote is restored. It is their responsibility to register once their rights are restored. The Board of Election does not reactive them in any way.

Death Lists

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services sends lists weekly to the Boards of Elections of deaths that occurred in the County. Those lists are researched, and any voters found on the list are removed from the Voter Registration database and marked as deceased. The State Board of Elections also compares voter registration records to the North Carolina Death Database and any potential matches are then sent to the County for verification. This ensures that counties receive information concerning deaths that do not actually occur in their county. Deaths are not immediately reported to the State or County.

Moves within the State

When a voter fills out a voter registration form, there is a section for voters to supply the Boards of Elections with previous address information. When entering a new voter into the system, that information is entered and if that address is within the state, the voter is identified in the previous county and is removed by the system. For example, if a voter in Scotland County moves to Robeson County, once they register there and are matched in the computer system, the State changes the voter's status in Scotland County to Cancelled: Moved from County. Voters, who do not supply old addresses, are also matched by name, date of birth, driver's license numbers or the last 4 digits of their social security number. If there is an exact match, their status is automatically changed. If there are any discrepancies, they are available to County Boards on Duplicate Lists that are individually handled by each county.

Out of State Moves

If a voter indicates that they are moving from another state, then a notice is sent to the previous state so the voter's record can be removed. The Board of Elections does receive reports from other States indicating voters that are registered there. When matches are made, County Boards remove voters from the active voter registration records.

National Change of Address (NCOA)

In 2010, the North Carolina State Board of Elections implemented a program to help keep voter records "clean" by using data supplied by the National Change of Address System. As citizens move, they update their address with the local post office to have mail forwarded to their new address. Change of address information is collected quarterly and compared to current voter registration records. Post cards are mailed to voters who have reported address changes reminding them to update their voter registration.

Hosting Voter Registration Drives



Organizing a Voter Registration Drive

The decision to conduct a voter registration drive is an important one. Voter registration is fundamental to elections and the democratic process. While helping people register to vote is vital, organizers must follow North Carolina law. Any person who conducts a voter registration drive is responsible for understanding the legal requirements and the legal penalties for a failure to comply with those requirements.

Any individual, group, or organization that desires to conduct a voter registration drive may do so. No special training is required. Organizers and participants should carefully follow the requirements as outlined in the Voter Registration Drive Information.

Find more information, visit the following page on the State Board of Elections website: www.ncsbe.gov/registering/hosting-voter-registration-drive

Voter Registration Drive Information Chart

Qualifications to Vote

N.C.G.S. § 163-55



DO Voter MUST:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Live in the county of registration and have resided there for at least 30 days prior to an election.
- Be 18 years old or be 18 at the time of the general election; or be 16 or 17 years old to preregister to vote.
- Not be in jail or prison for a felony conviction.
 - For more information, please visit: ncsbe.gov/registering/who-can-register/registering-person-criminal-justice-system.

**For questions about eligibility, voter should contact their county board of elections.*



IF IN VIOLATION: N.C.G.S. § 163-275 – Violations of this statute shall be a Class I felony, subject to a fine and up to 24 months imprisonment.

Completing Voter Registration Forms

N.C.G.S. § 163-82.4



DO Voter is REQUIRED to complete the following fields:

- Citizenship and Age (checkboxes)
- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Address (provide physical and mailing address, if applicable)
- Voter's Signature – the voter must sign or make their mark.

Also, the voters NC DL# or last for digits of SS # must be provided

**A voter may receive assistance upon request, but voter must sign the form.*



DO NOT

- Do not compensate or be compensated for the number of registration forms collected/submitted. Quota systems in voter registration drives are illegal and subject to a class 2 misdemeanor. N.C.G.S. § 163-274(15)
- **Do not tell voters they must re-register to vote. This is incorrect.** Refer them to their county board of elections if they have questions about their voting status or eligibility.
- Do not complete or change *any* section of the form for a voter. Incomplete forms should be given to the county board of elections *as is*.

- Do not coerce a person into marking a party affiliation other than what the voter desires.
- Do not offer a person a voter registration form that has been pre-marked. Only allowed if the voter requested the pre-marking.
- Do not sell or attempt to sell a completed voter registration form or condition its delivery upon payment.



IF IN VIOLATION: *N.C.G.S. § 163-82.6(a) and (b) – Violations of this statute shall be a class 2 misdemeanor, subject to a fine and up to 60 days of imprisonment.*

Returning Voter Registration Forms

N.C.G.S. § 163-82.6(d) and (e)



DO

- All voter registration forms—both complete and incomplete—must be sent to county board of elections in which the voter resides. Please also return unused forms if they are no longer needed.
- Submit completed voter registration forms **within 5 business days of receipt** but no later than the 25th day before an election.
- Maintain a log of staff/volunteers to easily trace who has collected and submitted which registration forms. Logs should contain the name of the person assigned to a batch and contact information to include phone number, mailing address and email.



DO NOT

- Do not keep, retain or store completed or partially completed voter registration forms in any form for any purpose. It is illegal to retain a voter's Personal Identifiable Information (PII) unless you are an election official or the information is fully redacted under N.C.G.S. § 163-274(16). This information includes:
 - Registrant's signature
 - Partial of full Social Security number
 - Date of birth
 - Driver's license number
 - Email address
 - Identity of the public agency which the registrant registered (N.C.G.S. § 163-82.20)



IF IN VIOLATION: *N.C.G.S. § 163-274(16) – Violations of this statute shall be a class 2 misdemeanor, subject to a fine and up to 60 days of imprisonment.*

Sample Ballots

G.S. 163 – 165.2 Sample Ballots

(b) Document Resembling an Official Ballot to 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.

Sample ballots are considered printed media and are therefore required to contain a legend (i.e. "Paid for by [Name of committee]"). If the sample ballot is marked for candidates other than yourself, it must also contain an authorization statement (i.e. "Authorized by [name of candidate], candidate for [name of office]" or "Not authorized by a candidate").

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

Campaign Finance

The Board of Elections probably receives more questions concerning Campaign Finance Reporting than any other topic from Candidates or those who are working with Candidates. In the beginning, it might seem a little overwhelming to those who do not work with it daily. Please remember that the Board of Elections is here to help you understand those requirements. The following are important facts to help you with those requirements.

*** A Candidate's Statement of Organization is due within 10 days of activity concerning your candidacy. This does not necessarily coincide with filing. A candidate may start campaigning months before the filing period. The best way to gauge when a political campaign begins is when an announcement is made that a person is running for office, or when money is either spent or received on a campaign.**

*** First things First: TRAINING IS REQUIRED! Treasurers must complete the mandated Campaign Finance Treasurer Certification within 3 months of treasurer appointment. Training may be taken on-line or in person.**

***You will need to open a separate account for your committee or certify that you only intend to spend personal funds. If there is an investigation into your campaign committee, bank records will be made public.**

***GS 163-278.8(f) – The treasurer shall maintain all moneys of the political committee in a bank account or bank accounts used exclusively by the political committee and shall not commingle those funds with any other moneys.**

Do I or Do I Not File Campaign Reports?

Every candidate is required to file a Statement of Organization. Then a candidate has three choices:

1. Will not spend or receive any money other than personal funds. (No bank account or reports filed)
2. **UNDER THE \$1000 THRESHOLD:** The candidate does intend to receive and expend money for the Campaign but does not intend to go over \$1000. (If the candidate does go over \$1000, they are required to file their first report within 10 days.)
3. **OVER THE \$1000 THRESHOLD:** Candidates know that they will spend \$1000 and beginning filing reports immediately.

If I file reports....

Don't worry! The Board of Elections is here to help you file those reports. During a normal election year with a primary and general election, the average number of reports filed is five or six. The organizational report starts with a zero balance. Candidates are then required to file on a quarterly basis, and then file a final report showing a zero balance.

You do not have to close your committee after each election. Some candidates like to close it so they will not have to file any additional reports. But, if a candidate decides to keep the committee open, reports are made on a semi-annual basis in years the Candidate is not seeking election, or the candidate can place their committee in an inactive status.

Contributions

Contributions are anything of value that support or oppose the nomination or election of one or more clearly identified candidates. Contributions can be monetary or non-monetary (In kind).

Contributors can give up to \$50 without disclosure per election. They are reported as aggregate contributions.

Contributors giving more than \$50 must be disclosed. You will need the following information on Contributors of \$50 or more:

- Name
- Date of contribution
- Form of Contribution
- Address
- Occupational Information
- Phone Number

A contributor may not give more than \$6400 per election.

A candidate, candidate's spouse, parents, brothers, and sisters may contribute unlimited amounts.

Any state, district or county executive committee of any political party may also contribute unlimited amounts.

ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS ARE PROHIBITED! (Pass the hat Contributions)

All contributions more than \$50 must be made by check, draft, money order, credit card, debit or noncash method.

Contributions can only be made by one person. Husbands and wives cannot make a joint contribution.

Do not 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.

Expenditures

Candidates cannot spend their campaign funds for any purpose. There are nine permitted purposes for which campaign funds can be used:

- (1) Expenditures resulting from the campaign for public office by the candidate or candidate's campaign committee.**
- (2) Expenditures resulting from holding public office.**
- (3) Contributions 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, or District or County Committee of a political party or a caucus of the political party.**
- (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 this Article imposed by a board of elections or a court of competent jurisdiction.**
- (8) Payment to the Escheat Fund established by Chapter 116B of the General Statutes.**
- (9) Donations to a legal expense fund established pursuant to Chapter 163, Article 22M of the General Statutes. Donations are limited to \$4,000 per calendar year.**

Contributions made to a candidate or candidate campaign committee do not become a part of the personal estate of the individual candidate. The candidate may file with the board a written designation of those funds that directs to which of the permitted uses in subsection (a) of this section they shall be paid in the event of the death or incapacity of the candidate. After the payment of permitted outstanding debts of the account, the candidate's filed written designation shall control. If the candidate files no such written designation, the funds after payment of permitted outstanding debts shall be distributed in accordance with subdivision (8) of this section.

You are required to report and/or document the following for expenditures:

***Payee**

***Address**

***Phone Number**

*** Date**

***Specific purpose of Expenditure**

*** Election payee totals**

- **All media expenses must be made in the form of a check.**
- **All expenses over \$50 cannot be paid by cash**
- **All expenses under \$50 may be paid in cash. The name of the payee is not required to be disclosed. However, the date, the specific amount, and purpose must be included.**

LOANS

Committees may receive loans from individuals and other entities not prohibited from making contributions. Loans from contributors other than the candidate, candidate's spouse, parents, or siblings must not exceed \$5,200.

Closing Your Committee

All funds in the Committee's bank account must be disbursed. If a Candidate Committee filed under the \$1000 threshold, the only documentation required would be the Certification to Close the Committee (CRO-3400). If the Committee is over the threshold, then a final report is due until a zero balance is shown.



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 for 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 Campaign Finance Schedule can be found on the next page of this guide, as well as some campaign finance reminders/tips.

The Do's and Don'ts of Campaign Reporting

Do



- DO** Keep accurate records of contributions 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-candidate 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).

Scotland County Candidates Campaign Finance FAQ

- **Who can be my treasurer?**

The law prevents a person that is not a North Carolina resident from serving as treasurer for a political committee and also, the spouse of a candidate is not allowed to serve as treasurer for a candidate's committee.

- **What is a threshold?**

You should think of a threshold as a limit. When filing for office you were asked whether or not you planned on spending more or less than \$1,000 and/or if you were going to accept donations for your campaign. In North Carolina, the current threshold is \$1,000. Anyone who decides to not exceed the threshold and will not accept any donations for his/her campaign will not be required to complete financial reports to the county board. If the candidate initially decided to stay below the threshold and to not accept donations towards their campaign feels as if they are going to exceed that amount or has decided to accept donations from individuals, will need to contact the Scotland County Board of Elections to update your committee paperwork, prior to exceeding the threshold amount or accepting ANY donations. It is critical that you keep all receipts of any purchases and/or donations for your campaign.

- **What is a contribution?**

A contribution is money or anything of value given to a committee. This includes loans, pledges, out-of-pocket expenses, non-monetary gifts, fundraiser proceeds or any other obligation to make a contribution. The term contribution does not include an 'independent expenditure'. There are certain types of contributions that are prohibited in North Carolina. No contributions are allowed from corporations, business entities, labor unions, professional associations, and insurance companies, even if the candidate or candidate's spouse is the owner of any of the sources listed. Rule of Thumb: If your opponent is unable to acquire the item or space that you have acquired for the same rate that you've been quoted, it's probably a prohibited contribution.

- **Is there a limit on contributions?**

For most committees in North Carolina there is a \$6,800 maximum contribution limit per election from an individual or other registered committee to your committee. There are some exceptions to the \$6,800 contribution limit. Candidate committees are allowed to accept unlimited contributions from the candidate and the candidate's spouse. However, any contribution exceeding \$50 must not be in the form of cash. **ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED!**

- **What is an In-Kind Contribution?**

You are allowed to accept something of value from a contributor that is not a monetary contribution (for example: food for a fundraiser, pay for radio advertisement, employee working at the polls, etc.) This is considered to be an in-kind contribution to your committee, and you should obtain receipts or a statement from the contributor indicating the fair market value of the items. In-kind contributions count towards the contribution limit per individual.

- **What are expenditures?**

Expenditures are a payment made by the committee or something of value given to another committee to support or oppose the nomination or election of a candidate, or a passage of a ballot measure. There are restrictions on how a committee can spend its money and the treasurer is required to provide the name and address of each payee, the amount of the expenditure and must disclose an accurate and detailed purpose of the expenditure. Expenditures can only be made for campaign purposes, not for personal expenditures of the candidates.

- **Can I use Cash?**

Cash can be used, but keep in mind **any contribution or expense over \$50 must be with a verifiable form of payment**. Cash is not considered a verifiable form of payment, but a check, money order or debit/credit card is.

- **Are there any penalties for filing a late report?**

If you are late filing a report for your committee there are possible penalties involved. When a late report is filed by a committee, the State Board of Elections sends a Penalty Assessment letter to the treasurer. The committee will then have 30 days to appeal or request a waiver for the late filing penalty or pay the amount assessed. For non-statewide committees, the penalty is \$50 per day, not to exceed \$500 per report. For statewide committees, the penalty is \$250 per day late, not to exceed \$10,000 per report. If you do not file a required report you will be sent a notice of noncompliance letter by the State Board of Elections. In the event you do not respond and do not file the reports in question, the Board can terminate the active status of your committee, therefore not allowing the committee to receive contributions or make expenditures.

- **When can I put signs out?**

G.S. 136-32 is the Statute that regulates political signs. According to the General Statute, political signs may go up at right of ways no earlier than 30 days prior to the start of Early Voting and should come down no later than 10 days following Election Day. This statute is a Department of Transportation statute and any placement complaints should be directed to that agency. Please keep in mind that neither the County Board of Elections nor the State Board of elections regulate placement of signs.

- **What is a legend and what media is required to have a legend?**

The legend is the “paid for by...” statement that tells the audience who paid for the advertising. An advertisement is required to have a legend if it is considered to be a contribution or expenditure. Legends are required for: newspaper ads, newspaper inserts, airplane streamers, fliers, sound-truck advertising, mass mailings, portable signs, periodicals, television ads, radio ads, cards, outdoor advertising facilities, magazines, billboards, and pamphlets. Legends are not required for: buttons, bumper stickers, yard signs, window posters, barn posters, balloons, shopping bags, nail files, and most other campaign paraphernalia printed with a campaign message. Websites, emails, and social media do not require the ‘legend’.

- **How big should my legend be?**

In print ads, the “Paid for by...” statement must be at least five percent of the height of the ad’s printed space, or 12 pt. font, whichever is LARGER. For the larger, as in a newspaper the maximum size required for the legend is 28 pt. font.

2026 Campaign Finance Schedule

Event	Report End Date	Report Due Date
Organizational Report	-	Within 10 days of organizing
Primary Election Day	03/03/2026	-
2025 Year End Semi-Annual Report	12/31/2025	01/30/2026
2026 First Quarter Report	02/14/2026	02/24/2026
2026 Second Quarter Report	06/30/2026	07/10/2026
2026 Third Quarter Report	10/17/2026	10/27/2026
General Election Day	11/03/2026	
2026 Fourth Quarter Report	12/31/2026	01/12/2027

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, 2025, the contribution limit is \$6,800 per election (except that candidates and their spouses may make unlimited contributions to the candidate's committee). The election period is: January 1 of the previous year through the date of the primary, or the day after the primary through the day of the second primary (only for candidates on the ballot in the second primary), or on 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’s name and contact information **MUST** be collected by the committee even if the contributor’s 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.

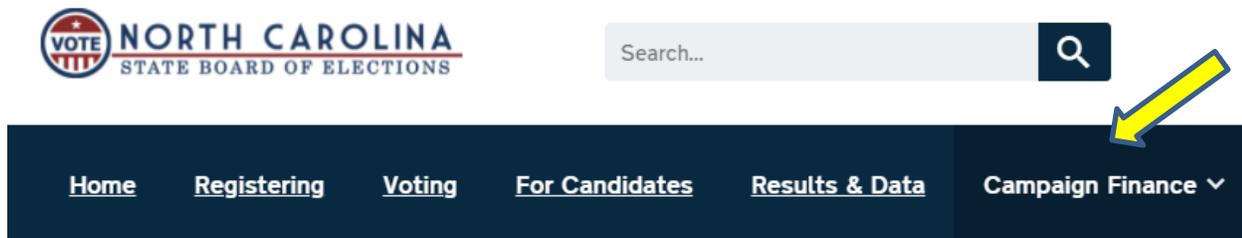
B. What is the Law Regarding Expenditures?

- 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"



3. Click on "Registered Political Committee Disclosure Reporting Forms"

Mandatory Compliance Training

For North Carolina Candidate Committee Treasurers

(This training is not for Party, Political Action Committee (PAC), or Referendum Committees.) *

(Training is required once every four years for all NC Treasurers including those under the \$1,000 threshold)

People that DO NOT register for training using the NC Learning Center website will not receive credit for training!

2026 Mandatory In-Person and Webinar – State and Regional Training Schedule

County	Date	Time	Location
Chatham	01/06	9:00 – 1:00	Chatham County Board of Elections – 964 East Street, Suite 101, Pittsboro
SBE/Raleigh	01/07	9:00 – 1:00	State Board of Elections – this session will be conducted via webinar (Microsoft Teams)
Catawba	01/08	1:00 – 5:00	Catawba County Board of Elections – 145 Government Drive, Newton
Mecklenburg	01/09	9:00 – 1:00	Mecklenburg County Board of Elections – 741 Kenilworth Street, Charlotte
Forsyth	01/13	1:00 – 5:00	Forsyth County Board of Elections – 201 N Chestnut Street, Winston Salem
Surry	01/14	9:00 – 1:00	Surry County Board of Elections – 915 E Atkins Street, Dobson
SBE/Raleigh	01/20	9:00 – 1:00	State Board of Elections – this session will be conducted via webinar (Microsoft Teams)
Graham	01/29	9:00 – 1:00	Graham County Board of Elections – 196 Knight Street, Suite A, Robbinsville
Buncombe	01/30	9:00 – 1:00	East Asheville Public Library – 3 Avon Road, Asheville
SBE/Raleigh	02/03	9:00 – 1:00	State Board of Elections (Dobbs Building – Third Floor) – 430 N Salisbury Street, Raleigh
Scotland	02/05	1:00 – 5:00	Scotland County Annex Building – 231 E Cronly Street, Laurinburg
Columbus	02/06	9:00 – 1:00	Columbus County Board of Elections – 2586 James B White Hwy N, Whiteville
SBE/Raleigh	02/10	9:00 – 1:00	State Board of Elections – this session will be conducted via webinar (Microsoft Teams)
Pitt	02/19	1:00 – 5:00	Pitt County Cultural Arts & Recreation Comm Center – 415 Government Cir, Greenville
Beaufort	02/20	9:00 – 1:00	Beaufort County Board of Elections – 1308 Highland Drive, Suite 104, Washington
SBE/Raleigh	02/26	9:00 – 1:00	State Board of Elections – this session will be conducted via webinar (Microsoft Teams)

*Information about training for Party, Political Action Committees (PAC) and Referendum Committees is available via the following link <http://www.ncsbe.gov/Campaign-Finance/training>

To register for a Mandatory Compliance Training session listed above or online training:

Click on the following link <http://www.ncsbe.gov/Campaign-Finance/training>.

Complete instructions for registering and accessing the training website are included on the next page.

Attendees arriving more than 15 minutes after the session begins may not receive credit & will need to reschedule.

The SBE reserves the right to cancel any session due to low registration, weather, or other unforeseen reasons.

Only attendees that pre-register will be notified of any possible cancellation.

To register for a Campaign Finance Software Training:

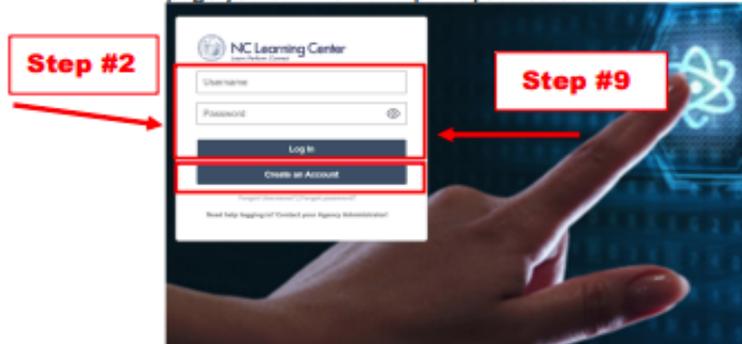
Follow the instructions above to register for Campaign Finance Software Training or email your request to helprequest.SBOE@ncsbe.gov and someone will contact you to assist with scheduling a session.

How to Register & Complete Mandatory Compliance Training (on-line & in-person)

New account users must wait 24–72 hours after creating a user LMS account before all training opportunities will be available for registration. This is a system constraint with no exception.

- To access the training registration, type this link: <https://ncgov.csod.com/> in your Internet browser address bar.
- To create an account, click **"Create an Account"** link. If you already have an account and need assistance to re-activate your account or reset your password, contact the State Board.
- Complete all *required fields to create your new account. **First/Last Name, Email Address, Phone, User ID, EE Code (CF-Elections), Category (Associated State Agency), Association (Elections) and Password** (password requirements: upper & lowercase letters, alpha and numeric characters, must be 10-20 characters, cannot have leading or trailing spaces and cannot be the same as Username, User ID, or email address). Click **Submit**
- From the welcome page, search for training in the upper right corner. Enter the word "campaign" and click the magnifying glass symbol.
- You should see multiple training options on the list. Click on the training title of your preference (NCSBE Candidate Committee Mandatory Campaign Finance Compliance Training) or Mandatory Compliance Training (Candidate, Party, Referendum or Legal Expense Fund Committee). These sessions are either in-person, live webinars or online modules. The classroom/ webinar session has a calendar symbol in red. The online module has a blue computer screen.
- If a **classroom/webinar session** is selected, you will be taken to the next screen to see a list of sessions available and **VIEW DETAILS and REQUEST** the session you would like to attend. The system may not immediately provide you with a listing of session dates to select from. If this happens, **log-out and wait (24-72 hours) to log-in**, the dates should then appear.
- You may be prompted to complete a short form for reporting purposes. **Full Name, Phone Number, Address, and Email Address** are **required fields**. All other fields should be completed if they apply. Click on **SUBMIT**.
- If the **online module** is selected, you will be taken to the next screen, select **REQUEST**.
 - Select **REGISTER**. (The system will process your registration.)
 - Select **LAUNCH**. The course will proceed to load in a new window.
 - There is currently no audio for the on-line training.

- If you need to log back into the NC Learning Center to register or after you have completed the course (either on-line or in-person) you will use the user ID & password that you created. From your transcript page you can view and print your certificate.



* First Name:

* Last Name:

* Email Address:

* Phone:

* User ID:

EE Code (Enter code if provided else):

* Category:

* Association: Select an EE-Reg-Category

* Password:

* Confirm password:

* Passwords must contain both upper and lower case letters.
* Passwords must contain alpha-numeric characters.
* Passwords must be 10-20 characters.
* Passwords cannot have leading or trailing spaces.
* Passwords cannot be the same as the Username, User ID, or email address.

Already a user? [Login here](#)
Return to Home? [Click here](#)

NCSBE - NC State Board of Elections Details

Full Name:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
NCSBE - First Committee Candidate Name:	<input type="text"/>
NCSBE - First County Name:	<input type="text"/>
NCSBE - Second Committee Candidate Name:	<input type="text"/>
NCSBE - Second County Name:	<input type="text"/>
NCSBE - Third Committee Candidate Name:	<input type="text"/>
NCSBE - Third County Name:	<input type="text"/>

Online Module Troubleshooting Notes:

- Ensure all slides are viewed and the last slide plays out automatically.
- If you experience problems with the course launching, please ensure your browser pop-up blocker is turned off for this site.

For assistance email helprequest.SBOE@ncsbe.gov or visit website at: <http://www.ncsbe.gov/Campaign-Finance>



INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTER TO TAKE THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE MANDATORY COMPLIANCE TRAINING

To register for and complete NCSBE Campaign Finance Mandatory Compliance Training (online or in-person), follow these steps:

- 1. After reading through the instructions below, click on the link to access the training registration page (North Carolina Learning Center). New account users must wait 24–72 hours before all training opportunities will be available for registration.**
- 2. To create a new account, click on the link next to the word “Register” on the North Carolina Learning Center website.**
- 3. Complete all *required fields: First/Last Name, Email Address, Phone, User ID (recommended User ID is email address), Category (Associated State Agency), Association (Elections) and Password (password requirements: upper & lowercase letters, alpha and numeric characters, must be 8-20 characters, cannot have leading or trailing spaces and cannot be the same as Username, User ID or email address). Click “Login.”**
- 4. From the Welcome page, search for training in the upper right corner. Enter the word “Campaign” and click the magnifying glass symbol.**
- 5. You should see multiple training options in your list. Click on the training title of your preference (NCSBE Campaign Finance Mandatory Compliance Training), either the classroom or online session. The classroom session has a calendar symbol in red. The online session has a computer screen.**

6. If a classroom session is selected, you will be taken to the next screen to REQUEST the session you would like to attend. The system may not immediately provide you with a list of session dates to select from. If this happens, you will need to log out and wait until the next day (generally 24 hours) to log in, the dates will then be available.

7. You will be prompted to complete a short form for reporting purposes. Full Name, Phone Number, Address and Email Address are required fields. You will also be asked for Committee or Candidate Name and County. These should be completed if applicable. Click "SUBMIT."

8. If online training is selected, you will be taken to the next screen. Select "REQUEST." Then select "REGISTER." The system will process your registration.) Then select "LAUNCH." The course will proceed to load in a new window. There is currently no audio for the online training.

9. If you encounter a problem viewing the training website or loading the training presentation, the following troubleshooting tips may provide assistance.

10. If you are unable to open the training website it may be because you have a pop-up blocker for security reasons on your computer. You will need to configure your pop-up blocker to allow access to the training website.

11. If you need to return to the course or after you have completed it (either online or in-person) you will use the User ID and password that you created to log back in to view and print your certificate from the transcript page.

What is 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
- Pre-Marked Sample Ballots
- Outdoor Advertising Facilities
- Radio Ads
- Television Ads
- Billboards
- Sound-Truck Ads
- Airplane Streamers
- Portable Signs
- Pamphlets
- Fliers
- Mass Mailings
- Cards
- Campaign Literature

Doesn't Requires 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 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 early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 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 on Private Property will not be held to the guidelines below. Signs can go up 30 days before the beginning of Early Voting, and they are to be taken down within 10 days of Election Day. Please reference the following schedule:

Elections Sign Dates

Election Date:	March 3, 2026	November 3, 2026
Signs can go Up:	January 13, 2026	September 15, 2026
Signs need to be Down By:	March 13, 2026	November 13, 2026

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.





NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

LITTERING STATUTES

P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC
27611-7255
Mailing Address

elections.sboe
@ncsbe.gov
E-mail

(919) 814-0700 or
(866) 522-4723
Phone

(919) 715-0135
Fax

Last Updated: 07/2025

Regulation of Signs

§ 136-32. Regulation of signs

(a) Commercial Signs. - No unauthorized person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any warning or direction sign, marker, signal or light or imitation of any official sign, marker, signal or light erected under the provisions of G.S. 136-30, except in cases of emergency. No person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political advertising, except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this section: Provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the erection or maintenance of signs, markers, or signals bearing thereon the name of an organization authorized to erect the same by the Department of Transportation or by any local authority referred to in G.S. 136-31. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the deadline established in subsections (b) and (b1) of this section.

(b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. - During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of early voting under G.S. 163-166.40 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. Any political sign remaining in the right-of-way of the State highway system more than 30 days after the end of the period prescribed in this subsection shall be deemed unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person may remove and dispose of such political sign without penalty.

(b1) Compliant Farm Signs Permitted. - During a farm's seasonal operation, persons may place farm 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 farm's season. Any farm sign remaining in the right-of-way of the State highway system more than 30 days after the end of the period prescribed in this subsection shall be deemed unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person may remove and dispose of the farm sign without penalty.

(c) Definitions. - For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) Farm. - Any property that is used for a bona fide farm purpose as provided in G.S. 106-581.1.

(2) Farm sign. - A sign that advertises a farm, products grown, raised, or produced on a farm, or services provided on a farm; or that provides customers with directions to a farm.

(3) Political sign. - Any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

(d) Sign Placement. - The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

(1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.

(2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.

(3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.

(4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.

(5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.

(6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

(e) Penalties for Unlawful Removal of Signs. - It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

(f) Application Within Municipalities. - Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality. Any such ordinance shall provide that any political sign that remains in a right-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality more than 30 days after the end of the period prescribed in the ordinance is to be deemed unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person may remove and dispose of such political sign without penalty. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall apply. (1921, c. 2, s. 9(b); C.S., s. 3846(r); 1927, c. 148, ss. 56, 58; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 39; 1993, c. 539, s. 981; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2011-408, s. 1; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 6.1; 2019-119, s. 1; 2023-63, s. 2; 2023-140, s. 42.)

Signs at the § 163-129 Structure at voting place; marking off limits of voting place.

**voting
place.**

...

(d) The county board of elections shall ensure that each precinct voting place permits candidates at least 36 hours prior to the opening of the voting place and at least 36 hours after the close of the voting place, as provided in G.S.163-166.25, to place and retrieve political advertising. Any political advertising placed outside the times specified in this subsection may be removed by the property owner. (1929, c. 164, s. 17; 1967, c. 775, s. 1; 1973, c. 793, s. 54; 1983, c. 411, s. 3; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 762, s. 34; 1999-426, s. 5(a); 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-146, s. 3.1(a), (b); 2019-119, s. 1.5(a); 2019-119, s. 1.5.)

Signs Within 19A NCAC 02E .0415 Advertising Signs Within Right of Way

**Right of
Way**

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to erect, place, or allow any advertising, or other sign, except regulation traffic and warning signs approved by the Department, on any highway or the right-of-way thereof, or so as to overhang the right-of-way, or to permit the erection or placing of any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, on any highway right-of-way which is situated over any land owned, rented, leased, or claimed by such person, firm, or corporation. History Note: Authority G.S. 136-18(10); 136-30; Eff. July 1, 1978.

The Law on Electioneering

163-166.4: 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 DURING EARLY VOTING, DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS FOR STAFF AND VOTERS AFTER DARK. HOWEVER, TENTS ARE ALLOWED ON ELECTION DAY.



Electioneering in Scotland County

In Scotland County, interest in electioneering has increased tremendously and as a 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 rule 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, the assistant to the director, or an election board member, 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.*

Voter Assistance - What is it and who is Eligible?

A voter in any of the following categories is entitled to assistance from a person of the voter's choice, excluding their employer or agent of the employer or an officer or agent of the voter's union:

Having a disability that doesn't allow them to enter or exit a voting booth without assistance.

Having a disability that doesn't allow them to mark their ballot without assistance.

Unable to mark their ballot without assistance due to illiteracy.

Unable to mark his or her ballot without assistance due to blindness.

A qualified voter seeking assistance in an election shall, upon arriving at the voting place, request permission from the chief judge to have assistance, stating the reasons. If the chief judge determines that such assistance is appropriate, the chief judge shall ask the voter to point out and identify the person the voter desires to provide such assistance. If the identified person meets the criteria in subsection (a) of this section, the chief judge shall request the person indicated to render the assistance. The chief judge, one of the judges, or one of the assistants may provide aid to the voter if so requested, if the election official is not prohibited by subdivision (a) (2) of this section. Under no circumstances shall any precinct official be assigned to assist a voter qualified for assistance, who was not specified by the voter.

A person rendering assistance to a voter in an election shall be admitted to the voting booth with the voter being assisted. The State Board of Elections shall promulgate rules governing voter assistance, and those rules shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The person rendering assistance shall not in any manner seek to persuade or induce any voter to cast any vote in any particular way.
2. The person rendering assistance shall not make or keep any memorandum of anything which occurs within the voting booth.
3. The person rendering assistance shall not, directly or indirectly, reveal to any person how the assisted voter marked ballots, unless the person rendering assistance is called upon to testify in a judicial proceeding for a violation of the election laws.

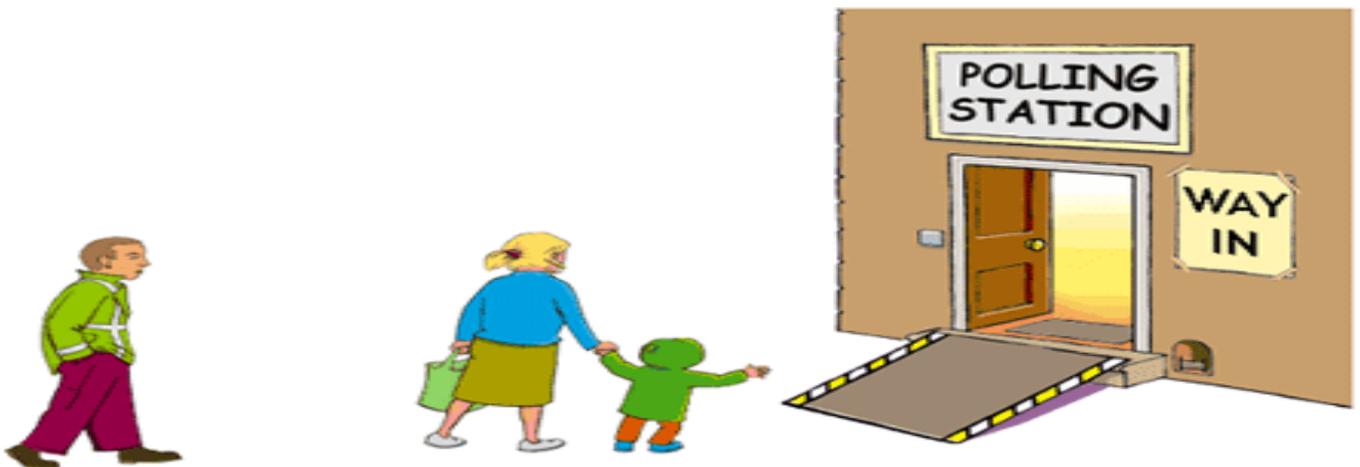
Who is allowed inside the polling place?

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 163-87 or G.S 163-88.
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

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 VOTER'S NEAR RELATIVE OR VERIFIABLE LEGAL GUARDIAN
3. M.A.T. TEAM (MULTIPARTISAN TEAM APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS)
4. PERSON AUTHORIZED BY VOTER IF VOTER IS DISABLED

ABSENTEE REQUEST FORMS

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

BEFORE RETURNING AN ABSENTEE BY MAIL BALLOT

CHECK THE FOLLOWING:

1. VOTER SECTION OF THE RETURN ENVELOPE IS SIGNED BY THE VOTER ONLY.
2. WITNESS SECTION OF THE RETURN ENVELOPE HAS BEEN COMPLETED BY TWO (2) WITNESSES OR A NOTARY.
3. IF THE VOTER REQUIRED VOTER ASSISTANCE MAKE SURE VOTER ASSISTANCE SECTION OF THE RETURN ENVELOPE HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
4. ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE VOTER'S PHOTO ID OR A COMPLETED AFFIDAVIT.

ABSENTEE BALLOT VIOLATION INFO

G.S. 163-237

Certain violations of absentee ballot law made criminal offenses:

- (a) **False Statements under Oath made a Class 1 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, that person shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- (b) **False statement Not under oath made Class 1 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, that person shall be guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor.
- (c) **Candidate Witnessing Absentee Ballots of Nonrelative Made Class 1 Misdemeanor-** A Person is guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor if that person acts as a witness under G.S 163-231(a) in any primary or 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 163-226(f).
- (d) **Fraud in Connection with Absentee Vote; Forgery.** – Any person attempting to aid and abet fraud in connection with any absentee vote cast or 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 G felony.
- (e) **Violations Not Otherwise Provided for Made Class 1 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, that person shall be guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

NEAR RELATIVES ARE:

- Spouse
- Sibling
- Child / Step Child / Grandchild
- Parent / Step Parent / Grandparent
 - Son/Daughter-in-law

NORTH CAROLINA

Voter **Photo ID** Requirement

Beginning with the 2023 municipal elections, North Carolina voters will be asked to show photo ID when they check in to vote. Voters who vote by mail will be asked to include a photocopy of an acceptable ID when returning their ballot by mail.



For detailed information about the photo ID requirement, go to ncsbe.gov/voter-ID.



WHAT PHOTO ID CAN I USE?

Any of the following that is, **unexpired or expired for one year or less**:

- North Carolina Driver's License
- U.S. Passport/U.S. Passport Card
- State ID ("non-operator ID"), from the NCDMV
- NC Voter Photo ID card, issued by a county board of elections (*available soon*)
- College/university student ID approved by NCSBE
- Charter school employee ID approved by NCSBE
- State/local government employee ID approved by NCSBE
- Driver's license/non-driver ID from another state, D.C. or U.S. territory (*only if voter registered in NC within 90 days of election*)

Any of the following, **regardless of whether the ID contains an expiration or issuance date**:

- Military or veteran ID card issued by the U.S. government
- Tribal enrollment card issued by a State or federally recognized tribe
- ID card issued by a U.S. government agency or the State of NC for a public assistance program

Note: Voters ages 65+ may use an expired ID if it was unexpired on their 65th birthday.

To see the complete list of acceptable photo ID's and details on how to request State Board approval for student and employee ID's, visit ncsbe.gov/voter-ID.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A PHOTO ID?

All voters **will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID**. If any voter is unable to show a photo ID when voting, they may:

FREE PHOTO ID CARDS

Any North Carolina resident can get a free non-driver's ID from the NCDMV. All county boards of elections will soon be able to issue free voter photo IDs to registered voters in their county. County board contact information can be found at [vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo](https://www.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo).



Vote with a **Provisional Ballot**, and...



Complete an
ID Exception Form



Return to the elections office with ID
by the day before county canvass.

On the form, the voter will **choose from the following permitted exceptions**:

- Voter has a "reasonable impediment" preventing them from showing ID.
- Voter has a religious objection to being photographed.
- Voter was a victim of a natural disaster within 100 days before Election Day.

Information regarding North Carolina's voter ID requirement is updated frequently; for the latest guidance on this law, acceptable types of photo ID, voting procedures, exceptions and more, visit [ncsbe.gov/voter-ID](https://www.ncsbe.gov/voter-ID).

This resource was last updated: July 1st, 2023.

SCOTLAND COUNTY

Polling Place Locations

Early Voting Site

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

Precinct 1: 01-16

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

Precinct 2: 02-25

**South Johnson Elementary School Gym
13100 Old Johns Road, Laurinburg, NC 28352**

Precinct 3: 03-03

**Scotland Place
1210 Turnpike Road, Laurinburg, NC 28352**

Precinct 4: 04-04

**National Guard Armory
1520 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352**

Precinct 5: 05-10

**Gibson Fire Station
6280 Gibson Road, Gibson, NC 28343**

Precinct 6: 06-89

**Laurel Hill Community Center
14940 Church Street, Laurel Hill, NC 28351**

Precinct 7: 07-07

**Wagram Recreation Center
24441 Marlboro Street, Wagram, NC 28396**