

Friendship Community Partnership (FCP) Voter Assistance Project

The FCP Committee, through its Voter Assistance Subcommittee will be providing voter information and offering assistance as needed to the five participating congregations of FCP.

The voter information attempts to present, in one succinct document, current rules covering voter registration, acquisition of ID's, and absentee as well as in-person voting. There may be updates as judicial and regulatory information changes. The document is attached.

VOTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

I REGISTRATION

As of January 1, 2014, North Carolina law required voter registration 25 days before an election.

However, due to an appeals court ruling, current law allows same day registration for voters in counties which have an early voting period for this year's municipal primary elections in September and October. Because there are a number of voting issues before the courts, this may change. The best way to assure that you will be allowed to vote a regular ballot is to register as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. You must be registered to vote in order to vote an absentee by mail ballot.

Registration application forms are available at the Guilford County Board of Elections, the Guilford County courthouse, public libraries, schools and college admissions offices. They are also available on-line by going to ncsbe.gov, then clicking on "voter registration" and then locating the link to the voter registration form. You can then print it, fill it out and mail it to the Guilford County Board of Elections office, PO Box 3429, Greensboro, NC 27402. Your registration card should be sent to you by mail in approximately two weeks' time.

Regardless of how you go about it, in order to register to vote, you must:

be a citizen of the United States

be 18 years of age on or before the election

provide your first, middle, and last names

provide your date of birth

your current address

your signature, affirming the above information.

It is a felony to falsify any of this information.

To register to vote in person ahead of the election, you may do so at the Guilford County Board

of Elections Office on the first floor of the OLD Guilford County Court House, at 301 West

Market St., Greensboro, NC, tel. (336) 641-3836. Office hours there are 8-5, Mon-Fri.

II PHOTO ID'S

Beginning January 1, 2016 you will be asked to show one of the accepted types of photo ID to vote a regular, in-person ballot in NC, with some exceptions. The acceptable ID's include:

NC driver's license or DMV-issued non-operator ID card;

U.S. Passport or Passport card;

Military ID, including those issued to retired service members, dependents and civilians; Veteran's ID card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and,

Certain tribal ID cards.

More information about the exceptions can be found below, or by visiting VoterID.nc.gov and clicking on the red-banner at the top of the page that says "Click Here for the Exceptions to Photo ID Requirement".

Voters who are unable to obtain one of the acceptable IDs to present at the polls may complete and sign a declaration stating they have "a reasonable impediment" which prevented them from getting such a card and cast a provisional ballot. The allowable reasonable impediments include:

a lost or stolen photo ID (Voter ID Card or any of the other acceptable photo ID's listed below)

work or family responsibilities that interfered with getting a photo ID

disability or illness that interfered with getting a photo ID

lack of transportation to secure a photo ID

lack of a birth certificate or other documents needed to get a photo ID

There will be a space to write in other reasonable impediments faced by the voter. In order to cast a provisional ballot with one of the above impediments, voters would have to provide either their voter registration card, an acceptable document that shows the voter's name and current address (such as a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document), or their birth date and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

Once all of the above is validated by the County Board of Elections, the provisional ballot would be counted. It is always preferable to have a valid photo ID. This will allow voters to cast a regular ballot and will eliminate additional delays in voting and any uncertainty regarding the counting of the ballot.

If you need help obtaining a free photo ID for voting, the State Board of Elections has a Voter Outreach Team that is available to help you. They can be reached by calling 866-522-4723 or emailing VoterOutreach.sboe@ncsbe.gov. Areas where they can help include:

- Knowing what documents to take to the DMV to get your free photo ID
- Assisting you in obtaining those documents, including a free copy of your NC birth certificate and marriage license
- Facilitating transportation for those without transit assistance from family or friends
- Confirming any exceptions that may apply to you

III ACCEPTABLE PHOTO ID'S

If you are registered to vote, you may present any of the Photo ID's listed below during Early Voting or on Election Day and be allowed to vote:

1. Current NC Driver's License, Learner's Permit, or Provisional License, expired for less than four years.
2. A NC DMV Identification Card (aka Voter ID card), expired for less than four years. Information for getting a Voter ID card is printed below.
3. US Passport or passport card, unexpired
4. US Military ID card, including those issued to retirees, dependents, and civilians, unexpired if it has a printed expiration date.
5. US Veterans ID card issued by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, unexpired if it has a printed expiration date
6. Tribal enrollment card issued by a federally recognized tribe, unexpired or if it has an issuance date and was issued within eight years.
7. Tribal enrollment card issued by an NC-recognized tribe and approved by the State Board of Elections, signed by an elected tribal official, and compliant with G.S. 163-166.13, unexpired

8. Out-of-State driver's license or non-operator's identification card (only if the voter registration date in the county of current residence and in which voting is taking place is within 90 days of the election), unexpired.

No other photo ID are acceptable forms of identification, including federal/state employee IDs and student ID's.

Note: The address on the photo ID does not have to match the address at which the voter is registered to vote.

Any voter 70 years of age or older may use an expired photo ID, provided that it is one of the acceptable photo ID's and that it expired at any time after the voter's 70th birthday.

IV NC VOTERS ID CARD

If you have one of the acceptable photo ID's listed in section III above, you DO NOT need a NC Voters ID Card. It is possible to register to vote at the time you apply for a Voters ID Card. However, it is generally better to already be registered to vote when applying for the ID card as the registration card can be used as one of the documents required to get the Voters ID card.

You may apply for a Voters ID Card at any DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) office or Mobile Unit. There is typically a \$10 charge for the DMV Identification Card, but if you do not have one of the acceptable cards listed in III above, the DMV will issue the Identification Card for free, for voting purposes. You must sign a sworn statement that you do not have access to one of the ID's listed above. Lying is a Class I felony.

The DMV offices in Guilford County are open 8-6 Mon-Fri.

1. 2391 Coliseum Blvd. (at Freeman Mill Rd.) telephone, 334-5438 open weekdays & Sat 8-12.
2. 2527 East Market St. telephone 334-5745, no Saturday hours
3. 650 Francis St, High Point, 884-1003, no Saturday hours

Appointments are recommended in order to avoid long waits. No same day appointments are granted. Be prompt and have the required documents with you to avoid delays.

Documents: You must show documents with your full name that prove your identity, age, and residence. You must also provide a valid Social Security Number. If the DMV can't verify your

SSN, you will need to provide a document that shows the number. DMV lists documents it accepts for each purpose. Some may serve more than one purpose. The DMV may let you sign an affidavit if you lack documents or, for example, have one with a maiden name. Here are your choices:

1. To prove your identity bring TWO documents from this list:

* A driver's license or ID card from another state, less than one year expired.

* Original Social Security card.

* W-2 or 1099 tax document.

* Certified birth certificate or marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court approval of a name or gender change or adoption from a government agency in the US, US territory, Canada, or Puerto Rico.

* NC school transcript or registration signed by a school official: diploma/GED from a NC school.

* Unexpired military ID, DD-2, DD-214, Military Dependents Card, or Veteran Universal

Access Card.

* Limited driving privilege issued by a NC court that is less than one year expired.

* Valid document from Homeland Security or US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

* Motor Vehicle record from NC or another state.

* US court document for child support, arrest, etc.

2. Bring ONE of these that shows your street address:

* Any document issued by the government (local, state, or federal agency) including a license, bill, registration card, tax notice, letter or order.

* Utility bill, including cable or cell phone.

* Housing lease, mortgage statement.

* Preprinted financial statement, like W-2, or 1099.

* Official school record (not a report card).

* NC vehicle insurance policy.

If you need to show a document with your Social Security number because DMV could not verify the number you provided, you will need to provide one of these documents:

* Social Security Administration document or SS card.

* 1099 or W-2 tax form or payroll record.

* Military or Veterans record or DD-214

* Medicaid/Medicare card.

After you present the necessary documents you will leave the DMV with a temporary ID. You should receive your photo ID in the mail within 6-8 weeks, but most will be received within 2 weeks.

V EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FROM SHOWING A PHOTO ID AT THE POLLS

1. Voters who are unable to obtain one of the acceptable photo ID's can utilize the Reasonable Impediment Declaration, discussed in II, above.

2. Curbside voters: people eligible to vote from the curb because they have difficulty reaching the voting room because of age or disability. Curbside voters must be registered to vote.

They must prove their identity by bringing with them to their polling place one of the following documents: a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document.

3. Religious objection: people who have religious reasons for not wanting to be photographed. Voters seeking an exemption from showing a photo ID for religious reasons must go in person to apply for such at the Guilford County Board of Elections office AT LEAST 25 days before Election Day and fill out and sign a form there. These forms are not available on-line. Alternatively, if a voter does not file a declaration at least 25 days before the election, they may cast a provisional ballot. The ballot will be counted if the voter then appears in person at the county board of elections to execute the declaration and provides an acceptable document showing the voter's name and address, such as a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government document, prior to the time for counting provisional ballots.. They must be registered to vote.

4. Natural disaster: A voter will not be required to show photo ID if the voter declares that he or she is a victim of a natural disaster occurring within 60 days of the election date. The voter must reside in a county that has officially been declared a natural disaster area - either by the Governor of North Carolina or the President of the United States.

5. Subsequent Presentation of Acceptable Photo ID: Any voter who owns but does not comply with the photo ID requirement (if you forget your card) may vote a provisional ballot, which will be counted if the voter later presents an acceptable photo ID at their county board of

elections office prior to noon (12:00 p.m.) on the day before the date set for the election canvass. The canvass is either seven or ten days after Election Day, depending on the type of election.

VI ABSENTEE BY MAIL VOTING

You can vote by mail and not show a photo ID. No excuse is needed to vote an absentee ballot by mail in North Carolina. You must use an authorized form to request an absentee ballot. The form is on the website of the county (county.office.org/nc-guilford-county-elections/) and state boards of elections (ncsbe.gov). On the form, you must include an identifying number (driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number) OR send a copy of one of these documents with the request: a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or any government document with your name and current address.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the election, and the ballot must be returned to the county Board of Elections office no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots received after 5:00 p.m. on Election Day will be timely ONLY if they are received by mail and bear a postmark that is dated on or before the date of the election and are received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the election.

VII EARLY VOTING

Current early voting begins ten days before an election or, more precisely, the second Thursday before an election and ends at 1 p.m. the Saturday before Election Day. This may change due to on-going judicial review.

VIII OUT OF PRECINCT VOTING, AND SAME DAY REGISTRATION

Because these matters are the subject of a lawsuit, the results of which are likely to be appealed, there is no conclusive information at this time. However, at this time, both out-of-precinct voting and same-day registration will be allowed in Guilford County during the early voting period in city primary elections this September/October.

Early voting for the municipal primary will be restricted to two locations: the Board of Elections office in Greensboro, 301 West Market St., Greensboro (336) 641-3836 and the High Point Board of Elections office at 325 East Russell Ave. (336) 641-7895.

If you have moved since you last voted, it is best to go to your new precinct on Election Day and show documentation of your new address. Officials will help you transfer your information and you will be allowed to vote. If you go to your old precinct, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. However, this may involve delay as ballots differ from one precinct to another. Keep it simple and vote in your new precinct if at all possible.

Sources

1. Information concerning registration and acceptable ID's for voting: State Board of Elections

(www.ncbe.gov/ncsbe/voter-ID) 1-866-522-4723

2. Information concerning acquisition of voter ID's: Democracy North Carolina

(www.democracy-nc.org) 888-OUR-VOTE

3. Information concerning voting and on-going judicial action: Guilford County Board of Elections and The News and Record, Greensboro, NC

4. Consultation with League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad.

Do you need help with voting? Are you willing to help others?

The Friendship Community Partnership, through its Voters Assistance Subcommittee, is offering assistance to the members of the five participating congregations in areas of voter registration, acquisition of voter ID cards, and absentee as well as in-person voting.

Fill out the form below if you have questions, if you would like to be contacted for assistance, or if you are able to volunteer.

Forms may be left in the New Garden Friends Meeting connector in the box labeled "Voter Assistance."

I would like assistance with or further information regarding: (You may *check one or more*)

Voter registration

I would like to help with this project

Voter ID Card

Absentee Voter

In-person Voting

Name _____

Telephone number _____

E-mail address _____

Best Time to Call _____