

Conducting a Voter Registration Drive in North Carolina

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2012

Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

Primary Election Registration Deadline: April 13
Primary Election: May 8
General Election Registration Deadline: October 12
General Election: November 6

Before Getting Started

Training Requirement: North Carolina law does not require that civic organizations, employees or volunteers conducting voter registrations drives participate in any training.

Notification and Registration Requirements: North Carolina law does not require that civic organizations, employees or volunteers conducting voter registrations drives provide notification of their activities to the State Board of Elections (“BOE”) or local election officials.

Compensation Restrictions: North Carolina law does not restrict the way that voter registration organizations compensate their employees except it is a class 2 misdemeanor for any person to sell or attempt to sell a completed voter registration form or to condition its delivery upon payment. *N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.6(a).*

What voter registration applications should we use?

State Form: North Carolina requires use of original voter registration forms received directly from the State BOE. To obtain these applications, an organization or individual must submit a North Carolina Voter Registration Supplies Order Form to the State Board of Elections at P.O. Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611-7255. This form can be downloaded from the [State BOE’s website](#). These forms should be ordered in groups of 1000. *North Carolina State Board of Elections Website, available at <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/content.aspx?id=48> (last visited February 14, 2012); N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.5.*

Federal Form: The federal mail-in registration application may also be used in voter registration drives. *N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.3.*

Photocopying Blank Forms: State forms must be originals and photocopying is prohibited.

Handling Applications

Incomplete Application: North Carolina law specifically prohibits changing a person’s information on a voter registration form prior to delivering it to the County Board of Elections. *N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163 82.6.*

Photocopying Completed Applications: There is no law or administrative rule prohibiting voter registration organizations from photocopying or retaining information from completed registration applications, provided that the original application is timely submitted to appropriate election officials. It is recommended that organizations do not retain driver’s license or social security numbers; these numbers should be redacted from copied applications. Organizations should also redact at least a portion of all birth dates from any copied voter registration applications as the Board of Elections must keep confidential the date of birth of every voter-registration applicant and registered voter.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.10B.

Penalties

Failing to Timely Submit Registration: Any individual who fails to deliver another person’s completed voter registration application before the 25 day general registration deadline is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.

It is also a class 2 misdemeanor for:

- Any person to sell or attempt to sell a completed voter registration form or to condition payment upon its delivery
- Any person to change a person's information on a voter registration application before it is turned into election authorities
- Any person to coerce a person into marking a party affiliation other than the party affiliation the person desires (or to pre-mark voter registration forms with party affiliations).

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.6.

Deadlines

Submitting Applications: The general registration deadline in North Carolina is 25 days before an election. Forms that are post-marked by the deadline will be accepted.

Any individual who accepts a completed voter registration application from another individual is specially required to ensure that the application is mailed or delivered to the appropriate County Board of Elections before the registration deadline.

If an individual gives their completed registration application to another person for delivery before the registration deadline, but that other person fails to deliver it timely, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor. In this circumstance, the County Board of Elections will accept the application past the deadline.

Completed voter registration applications may be delivered to County Board of Elections electronically (by facsimile).

Submitting New Registration/Changing Party Affiliation: Completed applications reflecting new registration and changes in party affiliation will be accepted as long as they are faxed to County Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. on the 25th day before the election (Oct. 12th for November 2012 election) . After the completed application is sent by facsimile, the original application must be mailed to the County Board of Elections within 20 days of the election (Oct. 17th for November 2012 election).

Submitting Change of Address or Name: Complete applications reflecting changes of name or address may also be faxed to County Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. 25 days before the election and in this circumstance, the original form does not need to be mailed to the County Board of Elections.

N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-82.6; 08 N.C. Admin. Code 07B.0101; 08 N.C. Admin. Code 07B.0102.

For more information, visit www.fairelectionsnetwork.com.

This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in North Carolina and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed North Carolina legal professional.

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