



VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IN THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION

REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

Any North Carolina registered voter who is qualified to vote in an election may request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot. No special circumstances or reasons are needed to receive and vote a mail-in absentee ballot.

- Any registered voter who thinks he/she might want to vote by mail-in, absentee ballot must first complete the State Absentee Ballot Request Form.
- To access the State Absentee Ballot Request Form, a voter may download the form from the Board of Election website (either county or state BOE), or call the BOE to ask that a form be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the voter.
- By September 1, the State Board of Elections will provide a secure internet website for requesting an absentee ballot.
- The only way for a voter to receive the actual mail-in absentee ballot for an election is for a voter or the voter's near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild) or legal guardian to complete and submit the State Absentee Ballot Request Form to request the ballot.
- Submitting an Absentee Ballot Request Form does NOT commit a voter to voting an absentee ballot. Any voter may request an absentee ballot and then decide to vote in-person. The unused Absentee Ballot can be returned to the BOE or discarded.

Completing the State Absentee Ballot Request Form

The following information is required to complete the absentee ballot:

- the name and address of the voter
- the name and address of the voter's near relative or legal guardian if that individual is making the request
- the voter's address to which the application and ballot are to be mailed if different from the voter's residence address

One of the following types of identification numbers for the voter:

- North Carolina driver's license
- last four digits of Social Security Number
- North Carolina special identification card for non-operators

Other required information:

- the voter's date of birth
- signature of the voter or the voter's near relative or legal guardian if that individual is making the request
- clear indication of the date of the election for the requested absentee ballot

Submitting the Absentee Ballot Request: Choose one of the following three ways to submit the Absentee Ballot Request form.

- The voter, a near relative of the voter, or a legal guardian of the voter may hand-deliver the absentee ballot request to the voter's county Board of Elections - NOT the State Board of Elections.
- The completed absentee ballot request can be emailed or faxed to the voter's county Board of Elections - NOT the State Board of Elections.
- Completed absentee ballot requests can be mailed to the voter's county Board of Elections - NOT the State Board of Elections.

Deadline for submission: 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the date of the election for which the ballot is being requested (Tuesday, October 27).

Contact Information for Henderson County Board of Elections

Address: 75 E. Central Street Hendersonville, NC 28792

Hours: M - F 8:30 - 5:00

Mailing Address: PO Box 2090 Hendersonville, NC 28793

Phone: 828-697-4970 Fax: 828- 697-4590

Email: hcelections@hendersoncountync.gov

Email for Absentee Ballot Requests: vorr@hendersoncountync.gov

COMPLETING THE ABSENTEE BALLOT:

Assistance:

If a voter needs assistance to complete the ballot, the person providing that assistance must be at least 18 years old and may not be a candidate for nomination or election to an office unless the voter is a near relative of the candidate.

Witness Information:

For November 2020, only ONE witness is required for an absentee ballot.

What is required is that the witness sees that the voter is voting the ballot. A witness should not observe so closely that they can see what votes the voter marked.

A witness must be at least 18 years old and may not be a candidate for nomination or election to an office unless the voter is a near relative of the candidate.

Witness and Assistant Certification:

After observing the voter marking the ballot, the voter's one witness for this election must sign the envelope in the space designated as Witnesses' Certification. The witness then needs to print their name and address in the designated spaces.

If any person assisted the voter, that person must sign and date the certificate in the proper place on the envelope.

Final Steps:

Once the ballot is completed, the voter (or the person assisting the voter) must seal the ballot in the container-return envelope.

The voter must complete the Absentee Application and Certificate on the ballot-return envelope.

RETURNING THE ABSENTEE BALLOT:

The completed ballot, sealed in the container-return envelope with the necessary signatures, can be returned by mail. Mailed ballots received after 5 p.m. on Election Day will be accepted and counted **ONLY** if they are received by mail no later than 5 p.m. on the third day following the date of the election and postmarked on or before Election Day.

The completed ballot may also be delivered in person to the Board of Elections **OR** to an open early voting site during the early voting period by **ONLY** the voter or the voter's near relative. If a completed ballot is returned by a person, it must be returned to the county Board of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day.

The envelope to return the voted ballot will have a bar code to allow both the county Board of Elections and the voter to track the ballot following the return of the voted ballot to the county Board of Elections by the voter.

For more information, go to LWVHCNC.org.