



2016 Student Voting Guide for North Carolina

Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

- Statewide Primary —Tuesday, March 15th
- General Election—Tuesday, November 8th
- Registration Deadline: Registrations must be received or postmarked 25 days before Election Day.
 - Feb. 19th for the Primary and October 14th for the General.
- Early Voting: Voting starts at “one-stop” absentee voting sites as early as the second Thursday before Election Day. Early voting ends at 1 p.m. the Saturday before Election Day. Check with your county elections office for your “one-stop” voting location(s).

Voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information can be found at <http://www.ncsbe.gov/ncsbe>

Register at School or Home?

Students have a choice about where to register to vote:

School residence:

- Students attending college in North Carolina may register to vote at their school address if they presently intend to make it their residence and to return there after any temporary absence like summer vacation. They do not have to plan to reside at that address permanently or after graduation.

Home residence:

- Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address in North Carolina or outside the state if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.
- North Carolina residents who move away for college can keep their North Carolina voting residency so long as they still consider North Carolina the location of their primary residence and do not register or declare residency elsewhere. These students may request to vote early by mail.

For other state’s registration information visit:
www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides

What Type of ID Do I Need to Register?

- North Carolina's voter registration form asks for your North Carolina driver's license or ID number, or the last four digits of your Social Security Number. Failure to provide this information could lead to you having to show additional identification when you vote that shows your picture or your name and address. Make sure to provide this information on the registration form so the state can verify your identity and you don't run into problems when you cast your ballot.

What Type of ID Do I Need to Vote?

Beginning in 2016, voters will be required to show a photo ID when they vote at the polls. A list of acceptable IDs are:

- NC drivers license or non-drivers ID card
- US passport
- US military or veteran ID card
- Tribal enrollment card issued by a federal or NC recognized tribe
- A drivers license or non-drivers ID card issued by another state, but only if the voter registered within 90 days of the election.

However, you may vote without a photo ID in 2016 if you have a "reasonable impediment" to obtaining one.

See voterid.nc.gov/ for more information.

The Higher Education Act requires most colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to every student.

Does yours?

www.campusvoteproject.org

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Where Do I Vote?

- Polling place locator online at http://www.ncsbe.gov/webapps/pollingplace_search/ through the State Board of Elections website.
- Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. You can no longer cast a ballot in the wrong precinct in North Carolina, make sure you are at the precinct where you are registered to vote.

Common Questions

Will voting in North Carolina affect my federal financial aid?

Where you register to vote will not affect federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins or Stafford loans or your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in North Carolina?

Generally, no. If you receive scholarship money from a state, county, town, or a private entity (i.e., an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in North Carolina will not affect your eligibility.

Will registering to vote in North Carolina affect my driver's license or car registration?

Registering to vote does not affect driver's license or car registration, but individuals are required to obtain a North Carolina driver's license within 60 days of establishing residency in the state. For more information, students may wish to contact the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

Will registering to vote in North Carolina prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

Does being an out-of-state student for tuition purposes affect my right to vote in my college community?

No. You may choose to vote in your college community or back home regardless of your tuition status.

This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in North Carolina and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed North Carolina legal professional.

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How Can I Vote?

By Mail

- All registered voters may request and vote by absentee ballot. A [State Absentee Ballot request form](#) is available at the State Board of Elections website or at your county board of elections office. Requests must be received by the county board of elections by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before Election Day.
- Completed absentee ballots must be:
 - Received by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day, or
 - Postmarked on or before Election Day and received by 5:00 p.m. on the third day after Election Day.

Early In Person

- All registered voters may vote early at a one-stop absentee voting site beginning on the second Thursday before Election Day. Check with your county board of elections for one-stop voting locations and hours.
- **Please note that you may no longer register to vote during the one-stop early voting period.** However, if you are already registered to vote in that county and wish to update your registration information, you may do so during the one-stop early voting period.

On Election Day at the Polls

- The polls are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.