

## **ABSENTEE BY MAIL**

### **HOW DO I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL?**

If you are registered to vote in Surry County, you can vote from home in the next election by writing a letter giving us:

- Your **name** (printed and signature)
- Your Surry County **residence address**
- The address you want us to **mail** the Ballot to (if it's different)
- If you are registered as Unaffiliated (also referred to as Independent), let us know if you want to participate in the Democratic, Republican or Libertarian primary (**Primary Elections only**); if you do not specify a partisan party primary, you will be given a ballot with only nonpartisan offices.
- Your **Birth Date** (not required, but extremely helpful)
- A **phone number** or email address (not required, but extremely helpful)
- You must **sign the letter**

**Mail to:**  
Surry County Board of Elections  
P O Box 372  
Dobson, NC 27017

**Fax to:** (336) 401 - 8228

**Email to:** elections@surry.net  
\*Must complete request, scan the form & email it to us

\*You may also bring the request to our office in person; although, ballots must leave our office by the US Postal Service only (with only one exception – see Sick or Physical Disability exception below).

### **DO I NEED AN EXCUSE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?**

No, absentee voting in North Carolina is no-excuse.

### **WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL?**

The request must be in our office by 5:00 p. m. on the Tuesday before the election. (See Sick or Physical Disability Exception Below)

## **SICK or PHYSICAL DISABILITY EXCEPTION**

A voter who expects to be unable to go to the polling place Election Day because of sickness or physical disability may apply, or have a near relative or verifiable legal guardian apply **in person** at the Board of Elections office for a ballot that may be hand delivered to the voter. This option is only available for sick or disabled voters after 5:00 pm on the Tuesday before an election, and not later than 5:00 pm on the Monday before the election.

## **WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR RETURNING MY ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL?**

If you return your voted ballot **in person** to our office, it must be returned no later than 5:00pm on Monday before the election. If you return your ballots **by mail**, they must be postmarked by the day of the election and received by our office not later than 5:00pm on Friday following the election. Once your ballot has been returned to the board of elections office, it may not be withdrawn. If your ballot has not been returned to our office, you may vote at your polling place on the machine on Election Day. **Do not** take your absentee ballot to the polling place to be turned in on Election Day.

Your voted ballot return envelope must have your signature and the signature and address of one witness for the ballot to be counted.  
Witnesses can be family members as long as they are over 18 years of age.

## **DO I HAVE TO SEND A REQUEST FOR EVERY ELECTION?**

Yes, requests are only good for one election, with two exceptions.

1. If you state in your original request that you are requesting for the primary and general election.
2. If you are requesting because of an illness or physical disability, and state this in your request, we can honor the request for all elections for one calendar year.

## **MAY I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL FOR ANOTHER PERSON?**

You may request an absentee ballot for a near relative **or** if you are someone's verifiable legal guardian.

Near relative is defined as:

spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, and stepchild

You must list the information requested in "how do I request an absentee ballot" (above) on the voter (except for the voter's signature) and also include:

- Your name
- Your address
- Your relationship to the voter
- Your phone number or email address (not required, but extremely helpful)
- You **must** sign the letter

## **MILITARY & OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING**

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

The following individuals, who are eligible to register and who are qualified to vote in any statewide primary or election held under the laws of North Carolina, and who are absent from the county of his/her residence are entitled to register by mail and to vote by military or overseas absentee ballot:

- Individuals serving in the armed forces of the United States; including, but not limited to, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, the Merchant Marine, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, and members of the National Guard and Military Reserve.
- Spouses of persons serving in the armed forces of the United States residing outside the counties of their spouses' voting residence.
- Disabled war veterans in United States government hospitals.
- Civilians attached to and serving outside the United States with the armed forces of the United States.
- Members of the Peace Corps.
- Any overseas citizen, living overseas permanently or temporarily, whose last registered address in the United States was in Surry County.
- Other individuals meeting the definitions of "absent uniformed services voter" and "overseas voter" in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

## **HOW CAN I APPLY FOR MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?**

You can go to the website [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) - there you can download a FPCA application form to complete. You may use this FPCA form to register to vote, change your address and/or request an absentee ballot; and it is effective through two federal elections. (NOTE: All forms received after Nov. 3, 2010 will be effective for one calendar year only.) Completed forms may be sent to us by mail, fax or email (if returning by email the signed form will have to be scanned and attached). If you do not have access to the internet, please contact us at **(336) 401-8225** for assistance.

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## **VOTING YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT**

You should mark your ballot following the instructions that are included with your ballot. You must mark your absentee ballot and **sign the certification** on the container-return envelope in the presence of another person who is at least 18 years of age and is neither your employers nor agents thereof, nor are owners or employees of a care facility in which you are a resident. **The \*witness must sign the container-return envelope and provide their complete address.** **If they fail to do so, your ballot will be rejected and unopened by the board.** After your ballot is marked, place it inside the container-return envelope, seal it and return it to our office. Voters may hand deliver their ballot to our office, have a near relative deliver it or return it through the Postal Service.

Military & Overseas voters may return their ballot through the mail, use fax or email. Follow the instructions provided with your ballot.

\*\*This is a change in election law effective January 1, 2010. Prior to this, two witnesses were required.