

Frequently Asked Questions

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WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION IN SURRY COUNTY?

1. A US citizen
2. 18 years old or older, by the date of next general election
3. A resident of Surry County for 30 days by the next election
4. Not vote in any other county or state after submission of registration form to Surry County
5. Not be a convicted felon, or have had citizenship rights restored

HOW AND WHERE CAN I GET A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS & PARTY FORM?

Pick up a form at any Surry County Public Library, any public assistance agency, the Board of Elections office at 201 E. Kapp Street, Dobson or [download and print a form from our website](#). Complete and **sign the form**, then mail it to us. Registered voters may use the form to update their name, address and party. Registered voters may also update their registration information by completing the back of their voter card and mailing or delivering it to the Surry County Board of Elections. Our mailing address is:

Surry County Board of Elections
PO Box 372
Dobson, NC 27017

DO I NEED TO RE-REGISTER BEFORE EACH ELECTION?

No, if you have moved or had a name change you will need to update your registration. If there have been no changes, your current registration is valid.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN AN ELECTION?

If mailed, the registration form must be postmarked at least 25 days prior to the election. If hand-delivered, the registration form must be received at the Board of Elections office no later than 5 p.m. on the 25th day prior to the election or postmarked by that date.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I MISSED THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

If you did not register to vote by the 25th day before an election, you may register and vote at the same time at any early voting location. Information on this procedure is located under [Absentee Voting](#).

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME TO THE POLLING PLACE?

You do not need your voter registration card to vote. You will state your name and address (and party affiliation if it is a Primary).

An individual who has registered to vote by mail on or before January 1, 2003 without providing required identification numbers, and has not previously voted in an election that includes a ballot item for federal office in North Carolina, shall present to a local election official at a voting place before voting there one of the following:

1. A current and valid photo id
2. A copy of one of the following documents that shows the name and address of the voter
 - A current utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Government check
 - Paycheck

- Government document

If the voter is required to present identification, but does not present id, that voter may vote a provisional paper ballot.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN A PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION?

In a Primary Election you are narrowing the field of candidates to be placed on the General Election Ballot. No one is actually being elected, just earning the right to be placed on the General Election Ballot (in Surry County, the Surry County Board of Education *is* elected on Primary Election Day).

IF I AM REGISTERED AS UNAFFILIATED CAN I STILL VOTE IN A PRIMARY ELECTION?

Yes, both the Democratic and Republican parties open their primaries to unaffiliated voters in NC. You will need to state which party's primary you choose to participate in when you state your name and address.

WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL ELECTION?

In even numbered years, towns and cities elect their Mayor and Commissioners. These elections are only open to residents living in the city limits.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY VOTER REGISTRATION IS UP-TO-DATE?

[Click here](#) to confirm the status of your voter registration, find your voting location, and view a sample ballot for the upcoming election (if available).

WHAT HOURS ARE THE POLLS OPEN?

On Election Day, the polls are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

HOW DO I KNOW WHERE TO VOTE?

The Board of Elections will send you a new voter registration card in the mail when you register to vote, make an address change or information change, or if the Board of Elections assigns you to a new precinct or polling place. Your voting location (polling place) is printed on the card. You are assigned a polling place based on your residence address. You may also [determine your voting location here](#).

If you do not know where to vote, or if you have moved from the residence address we have on file, don't wait until Election Day! You may experience a delay in voting if your residence address is not up-to-date or if we have sent mail to your voter registration address that was returned to us by the Postal Service.

I HEARD THAT IF I VOTE AT AN EARLY VOTING SITE OR VIA ABSENTEE BY MAIL, THEN MY VOTE MAY NOT GET COUNTED. IS THAT TRUE?

NO. Your vote will be counted on Election Day, just as if you voted in your precinct.

WHO CAN VOTE AT EARLY VOTING SITES?

ANY Surry County voter may vote at ANY early voting site.

CAN I VOTE AT AN EARLY VOTING SITE OR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE ON ELECTION DAY?

No, You must vote at your polling location election day. Early voting ends at 1:00 pm on the Saturday before the election.

HOW SHOULD I VOTE IF I MOVED WITHIN SURRY COUNTY, BUT DID NOT SEND AN ADDRESS CHANGE BEFORE THE ELECTION?

If you moved within Surry County more than 30 days prior to an election and failed to notify the Board of Elections, you have two options.

1. Vote early at an early voting location. NC General Statutes allow voters to change their address and vote the correct ballot for that updated address when voting at any early voting location. Early voting is the easiest and quickest option if you did not update your address.
2. Vote at your new precinct on Election Day. You may be required to vote a provisional paper ballot. Please give yourself plenty of time to update your information at your new precinct. The process requires additional time to complete the forms necessary to update your information before you can be issued a ballot.

I AM AT THE WRONG PRECINCT. CAN I VOTE HERE ANYWAY?

On Election Day, you should vote in your assigned precinct in order to make sure you receive a ballot that contains all races for which you are eligible to vote. If you think you may not make it to your precinct on Election Day, please consider voting early at an early voting site.

If you go to the wrong precinct, you may be required to vote a provisional paper ballot. By showing up at the wrong location, you may not get to vote for your correct jurisdictional representatives, such as School Board or State House and Senate representatives. As a result, your provisional ballot may only be partially counted. Please plan to allow yourself additional time at the polls if you go to the wrong precinct. All proper forms, documentation and ballot verification must be made before you can be issued a ballot at the incorrect precinct.

CAN I WEAR A BUTTON OR T-SHIRT INTO MY POLLING PLACE THAT SAYS "VOTE FOR" A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE ON IT?

A voter may enter a voting place to vote wearing political items as long as they proceed to vote in an orderly and timely manner, and do not attempt to electioneer within the voting place.

IF I AM ALREADY IN LINE WHEN THE PRECINCT CLOSES AT 7:30 PM, CAN I VOTE?

Yes, if you are in line prior to 7:30 pm when the polls close, you may vote. If you show up after 7:30 pm, you will not be allowed to vote.

I SAW SOMEBODY AT THE POLLS TODAY WHO DOES NOT LIVE IN THIS PRECINCT ANYMORE. HOW DO I GET THAT PERSON TO VOTE WHERE HE/SHE IS SUPPOSED TO?

Talk to the precinct officials and file an Election Day Challenge. They have the forms and instructions. You can also contact the Board of Elections office, and we'll tell you about additional options. Either way, thanks for keeping your eyes open and informing us!

WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO ENTER THE POLLING PLACE BECAUSE OF AGE OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY?

If you vote on Election Day or at an early voting site but are unable to enter the facility, you may vote outside the voting location in your car. This procedure is called "curbside voting." Look for the curbside voting sign near the entrance to the voting place and park there. A precinct election official will assist you in verifying your registration information and bringing you a ballot. If you cannot locate a precinct election official in the parking lot, please ask someone to enter the voting place and inform the election officials that you need assistance.

If you prefer to vote from your home you can request that an absentee ballot be mailed to you. You can find additional information under [absentee voting](#).

I PLAN TO BRING A VOTER TO VOTE CURBSIDE. CAN I SIT IN THE CAR AND VOTE CURBSIDE, TOO?

ONLY if you qualify by age or physical disability that you cannot enter the polling place. If you can physically enter the polling place you are not eligible.

CAN I BRING SOMEONE WITH ME TO PROVIDE PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE OR TO HELP ME VOTE?

The guidelines for voter assistance are listed below:

Who is entitled to assistance?

Any voter is entitled to assistance from a near relative.

(Near relative is defined in this section as: spouse, brother, sister, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law-, son-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, but no other relative.)

Any voter in any of the following categories is entitled to assistance from a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer, agent of that employer, or officer or agent of the voter's union:

- 1) physical disability and can't enter voting booth without assistance
- 2) physical disability and can't mark ballot
- 3) illiterate and can't mark ballot
- 4) blind and can't enter voting booth or mark ballot

How do I receive assistance?

Upon arriving at the voting place, the voter must first request the Chief Judge to permit him to have assistance, stating his reasons. If the Chief Judge determines that the voter is entitled to assistance, he shall ask the voter to identify the person he desires to help him. The voter may ask one of the election officials to provide assistance.

Conduct of persons rendering assistance.

Anyone rendering assistance to a voter in an election shall be admitted to the voting booth with the person being assisted and shall be governed by the following rule:

He shall not in any manner seek to persuade or induce any voter to cast his vote in any particular way.

He shall not make or keep any memorandum of anything that occurs within the voting booth.

He shall not reveal to any person how the assisted voter marked their ballots unless they are called to testify in a judicial proceeding.

It shall be a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to give, receive, or permit assistance in the voting booth otherwise than as is allowed by this section. (G.S. 163-166.8)

I AM LEGALLY BLIND. CAN SOMEONE ACCOMPANY ME IN THE VOTING BOOTH?

Yes, you may receive assistance from any person of your choice, except your employer or union agent. Alternately, you may ask one of the precinct election officials to assist you.

CAN MY POWER OF ATTORNEY VOTE FOR ME?

No. If you cannot make it to the polls, you may request an absentee by mail ballot.

I JUST MOVED TO SURRY COUNTY CAN I VOTE TODAY (ON ELECTION DAY)?

If you are not registered to vote in Surry County, you cannot vote on Election Day; however, during Early Voting you can register and vote on the same day (if you will be a

resident of the county for 30 days by election day). Same day registration is only offered during Early Voting.

THE MAILMAN DELIVERED A VOTER CARD TO MY HOUSE, BUT THAT PERSON DOESN'T LIVE HERE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Please return the voter card to us along with whatever information you have. If the individual has moved, we'll try to contact them at the new address. Failing that, or if the individual is deceased, we'll try to remove them from the voter registration files. Either way, you'll be doing us a big service by letting us know. If it is addressed to a family member that no longer lives at that address, please give it to them and ask them to fill out the back, sign it and return it to our office.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? FEEDBACK?

Do you have a question you don't see answered here? Then please send us a message. E-mail your FAQ suggestions to elections@surry.net.