

ABSENTEE BY MAIL

HOW DO I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL?

If you are registered to vote in Surry County, you may request an absentee ballot be mailed to you by completing an "official" state request form. You may download the request from our website *under forms*, or call our office at 336-401-8225 to have one mailed to you.

Completed request forms may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Mailed to:

Surry County Board of Elections
P. O. Box 372
Dobson, NC 27017

Faxed to: (336) 401 - 8228

Emailed to: elections@co.surry.nc.us

(*Must complete the form, scan & attach it to email.)

*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).

CAN ANY REGISTERED VOTER REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Yes, absentee voting in North Carolina does not require a reason or excuse to do so.

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

The request must be in our office by 5:00 p. m. on the Tuesday before the election; check the current election schedule on our homepage for specific dates for the year. (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'S THE DEADLINE FOR RETURNING MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

If you return your voted ballot ***in person*** to our office, it must be returned no later than 5:00 pm on Election Day. If you return your ballot ***by mail***, it must be postmarked by Election Day and received by our office not later than three days after the election at 5:00 pm. Once your ballot has been returned to the board of elections office, it may not be withdrawn.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 returned on Election Day.

*Your voted ballot return envelope must have **your signature and the signature and address of two witnesses (or notarized)** for the ballot to be counted. Witnesses may be family members if over 18 years of age.*

DO I HAVE TO SEND A REQUEST FOR EVERY ELECTION?

Yes, requests are only good for one election. The only exception is if you are requesting because of an illness or physical disability; which must be stated on the initial request form, and may be honored for all elections during the calendar year submitted.

MAY I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

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

A 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, or stepchild

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MILITARY & OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

The following qualified individuals, whether registered to vote or not, are entitled to register and vote by military/overseas absentee ballot in any election held under the laws of North Carolina in which absentee voting is allowed, if they are or will be absent from the county of his/her residence when the election occurs.

- 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 MILITARY/OVERSEAS ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You may go to the website www.fvap.gov - where you can either download a FPCA application form to complete, or complete the fillable form and follow their instructions. You may use this FPCA form to register to vote, change your address and/or request an absentee ballot. The form is effective for all elections for the calendar year following submission. Completed forms may be sent to us several ways; or you may call our office at **(336) 401-8225** for assistance.

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HOW DO I VOTE AND RETURN MY MILITARY/OVERSEAS BALLOT?

Mark your ballot following the specific instructions included with your official ballot packet. Military & Overseas voters are extended special privileges for transmitting voted materials and may return their voted ballot through the mail, by fax or through email. Be sure to follow the specific instructions provided with your official ballot packet carefully. When our office receives your voted ballot materials, we will confirm receipt via a courtesy email and let you know if we require further information for our board to count your vote.