

# Absentee Ballots (Voting by Mail)

## Frequently asked Questions (FAQ)

A few of the FAQ questions about Voter Registration on the BoE website are answered here. Go to this link to see answers to all questions.

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/vote-mail/faq-voting-mail#when-can-i-request-my-ballot-for-the-2022-statewide-primary>

### *How do I request my absentee ballot?*

Registered voters in North Carolina must request an absentee ballot with an official N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form. There are two ways to access and submit the form:

1. Online with “Option 1 – Request an Absentee Ballot” at the [N.C. Absentee Ballot Portal](#).
2. On paper with:
  - The [English N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form for 2022 \(fillable PDF\)](#) or
  - The [English N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form for 2022 \(non-fillable print-only PDF\)](#) or
  - The **Spanish N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form for 2022** (download coming in 2022).

The form comes with detailed instructions. After completing, submit the form to your [county board of elections](#):

- In person, or
- By mail via the U.S. Postal Service, DHL, FedEx, or UPS.

You can download and print the forms from here:

- **English N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form for 2022**  
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/Forms/English-Fillable-2022-Absentee-Ballot-Request-Form.pdf>
- **English N.C. Absentee Ballot Request Form for 2022 (non-fillable print-only PDF)**  
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/Forms/English-Non-Fillable-2022-Absentee-Ballot-Request-Form.pdf>

### *Can I fax or email my absentee ballot request form to my county board of elections?*

No. State law does not permit voters to fax or email absentee ballot requests.

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## ***When can I request my ballot for the 2022 statewide primary?***

You can request an absentee ballot for the 2022 statewide primary now until the deadline.

Your [county board of elections](#) must receive your request form by **5 p.m. on May 10, 2022**, one week before Election Day.

Please include enough time for your request to be received by the deadline if you submit the request form by mail. The State Board encourages voters to request their absentee ballot as early as possible to ensure enough time to complete and return the ballot. Requests received after the deadline will not be processed.

## ***How can I return my absentee ballot?***

Absentee ballots may be returned:

1. **By mail.**
2. **By commercial courier service.** (DHL, FedEx, or UPS.)
3. **In person at your county board of elections office.**
4. **In person at an open early voting site in your county.** You can find early voting sites in your county by using the [One-Stop Early Voting Site Search](#). You may *not* return an absentee ballot to a polling place on Election Day.

## ***May two people return their ballots in the same envelope?***

No. The returned ballot envelope is specific to each voter and must contain only that voter's ballot.

## ***Can someone request an absentee ballot for me?***

Yes. Your near relative or verifiable legal guardian may request a ballot for you. A near relative is your:

- Spouse
- Brother
- Sister
- Parent
- Grandparent
- Child
- Grandchild
- Mother-in-law
- Father-in-law
- Daughter-in-law
- Son-in-law
- Stepparent
- Stepchild

# Absentee Ballots (Voting by Mail)

## ***What if a voter in a hospital, nursing home or other facility needs assistance voting by mail?***

Any registered voter in a facility may request assistance from a Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT).

- A MAT is a group appointed by a county board of elections to assist voters in facilities with mail-in absentee voting.
- To schedule a MAT visit, contact your county board of elections.

Certain persons are prohibited from providing assistance to voters in care facilities. For more information, please visit [Assistance for Voters in Care Facilities](#).

## ***May I return my friends' and neighbors' absentee ballots?***

No. You may only return someone's ballot if they are a near relative or verifiable legal guardian. A near relative is your:

- Spouse
- Brother
- Sister
- Parent
- Grandparent
- Child
- Grandchild
- Mother-in-law
- Father-in-law
- Daughter-in-law
- Son-in-law
- Stepparent
- Stepchild

## ***May another person return my absentee ballot for me?***

Yes, but only if that person is a legal guardian or near relative. A near relative is your:

- Spouse
- Brother
- Sister
- Parent
- Grandparent
- Child
- Grandchild
- Mother-in-law
- Father-in-law
- Daughter-in-law
- Son-in-law
- Stepparent
- Stepchild

County boards of elections keep track of who drops off each absentee ballot.

# Absentee Ballots (Voting by Mail)

## *Is absentee voting by mail safe?*

The following is a statement from the State Board of Elections office about the security of absentee voting by mail in North Carolina. This statement can be found here:

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/news/press-releases/2020/07/31/statement-about-absentee-ballot-security-north-carolina>

Across North Carolina, election officials have worked for many months to ensure accessible, safe and accurate elections in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are 12 reasons why absentee by-mail voting is safe and secure in North Carolina:

1. Election officials send ballots only to registered voters who request them using official request forms.
2. The voter or their near relative must fill out and sign the request form. Required information includes the voter's date of birth and the voter's driver's license number or last four digits of their Social Security number.
3. Fraudulently or falsely completing the form is a Class I felony.
4. In 2020, voters must vote their ballot in the presence of one witness. The witness must sign the absentee return envelope, certifying that the voter marked their ballot and is the registered voter submitting the ballot.
5. Only the voter or their near relative or legal guardian may return the ballot. County boards of elections keep a log of who drops off absentee ballots.
6. Upon return, the county board of elections reviews the absentee envelope to ensure compliance with the legal requirements.
7. Once the ballot is accepted, that voter is marked in the system as having voted in that election. If that voter tries to vote in person, poll workers will know the person has already submitted an absentee ballot.
8. Data on who has requested absentee ballots is now confidential until Election Day. This reduces the ability of third parties to attempt to tamper with ballots, as they will not know who has requested a ballot or when ballots are sent out.
9. Criminal penalties have been increased for absentee voting fraud-related offenses.
10. Many people are watching North Carolina's absentee voting process, including candidates, political parties, county boards of elections, political and data scientists and the media. If there are anomalies or questionable activities, they will be reported to election officials.
11. The State Board Investigations Division, which has a dedicated team of experienced investigators, investigates credible allegations of election fraud and refers cases to prosecutors when warranted by findings.
12. The State Board conducts post-election audits which will catch inconsistencies which can then be investigated by the board or the Investigations Division.