

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register to vote if you are:

- a citizen of the United States.
- a person 18 years of age or older.
- a person 17 years of age who will be 18 by the date of the general election.
- a legal resident of Buncombe County.
- not a convicted felon.
- a person 16 or 17 years of age but who is otherwise qualified to register may *preregister* to vote.

Please call 250-4200 for preregistration details.

Buncombe County has a permanent registration system. You need to register only if you:

- have not previously registered in Buncombe County.
- your Buncombe County registration has been cancelled because you registered in another county or state.
- your voter registration has been cancelled because you were convicted of a felony and your citizenship rights have now been restored.

You need to update your registration if you:

- have moved within Buncombe County since you registered.
- have changed your name.
- wish to change your party affiliation.

A voter registration card will be mailed to you: once your registration has been processed. **Keep the card** as a reference for your election districts and voting location. You may use this card to change your address or party affiliation. You do not need to present this card to vote.

PARTY AFFILIATION

You may register with any political party recognized in the State of North Carolina. Party affiliation determines the partisan primary in which a voter is eligible to vote. You may also register as unaffiliated. If you do not declare a party, you will be registered as unaffiliated. During a partisan primary election, an unaffiliated voter must select which party's primary they wish to vote, in order to participate in the partisan races.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

2012 Primary Election

If mailed, the registration form must be postmarked Friday, **April 13, 2012.**

2012 General Election

If mailed, the registration form must be postmarked Friday, **October 12, 2012.**

Hand delivered forms must be received by Election Services office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the respective registration deadline.

For exceptions, please see Same Day Registration in the Early Voting section.

REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

You may register to vote, make changes to your registration information, or obtain a mail-in registration form at the following locations in Buncombe County:

- Election Services – 35 Woodfin Street
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Public Libraries
- Public High Schools
- Various Town Halls

or when receiving services at the following public service agencies:

- Drivers License Offices
- Public Assistance Agencies
- Agencies Serving Persons with Disabilities

Deceased Voter

Election Services must have official notification from a near relative (spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, brother, or sister), or from the Dept of Health and Human Services to remove a person's name from the registration records. Please call (828) 250-4200 for more information.

BALLOTS BY MAIL

Every voter in the state of North Carolina is permitted to vote absentee by mail, or in person, without an excuse. Therefore, you need not be sick or disabled to request a ballot for absentee voting.

Requests by Mail

Send a written request to the office of Election Services or call (828) 250-4200 to request an absentee ballot request form.

A written request must include full name, residential address, mailing address, telephone number, date of birth and voter signature. A written request is only valid if it is signed and written in its entirety by the requester. Requests must be received by Election Services office no later than 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the election. After the request is processed, a ballot will be mailed to the voter.

Near Relative Request

A near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, or verifiable legal guardian) may request in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday prior to the election, an Absentee Request on your behalf. After the request is processed, a ballot will be mailed to the voter.

If a voter becomes ill after the Tuesday deadline, a qualified near relative can come into the office and apply for a ballot for the voter and a ballot will be issued at that time. **A voted ballot must be returned by the voter or the voter's near relative.**

Returning Voted Ballots

The voted ballot must be returned to the Election Services office by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

MORE ABSENTEE VOTING LAWS

It is declared a Class I felony for any owner, manager, director, employee or other person other than the voter's near relative or legal guardian to make a written request or mark or assist in marking the voter's absentee ballot on behalf of a registered voter who is a patient in any hospital, clinic, nursing home or rest home in this State or for any owner, manager, director, employee, or other person other than the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to mark the voter's absentee ballot or assist such a voter in marking an absentee ballot.

Nursing homes and rest home facilities may request a bi-partisan team trained by the Election Services office to assist voters with absentee ballots. Please call our office for details.

It is declared a Class I felony for any person to take into that person's possession for delivery to a voter or for return to a county board of elections, the absentee ballot of any voter, provided however, that this prohibition shall not apply to a voter's near-relative or the voter's verifiable legal guardian.

The absentee ballot request application must be signed only by the voter or the voter's near relative as defined under Near Relative Request. **Power of Attorney does not apply and will not be accepted for the absentee voting by mail process.**

If you have additional questions about absentee voting by mail, please call the Election Services office at (828) 250-4200.

Vote Early In Person!

“One-Stop Voting”

2012 Primary Election

Beginning: Thursday, April 19, 2012

Monday thru Friday

Ending: Saturday, May 5, 2012

Call 250-4200 or check our website for Early Voting Locations.

2012 General Election

Beginning: Thursday, October 18, 2012

Monday thru Friday

Ending: Saturday, November 3, 2012

Call 250-4200 or check our website for Early Voting Locations.

SAME DAY REGISTRATION

Voters may apply to register to vote and cast a ballot on the same day during the one-stop voting period.

The one-stop “in-person” absentee voting process permits voting in person at any of the designated remote locations.

Many long term care facilities will take advantage of the one-stop voting process. The following suggestions are offered in an effort to promote a positive voting experience:

- **Curbside voting** is available for handicapped residents who might have difficulty getting into the one-stop voting location. Look for the curbside parking space to activate the curbside bell.
- Consider calling ahead to alert the Elections personnel so that they can be prepared for the number of residents that will arrive to vote early.
- Please encourage staff and residents to call the Election Services office at 250-4200, ahead of time to resolve questions in regard to voter eligibility.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

To vote in Buncombe County you must:

- have been a county resident for 30 days by the date of the election.
- be registered to vote in Buncombe County.

You will be assigned a voting location within the precinct where you live when you register or when you notify Election Services of an address change within Buncombe County.

At the Voting Place

Upon entering the voting place, give your name, address and party (partisan primary election only) to the precinct election officials. If you are properly registered, you will be given the appropriate ballot. If there is a problem with your registration, you will be given a *PROVISIONAL BALLOT*; this allows Election Services an opportunity to verify your registration status.

Transfer Voting

If you have moved within Buncombe County more than 30 days prior to an election and failed to notify Election Services, it is a violation of the law to return to your old precinct and vote. *There are procedures that will allow you to vote in your new precinct.* Call Election Services for further information.

Curbside Voting

If you are unable to enter the voting place because of a physical disability, you will be allowed to vote either in your vehicle or immediately outside the voting place. Look for the curbside parking space to activate the curbside bell or have someone come inside to inform our workers of your desire to vote in this manner.

2012 Elections

Primary Election

May 8, 2012

General Election

November 6, 2012

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Be aware the NC Legislature may consider election law changes during the Feb 16, April 23, and May 16, 2012 short sessions. Law changes may make this guide and dates obsolete.

2012 VOTING GUIDE



BUNCOMBE COUNTY
Election Services

35 Woodfin Street
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

PO BOX 7468

Asheville, NC 28802

(828) 250-4200

FAX (828) 250-6262

WWW.BUNCOMBECOUNTY.ORG/VOTE

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