

# How We Secure **Absentee Voting**

Across North Carolina, election officials work diligently to ensure the security of the absentee voting process. This infographic describes the three-step process for voting by mail - **requesting, completing, and returning a ballot** - along with the security measures in place.



**Absentee Voting Security:** Find the padlocks to learn about the security measures safeguarding each step of absentee voting.

## 01

### Request Ballot

Election officials *only* send ballots to registered voters who request them using official paper request forms or the secure North Carolina Absentee Ballot Portal.



Registered voters in North Carolina must request an **absentee ballot** in order to receive one.

#### 2 Ways to Request Your Ballot

**ONLINE**  
By accessing the NC Absentee Ballot Portal

**ON PAPER**  
By completing the NC Absentee Ballot Request Form



The voter, their near relative, or their legal guardian must fill out and sign the request form.

Data on who has requested absentee ballots is confidential until Election Day, or until the ballot is returned by the voter.



This reduces the ability for third parties to unlawfully interfere with a voter's ballot, as they will not know who has requested a ballot or when any person who has requested a ballot will receive it.



Fraudulently or falsely completing the request form is a felony.

Voters must provide their date of birth, and confirm their identity with a driver's license number or last four digits of their Social Security number.



Election officials validate this information before issuing a ballot.

## Complete Ballot

Two witnesses or a notary public should observe *that* you mark the ballot, not *how* you vote.



Committing fraud, or aiding and abetting fraud, in connection with absentee voting is a felony.



The State Board investigates all credible allegations of election fraud and refers cases to prosecutors when warranted by findings.

### 1. Mark your ballot.

Must be done in the presence of two witnesses or a notary public.

### 2. Seal your ballot.

Place ballot in ballot envelope & seal.

### 3. Sign the envelope.

On back of envelope: sign your name, then have each witness provide *their* full name, address, and signature.

### 4. Include copy of photo ID.

If unable to provide one, include a completed Photo ID Exception Form.

### 5. Seal & mail ballot envelope.

Place the sealed ballot envelope inside absentee return envelope.

The absentee voting process is monitored closely by political parties, candidates, boards of elections, advocacy groups and the media. If anomalies or questionable activities arise, they will be reported to election officials.

The envelope used to return your ballot and photo ID document ensures that only election officials will see your ID information.

## Return Ballot

County boards of elections keep detailed logs of who drops off absentee ballots. Ballot drop boxes are not used in North Carolina.



Typically, only the voter, their near relative, or legal guardian may return the ballot.

When a ballot is returned, the bipartisan county board of elections reviews the absentee ballot envelope to ensure compliance with all legal requirements.

### 2 Ways to Return Your Ballot

#### MAIL

Include correct postage.

#### IN PERSON

Return ballot to your county board of elections office or an early voting site in your county.

If that voter attempts to vote in person, poll workers won't allow that individual to vote another regular ballot.



Once ballot is accepted, voter is marked in the system as having voted in that election.

Anyone who needs voting assistance due to a disability can receive help from the person of their choice.

Scan to learn all about absentee voting in NC.

