**2018 NC ELECTION INFO**

**Prepared for Campus Election Engagement Project - NC**

**What is my district? Voter maps in NC**

Following the 2010 mid-term elections, North Carolina Republicans took control of the state General Assembly for the first since Reconstruction. The timing of the victory was especially significant. The 2010 census meant the General Assembly would undertake “redistricting” – the process of drawing new electoral districts for state legislators and U.S. Congressional Representatives. Since the new districts were created in 2011, voting rights advocates have accused the North Carolina legislature of unconstitutionally “gerrymandering” some districts along racial and partisan lines in an effort to unfairly preserve Republican electoral advantage. Federal courts have for the most part agreed. But the legal wrangling has led to new maps that have also drawn scrutiny, while leaving many voters confused about basic questions: what is my district and who are the candidates that could represent me?

Democracy NC is one of the non-partisan voting rights organization that has challenged these districts. To learn more about this issue and recent rulings in North Carolina, check out their [“Understanding Redistricting” fact sheet](https://democracync.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/UnderstandingRedistrictingSep2017.pdf).

The NC Legislature also maintains a page describing the [redistricting process](https://www.ncleg.net/representation/Redistricting.aspx). It also provides maps and an interactive tool to help you [find your current NC representatives](https://www.ncleg.net/representation/whorepresentsme.aspx).

Ballotpedia has a very comprehensive resource on redistricting in NC: <https://ballotpedia.org/Redistricting_in_North_Carolina>

Additional source: <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/north-carolina-specter-partisan-gerrymandering/>

**Primary Election**

A Primary election narrows the field of candidates for the General Election. You do not have to vote in the Primary to vote in the General Election.

In some cases where the primary election is very close or there are many candidates, a primary runoff (also called a second primary) may be held. You may not vote in the Primary Runoff unless you were registered at the time of the original Primary, even if you didn’t vote in the Primary.

North Carolina has a semi-closed primary system. In North Carolina, voters who are registered as a member of a political party may only vote that party’s primary ballot (including any non-partisan races). If you are registered as an Unaffiliated voter and want to vote in a partisan Primary, you can ask for a Republican, Democratic, Libertarian or Nonpartisan ballot. Your choice does not change your Unaffiliated status or obligate you to vote for a party’s candidates in the General Election. However, if there is a Primary Runoff, you can only participate in the Runoff of the same party that you selected in the original Primary.

Sources:   
<http://www.ncvoter.org/voting-in-nc/#primary>   
<http://www.ncsbe.gov/Voters/Registering-to-Vote>

**Primary Election Calendar**

March 19 – Absentee By Mail Ballot Available (50 days prior to election) More info: <http://www.ncvoter.org/voting-in-nc/absentee-ballot/>   
<http://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/Forms/NCAbsenteeBallotRequestForm.pdf>

April 13 – Regular Voter Registration Deadline

April 19 – One-stop Early Voting Period Begins (In-person registration is available during early voting period)

May 1 – Deadline to submit Absentee (By Mail) Ballot Request Form (7 days before election)

May 5 – One-stop Early Voting Period Ends

May 8 – Election Day (Primary) (Absentee By Mail Ballots must be submitted/postmarked by 5 p.m. on election day)

July 17 – Primary Run-off Election

**General Election**

Statewide general elections take place every two years on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November. Statewide general elections always occur in even-numbered years. Notably, every other statewide general election has the office of President of the United States on the ballot.

Although the presidency is the most notable contest voted on during statewide general elections, the North Carolina General Statutes outline other national, state, and county offices to be voted on during a statewide general election. Source: <http://www.ncsbe.gov/Elections>

**General Election Calendar**

October 12 – Regular Voter Registration Deadline

October 18 – One-stop Early Voting Period Begins

October 30 –Deadline to submit Absentee (By Mail) Ballot Request Form (7 days before election) <http://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/Forms/NCAbsenteeBallotRequestForm.pdf>

November 3 – One-stop Early Voting Period Ends

November 6 – Election Day (General) (Absentee By Mail Ballots must be submitted/postmarked by 5 p.m. on election day)

**Key NC Races in 2018**In 2018 General Election, North Carolina votes will elect:

* U.S. House of Representatives – candidates from all 13 U.S. House districts in NC [(more info)](https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections_in_North_Carolina,_2018)
* North Carolina State Senators (state legislature) – all 50 State Senate seats [(more info)](https://ballotpedia.org/North_Carolina_State_Senate_elections,_2018)
* North Carolina State Representatives (state legislature) – all 120 State Representatives [(more info)](https://ballotpedia.org/North_Carolina_House_of_Representatives_elections,_2018)
* North Carolina State Supreme Court Justices, NC Court of Appeals Judges, and local judges.

Source & more info: <https://ballotpedia.org/North_Carolina_elections,_2018>

**Special Events**

Sept. 15 – Save the date (tentative): NC College Voter Summit

Sept. 17 – Constitution Day

Did you know that colleges and universities that receive federal funds are required by law to celebrate Constitution Day with a program for students on September 17? <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/constitution-day.php>

Sept. 25 – National Voter Registration Day

NVRD is a national “holiday” celebrating our democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and is held on the fourth Tuesday of September. The holiday has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State ([NASS](http://www.nass.org/)) and is further supported by the National Association of State Election Directors ([NASED](https://www.nased.org/)).  
<https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

**Other Resources:**

[North Carolina State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement](http://www.ncsbe.gov/)

Democracy NC’s [www.ncvoter.org](http://www.ncvoter.org)

[Campus Vote Project State Student Guides](http://campusvoteproject.org/studentguides/)

[Campus Election Engagement Project](http://campuselect.org/)