

North Carolina 2026 Elections

On this page, find details about the upcoming statewide general election on **Nov. 3, 2026**.

Voting in the 2026 election officially begins on Sept. 4, with the initial sending of absentee ballots to voters who requested them. That is followed by in-person early voting (Oct. 15 to Oct. 31), and, of course, Election Day.

Statewide General Election

The statewide general election is **Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026**. This election is also known as the “midterm,” as it is held two years (mid-way) into the four-year U.S. presidential term. Seats up for election include:

- One U.S. Senate seat
- 14 U.S. House seats
- 1 N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice seat
- 3 N.C. Court of Appeals Judge seats
- [Statewide referendum](#)
- 50 N.C. Senate seats
- 120 N.C. House seats
- Local judges and district attorneys
- County offices like sheriffs, county commissioners, and Board of Education members
- Municipal elections in some jurisdictions

Find lists of candidates and referendums on the 2026 ballot at [Candidate Lists](#).

Voter Dates and Deadlines

Below are important voter dates and deadlines for the 2026 general election in North Carolina:

- **Sept. 4:** Absentee ballots must be available and distributed to military and overseas voters. For more, see [Vote by Mail](#).
- **Oct. 9:** Voter registration deadline (5 p.m.).* For more, see [How to Register](#).
- **Oct. 15:** In-person early voting begins; same-day registration available. For more, see [Vote Early in Person](#).
- **Oct. 20:** Absentee ballot request deadline (5 p.m.).*
- **Oct. 31:** In-person early voting ends (3 p.m.).
- **Nov. 3:** Election Day. For more, see [Vote in Person on Election Day](#).
- **Nov. 3:** Absentee ballot return deadline (7:30 p.m.).*

Find other important dates for the election on our web calendar: [Voter Dates & Deadlines](#).

**Voter registration and absentee voting deadlines are different for [military and overseas citizen voters](#).*

Important Tips for Voters

- **Need to register or update your registration?** See [How to Register](#) or [Updating Registration](#).
 - **Check your registration:** Voters can check to make sure their registration information is accurate and up to date using the [Voter Search](#) tool. There, you can also find your polling place, party affiliation, absentee ballot information, and more.
 - **Find your sample ballot:** All eligible, registered voters will find their sample ballot(s) in the “Your Sample Ballot” section of their [Voter Search](#) profile when sample ballots become available.
 - **Don’t forget your photo ID:** North Carolina voters will be asked to show photo ID when they check in to vote. Learn more: [Voter ID](#).
 - **Three ways to vote:** Follow the links below to learn about the voting methods available to all NC voters.
1. [Vote Early in Person](#). For in-person early voting locations and schedules in your county, see the Early Voting Site Search. Also see Early Voting Sites for the November 3, 2026 Election (PDF) (*Coming this fall*).
 2. [Vote in Person on Election Day](#) (Nov. 3). Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters who vote on Election Day must go to their assigned polling place. Find your polling place in the [Voter Search](#) tool and navigate to "Your Voting Locations."
 3. [Vote By Mail](#). Any North Carolina registered voter may request, receive, and vote a mail-in absentee ballot for the 2026 elections. No excuse is needed.