

Early Voting Statutes and Information

The information below provides statutory guidelines, North Carolina State Board of Elections directives, and county staff information regarding the selection of early voting locations, dates, and times for the 2019 municipal elections.

Voting Location and Schedule Requirements

- **First and Last Days of Early Voting**

NCGS §163A-1300(b) requires that early voting begin no earlier than the third Wednesday before the election and end on the last Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Session Law 2018-129 §1(b) requires that early voting begin no earlier than the third Wednesday before the election and not later than 1:00 P.M. on the last Saturday before the election. A county board of elections shall conduct one-stop voting on the last Saturday before the election from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. and may conduct one-stop early voting until 5:00 P.M. on that Saturday. The requirement set forth in Session Law 2018-129 §1(b) expired on January 1, 2019 as set forth in Session Law 2018-129 §1(c).

- **Board of Elections Office Voting Location**

NCGS §163A-1300(e)

- The voter shall vote that voter's absentee ballot in a voting booth in the office of the county board of elections. . . provided however, that the county board of elections may in the alternative provide a private room for the voter adjacent to the office of the board, in which case the voter shall vote that voter's absentee ballot in that room.

- **Board of Elections Office "In Lieu of" Voting Location**

NCGS §163A-1303(a)

- A county board of elections may propose in its Plan not to offer one-stop voting at the county board of elections office; the State Board may approve that proposal in a Plan only if the Plan includes at least one site reasonably proximate to the county board of elections office and the State Board finds that the sites in the Plan as a whole provide adequate coverage of the county's electorate.

- **Board of Elections Office Voting Hours**

NCGS §163A-1300(h)

- A county board of elections may conduct one-stop absentee voting during evenings or on weekends, as long as the hours are part of a plan submitted and approved according to NCGS §163A-1303.

- **Early Voting Location Requirements**

NCGS §163A-1303(c)

- (1) Each one-stop site across the county shall be open at the same location during the period required by §163A-1300(b).
- (2) If any one-stop site across the county is opened on any day during the period required by §163A-1300(b), all one stop sites shall be open on that day.
- (3) On each weekday during the period required by §163A-1300(b), all one-stop sites shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- (4) If the county board of elections opens one-stop sites on Saturdays during the period required by §163A-1300(b), then all one-stop sites shall be open for the same number of hours uniformly throughout the county on those Saturdays.
- (5) If the county board of elections opens one-stop sites on Sundays during the period required by §163A-1300(b), then all one-stop sites shall be open for the same number of hours uniformly throughout the county on those Sundays."

Voting Site Requirements

- **Statutory Requirements**

- NCGS §163A-1046(b) requires each location to have adequate voter parking available.
- NCGS §163A-1140 requires each location to provide an area for curbside voting.
- NCGS §163A-1134(e) requires each location to provide an area for campaigning 50 feet from the facility entrance.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and North Carolina State Board of Elections Numbered Memo 2003-08 require each location to be fully accessible. This includes the voting room, pathways to the voting room, and the parking lot.

- **Use of Tax Supported Facilities**

NCGS §163A-1303(b) requires that requests to use tax supported facilities must be made at least 90 days prior to the start of early voting. The facility has 20 days to respond. If the entity in control of the facility does not respond, the facility may be used. If the entity responds negatively, the county board and the entity must work together to identify a facility. If no facility is agreed upon within 45 days from receipt of the negative response, the matter will be heard by the State Board of Elections.

County Board Deadlines

- **Board Resolution and Implementation Plan**

County boards are required to submit a Board resolution listing voting locations, dates, and times, along with an Implementation Plan, prior to each election. The State Board of Elections sets a deadline for submission of these documents each election. A deadline has not yet been announced for the 2019 municipal elections.