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**Voter**  
**Guide**  
*for*  
**Forsyth County**



**1997**

*Prepared as a public service by the*

**Forsyth County Board of Elections**

680 West Fourth Street

Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2730

(910) 727-2162

<http://www.co.forsyth.nc.us/boe/boe.htm>

## **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

A voter registration card will be mailed to you once your registration application has been processed. They are mailed monthly. Keep the card as it may be used to change your address by mail should you move within Forsyth County, change your name, or change your party. It can also be used to cancel your Forsyth County registration should you move out of the county.

A registration form must be postmarked 25 days before election or delivered to Board of Elections office no later than 25 days before election in order to be good for that election.

Registration may be placed in an inactive status if a voter card is returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable.

## **PARTY AFFILIATION**

When you register, you will need 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.

## **REGISTRATION LOCATIONS**

You may obtain registration forms 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
- ◆ At various public locations including registration drives

- ◆ Winston-Salem City Hall, Town Halls of Kernersville, Rural Hall, Walkertown, Clemmons, Lewisville and Tobaccoville
- ◆ Department of Motor Vehicles
- ◆ Various Agencies (Social Services, Agencies dealing with people with Disabilities, Employment Security Commission, Armed Forces Recruitment offices)
- ◆ Public Locations including government offices and political party headquarters

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 POSTMARKED 25 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION OR RECEIVED IN THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE BY 5:00 PM, 25 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION.**

## **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 address 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 may go to your old precinct & fill out a voter update/transfer form. Then you can take the form to your new precinct where you will be allowed to vote. To avoid this paperwork, change your address by the registration deadline.

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

## **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. If precinct officials are unable to locate your registration record, you may be asked to vote a provisional ballot. **Voter must return provisional ballot in the sealed envelope to precinct official.**

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.

**CALL 727-2162 IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

North Carolina TDD RELAY:

Voice to TDD 1-800-735-8262

TDD to Voice 1-800-735-2962

State Board of Elections TDD 919-715-0230

## **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 REQUESTED 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**

**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. VERIFIABLE LEGAL GUARDIAN MAY NOT RETURN BALLOT.**

## **APPLY AND VOTE AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**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 1996 & 1998 (6 year terms)

- ◆ United States Representative 1996 (2 year terms)
- ◆ Governor and other state officials 1996 (4 year terms)
- ◆ Judges of Superior Court District 21B & 21D - 1996 & 2004 (8 year terms)
- ◆ Judges of Superior Court District 21A & 21C - 1990 & 1998 (8 year terms)
- ◆ State Senate and State House 1996 (2 year terms)
- ◆ Clerk of Superior Court 1994 (4 year term)
- ◆ Register of Deeds 1996 (4 year term)
- ◆ Sheriff 1994 (4 year term)
- ◆ District Attorney 1994 (4 year term)
- ◆ County Com. At Large (1 seat) 1994 (4 year term)
- ◆ County Com. District A (2 seats) 1994 (4 year terms)
- ◆ County Com. District B (1 seat) 1994 (4 year term)
- ◆ County Com. District B (3 seats) 1996 (4 year terms)
- ◆ District Court Judge (6 seats) 1996 (4 year terms); (1 seat) 1994 (4 year term)
- ◆ Board of Education District 1 (2 seats) 1994 (4 year terms)
- ◆ Board of Education District 2 (4 seats) 1994 (4 year terms)
- ◆ Board of Education at Large (1 seat) 1994 (4 year term)
- ◆ Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (1 seat) 1996 (4 year term); (2 seats) 1994 (4 year terms)

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

- ◆ United States President and Vice-President 1996

Municipal officials were elected in 1995 and will be elected every two years thereafter except for Winston-Salem which will elect officials in 1997 and every 4 years thereafter.

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

State Board of Elections TDD      919-715-0230