

## ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee voting is comprised of two methods by which registered voters may cast ballots other than the traditional method of appearing in person and casting a ballot on the day of the election. These methods are mail in absentee and absentee one-stop.

### MAIL IN ABSENTEE

The fastest way to receive an absentee by mail is to mail a **HANDWRITTEN LETTER** to the Craven County Board of Elections. Please do not send requests filled out on forms not issued by this office.

*Craven County Board of Elections  
Attn: Absentee Request  
406 Craven Street  
New Bern, NC 28560*

### ABSENTEE REQUEST REQUIREMENTS

Any registered North Carolina voter can request an absentee ballot from the Craven County Board of Elections prior to the last Tuesday before the election. A handwritten request from the voter or near relative\* must include the following:

NAME OF VOTER  
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF VOTER  
MAILING ADDRESS OF VOTER (if different from residential address)  
DATE OF BIRTH OF VOTER  
SIGNATURE OF VOTER OR NEAR RELATIVE (if relative indicate relationship with voter)

**Make sure document contains an original signature.**

When this request is received at the Board of Elections and verified, an absentee application and ballot will be mailed to the address you have provided.

Effective January 1, 2004, if you registered to vote on or after January 1, 2003 and did not present identification you will be required to submit one of the following forms of identification with your returned absentee ballot:

1. A current and valid photo identification
2. A current utility bill showing name and residential address
3. A current bank statement showing name and residential address
4. A current government check or document showing name and residential address
5. A current paycheck showing name and residential address

A request by mail can be made for the voter themselves or a near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, or verifiable legal guardian).

### SPECIAL POSTAGE NOTICE FOR MAILED ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Proper postage must be affixed when returning absentee balloting materials to the Craven County Board of Elections. Most ballot return envelopes exceed the standard size (11½" X 6 1/8" maximum). The postage on larger envelopes is typically higher. The post office should be contacted, before mailing absentee ballot if there is any doubt. Sealed absentee ballots may be returned in person by the voter or his/her near relative.

**Please call the Craven County Board of Elections at 252-636-6610 with any questions.**

### UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS (UOCAVA)

UOCAVA citizens are members of one of two groups.

1. Member of the uniformed services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent. Uniformed services of the United States includes, but is not limited to, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, the Merchant Marine, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, and members of the National Guard and Military Reserve.
2. United States Citizens residing outside the United States.

**How can I apply?**

Go to Federal Voting Assistance website for more information: <http://www.fvap.gov>

## MISCELLANEOUS VOTING REGULATIONS

### ELECTION DAY ELECTIONEERING

In accordance with N.C.G.S. § 163-166.4, please remember there is to be no campaigning within 50 feet of the entrance to the voting place on Election Day. Precinct officials have a difficult job managing voter flow and assuring procedures are followed within the voting enclosure. Unnecessary electioneering within the 50 foot parameter detracts from the effective operations of the polling place and interrupts the election process.

### ELECTION DAY ASSISTANCE TO VOTERS

In accordance with N.C.G.S. § 163-166.8, the following scenarios permit assistance to voters in the polling place on Election Day:

- 1) Near relatives may assist voters at the request of the voter:  
Spouse Grandparent Daughter-in-Law Son-in-Law  
Parent Grandchild Sibling Stepparent  
Child Mother-in-Law Father-in-Law Stepchild
- 2) Any person may assist blind, disabled, or illiterate voters, **ONLY IF REQUESTED BY VOTER.**
- 3) Precinct Election Officials may assist any voter, **ONLY IF REQUESTED BY VOTER.**

### FELON RIGHTS

Persons who have been convicted of a felony may have their right to vote restored in North Carolina if they have served their sentence and paid any court-ordered fines or restitution.