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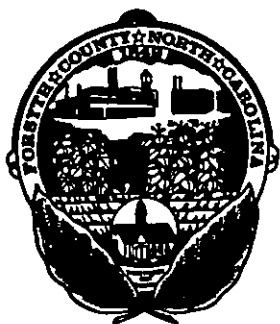
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VOTER GUIDE

for Forsyth County



Prepared as a public service by the
Forsyth County Board of Elections
680 West Fourth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2730

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register to vote in Forsyth County if you are:

- A citizen of the United States (if convicted of a felony, citizenship rights must have been restored)
- A person 18 years of age or older
- A legal resident of Forsyth County for 30 days by the date of the next election

Forsyth has a permanent registration system. You need to register, transfer or re-register ONLY if you:

- Have not registered in Forsyth County before
- Have moved to a different voting precinct since you registered in Forsyth. If you move, it is a violation of the law to return to your old precinct and vote after 30 days.
- Wish to change your party affiliation
- Have changed your name
- Have been removed from the active registration for failure to vote in a period covering 2 consecutive presidential elections.

Registration may be placed in an inactive status for failure to answer within 30 days an inquiry from the Board of Elections about your place of residence.

A voter registration card will be mailed to you once your registration application has been processed. They are usually mailed several weeks before each election. Keep the card as it may be used to change your address by mail should you move within Forsyth County. It can also be used to cancel your Forsyth County registration should you move out of the county.

PARTY AFFILIATION

When you register, you will be asked to declare your party affiliation. You may register with any recognized party in the State of North Carolina. Party affiliation determines the primary in which a voter is eligible to vote. You may also register unaffiliated. During a partisan primary election, an unaffiliated voter may vote only in a party primary that authorizes unaffiliated voters. If no party authorizes unaffiliated voters, they may only vote in non-partisan races and bond issues.

To vote in any local, state or national election, a person must be registered at least 21 working days prior to the election.

REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

You may register to vote or make changes in your registration at the following locations in Forsyth County.

- Board of Elections Office, 680 W. Fourth Street (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm)
- At any of Forsyth County's public libraries during regular hours
- By appointment with a precinct registrar, judge or special registration commissioner
- At public locations designated by special registration drives
- Town Halls of Kernersville, Rural Hall, Walkertown, Clemmons, Lewisville and Tobaccoville.
- Department of Motor Vehicles

In addition, you may change your address by filling out the back of your voter registration card and returning it to the Board of Elections. **CARD MUST BE RECEIVED BY REGISTRATION DEADLINE.**

VOTING

You will be assigned a voting place within the precinct where you live. Your precinct will be assigned by our office when you register or change addresses and you will be notified by mail. You will receive a voter card before any election if you are a new voter or have made changes since the last election. The voter card will indicate the name and location of your voting place. You may also telephone the Elections Office (727-2162) for the location of your voting place.

TRANSFER VOTING

If you fail to change your address by the registration deadline, there is a procedure that allows you to vote. On election day, you must go to your old precinct & fill out a transfer form. Then you must take the transfer form to your new precinct where you will sign a registration card changing your precinct. You will be allowed to vote at the new precinct. To avoid this paperwork, change your address by the registration deadline (21 working days before any election).

AT THE VOTING PLACE

On entering the voting place, give your name, address and party (primary only) to the election officials. If you are properly registered, you will be given a ballot card to take to the voting booth.

Procedures for voting are as follows:

- Using both hands, slide the ballot card all the way into the Vote Recorder.
- Be sure the two holes at the top of the card fit over the two red pins on the Vote Recorder.
- To vote, hold the punch straight up and push down through the card for each of your choices. Vote all pages. *Use the punch provided. Do not use pen or pencil.*
- After voting, slide the card out of the Vote Recorder. *If you make a mistake, ask for another ballot.*
- The voter should then deposit their ballot card in the ballot box/counter.
- If assistance is needed, please ask the precinct officials.

CURBSIDE VOTING

If you are unable to enter the voting place because of age or physical disability, you will be allowed to vote either in your vehicle or near the voting place. Have someone enter the voting place and inform the election officials of your desire to vote in this manner.

HANDICAPPED TRANSFER VOTING

Most of the precincts in Forsyth County are handicapped accessible. However, if the precinct to which you are assigned is not accessible, on election day you may ask to be assigned to another precinct. You will need to go to your assigned precinct and get a handicapped transfer form. You must take that form to the assigned precinct which will be the Board of Elections Office, 680 West Fourth St., Winston-Salem. Otherwise you may vote a curbside ballot as described above.

ALL VOTING PLACES IN FORSYTH COUNTY ARE OPEN FROM 6:30 AM UNTIL 7:30 PM ON EVERY ELECTION DAY.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you are registered to vote in Forsyth County and are unable to vote in person on election day because you:

- (1) are sick or disabled and are unable to enter the voting place
- (2) will be out of Forsyth County during voting hours

You may request an absentee ballot from the Elections Office, 680 W. 4th St, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2730. Absentee voting is allowed in all elections except fire district elections and is available as explained below.

APPLICATION AND BALLOT BY MAIL

OUT OF TOWN - Make the written request beginning 50 days prior to but not later than the Tuesday prior to election day. Each voter must sign the written request. An application and ballot will be mailed to the voter.

ILLNESS OR DISABILITY - Make the written request beginning 50 days prior to but not later than the day prior to election day. Each voter must sign the written request. An application and ballot will be mailed to the voter.

APPLICATION MADE AT BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE - BALLOT MAILED

OUT OF TOWN - The voter, near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild) or verifiable legal guardian may appear at the Elections Office beginning 50 days prior to but not later than 5:00 pm on the Tuesday prior to the election and complete an absentee application. A ballot will be mailed to the voter.

ILLNESS OR DISABILITY - The voter, near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild) or verifiable legal guardian may appear at the Elections Office beginning 50 days prior to but not later than 5:00 pm on the day prior to the election and complete an absentee application. A ballot will be mailed to the voter.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE BY 5:00 PM, THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION. THE BALLOT MUST BE DELIVERED BY UNITED STATES MAIL, THE VOTER OR A NEAR RELATIVE.

VOTER APPEARS IN PERSON, MAKES APPLICATION AND VOTES AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE (ONE-STOP) - The one-stop absentee process permits a voter who will be out of town or an ill or disabled voter to appear at the Elections Office beginning the day after the registration deadline but no later than 5:00 pm on the Friday before the election. The voter will be allowed to apply and vote at the Board of Elections Office.

PRIMARIES AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

In primaries in North Carolina, you vote only in the primary of the party with which you are affiliated. If you register unaffiliated you may be allowed to vote in a primary if a party allows unaffiliated voters to vote in their primary.

In the primary you **NOMINATE** party candidates and in a general election you **ELECT** officials for these offices:

- United States Senator (6 year terms)
- United States Representative (2 year terms)
- Governor and other state officials (4 year terms)
- State Senate and State House (2 year terms)
- County officials (term length varies)

In a presidential election year and every four years thereafter you also **ELECT**:

- United States President and Vice-President

Municipal officials were elected in 1991 and will be elected every two years thereafter except for Winston-Salem which will elect officials in 1993 and every 4 years thereafter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING VOTER REGISTRATION, ELECTIONS AND VOTING IN FORSYTH COUNTY, CALL THE ELECTIONS OFFICE AT 727-2162.

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