

# NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

You have the right to vote – it's the law and the proof is in your hands! You'll notice letters and numbers after each of your rights listed below. These codes tell lawyers and poll-workers where to find the N.C. statute that protects your rights as a properly registered voter. You can take this document with you to vote. *If you are not registered to vote, see the end of this document.*

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

**1. HOURS.** Each polling place is open between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm on Election Day. If you are in line or inside the polling place by 7:30 pm, you must be allowed to vote. It's the law: NC General Statute (NCGS) 163-166.01

**2. IDENTIFICATION.** In general, you do not have to show identification to poll workers when you vote. NCGS 163-82.8. However, if you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail without sending in a form of identification, or if you are a first-time voter who registered through a voter registration drive, identification may be required. It makes sense to take a form of ID: a current NC driver's license or one of these documents with your name and current address: utility bill (electric, gas, phone, water, cable bill), pay-stub/W-2, bank statement, or any document from any government agency. NCGS 163-166.12

**3. PROVISION BALLOT.** If any problem arises, you have a right to vote with a provisional ballot. For example, ask for a provisional ballot if you believe you have registered but your name is not on the rolls; or if you question the voting district (or ballot) assigned to you; or if you are told that you are in the wrong precinct. You must also be given a way to find out if the provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason it was not counted. NCGS 163-166.11.

**4. IF YOU MOVE.** If you have moved and have lived in your new location more than 30 days, you have the right to vote in your new precinct or at a central location. If you have moved, but have lived in your new location less than 30 days, you must vote in

your old precinct or cast a provisional ballot in your new precinct. If you have moved within your precinct, you have the right to update your information at the polls and vote. NCGS 163-82.15.

**5. NAME CHANGE.** If your name has changed since you registered to vote, you have the right to vote, even if you have not reported your name change to election officials. NCGS 163-82.16

**6. SPOILED BALLOT.** If you make a mistake and "spoil" your ballot, you have a right to new ballot. You can spoil up to three ballots. 8 NCAC 10B.0104b

**7. ASSISTANCE.** You have the right to receive assistance from a family member or, if you have difficulty reading or have a disability, from any person of your choice, except from your employer or union agent. You can also receive ballot instructions in Spanish. NCGS 163-166.8 and 168-165-5A

**8. CURBSIDE.** If the polling place is inaccessible to you due to a disability, you have a right to vote at the curb, in the vehicle you came in, or at the door of the polling place. NCGS 163-166.9

**9. EX-FELONS & MISDEMEANANTS.** You have a right to vote if you are in jail for a misdemeanor or if you are an ex-felon who has completed the terms of your sentence, including parole and probation, and you have re-registered to vote. NCGS 13-1.

**10. INTIMIDATION.** You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote for anyone you don't wish to vote for. NCGS 163-271.

## IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE . . .

You can register and vote on the same day – but only during the Early Voting period that runs from 19 to 3 days before Election Day. (You cannot do this on Election Day.) You must be a citizen, and be at least 18 and have lived in the county for 30 days before the election. Go to a One-Stop Early Voting

site in your county, fill out the registration form, show one of the IDs listed in # 2 above, and then vote! To find a One-Stop Early Voting site in your county, call 1-866-522-4723 or 888-OUR-VOTE. Also: You can register by mail if your form is postmarked 25 days before an election. See [www.sboe.state.nc.us](http://www.sboe.state.nc.us)