

KIDS VOTING NC 4-H

2024

ELECTION

GUIDE



Rowan County

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH

KIDSVOTINGNC.ORG

KIDS VOTING NC 4-H Rowan County

Our Mission

Kids Voting NC helps youth younger than 18 understand and believe in the power they can have as engaged civic participants and informed voters. As young people become more knowledgeable and engaged in the voting process, they often serve as catalysts within their own families and communities. Through their enthusiasm and commitment to civic participation, youth inspire adults to become more informed and engaged voters themselves. Across generations, we can make our communities, our country, and our world better.

KIDS VOTING
NORTH CAROLINA



NC STATE
EXTENSION

Created by 2024 Kids Voting Civic Leadership Interns

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**Kids Voting NC is a program of the
Durham County Cooperative Extension**

**NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**



Cooperative Extension

kidsvotingnc.org | rowan.ces.ncsu.edu

2024 ELECTION GUIDE

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MESSAGE TO YOUTH

YOUTH Have Power

*"What's the point of being civically involved? No one's going to listen to me—these elections don't even affect me." **Not true!***

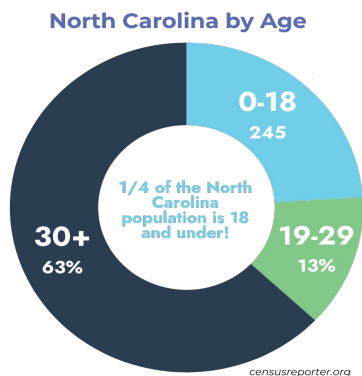
Kids Voting youth leaders asked this year's candidates about the biggest issues concerning youth today. And they answered! They listened to youth because **WE ARE the future**. In a few years **WE'LL be the ones voting- even running for offices!** How can we do that if we aren't civically informed and engaged? That's just it: we can't! In order to become civically engaged you must realize that:

YOU HAVE POWER!

Even the youngest of youth can become more civically informed by participating in Kids Voting elections! In the following pages, hear more ways our youth team know youth have power in this election.

THIS IS ABOUT YOU!

Offices on the ballot directly impact youth! The local elections contain the County Commissioners (which funds your schools), NC Legislature (which can help create jobs), and the NC Labor Commissioner (who provides you worker training and education)!



Youth make up a big chunk of NC!

Let's put that to use and make our voices heard!!

Let the the KV Civic Youth Leaders tell you even more ways you can have power in this election. Scan here for their video messages to you!



bit.ly/3ZGTUdo

YOU CAN BE INVOLVED TOO!

We're creating this guide to give youth direct, accessible, youth-focused information that is easy and fun for youth to understand. Read about the other ways YOU can get involved and then check out the videos in the following pages to learn how we each thought youth have power in this election!

- **Vote with Kids Voting NC:** See the How to Vote for Kids page to see how and when you can vote. Your vote doesn't determine who is elected – this time – but it does voice your opinion and tell people who our youth would choose.
- **Use Your Voice:** You can call candidates' attention to issues that affect youth through social media, discussion with others, and attending candidate forums & events for issues you're passionate about!
- **Create Your Own "Get Out The Vote" Campaign:** Whether it's giving out free lemonade while talking about voting, having a fun craft-session with friends making election information pieces, or giving away mini candy bags with a "Go vote!" message inside, have your own fun and creative campaign to encourage voting!

From The 2024 KVD Civic Leadership Youth Team

A collection of handwritten signatures in various colors (black, red, purple, blue, green, orange) arranged in a loose grid. The names include: Addy Daryani, Amanda, Olivia Ibede, MAA, Rachel, Ezekele, Justin, Kamali Hall, Media, Olivia, Camille Verrest, Kona, Lucia, Emma, and Brandon.

Message For Parents & Caregivers

62% of youth say they hear about elections and voting from their families – more than any other source, including schools! You are the **most important influence** on your child’s civic motivation and activities. We encourage you not only to be engaged in the elections yourself but to share that engagement with the youth in your life.

Kids Voting Durham has resources to help you with:

★ **Information about the Candidates & Issues**

Read through this Kids Voting Durham Election Guide together. Check out the Resources section at the end of this guide for more nonpartisan election information resources.

★ **Family voting**

Vote together as a family! Take your kids with you when you cast your ballot and make sure they cast their own with Kids Voting Durham. Your kids will see and share your enthusiasm for being part of our democracy. Youth who are exposed to voting early on are much more likely to become regular voters as adults!

Scan here for video tips on
raising engaged citizen from
KVD Youth Leaders!



bit.ly/4eEOt32

More recommendations for parents & caregivers supporting children’s civic engagement can be found in CIRCLE: Growing Voters, a report from the Tufts Jonathan M. Tisch College of CivicLife circle.tufts.edu/circlegrowingvoters

Kids Can Vote Too! Here's How:

Where

Rowan County Cooperative Extension
2727 Old Concord Road, Salisbury, NC

When

Tuesday, November 5
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

How

Come into our main lobby to fill out a “registration card” and then vote on an iPad!

Youth voices matter, so bring a friend & get informed! (Read the guide!)



Why Should Kids Vote?



INCREASED YOUTH VOTER TURNOUT

Youth who are exposed to voting in elections in elementary school are 40% more likely to vote as adults. Youth reach adulthood confident in their civic & voting skills



INCREASED ADULT VOTER TURNOUT

Youth act as civic instigators; KVUSA research has shown 3-6% increase in adult voting in KV communities



DEEPER YOUTH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Youth gain knowledge, skills, and motivation to be more active civic participants in their communities



EQUITABLE CIVIC OPPORTUNITIES

Kids Voting expands youth who have access to civic engagement experiences & helps to close identified civic opportunity gaps for youth.



HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Research shows that a community's economic and physical health are often directly correlated with its civic health.

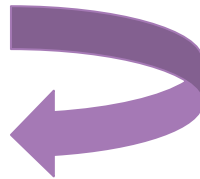
INFORMATION FOR First Time Voters

In every election, youth 18-24 have the lowest turnout of any age demographics! Not because they don't care, but because voting for the first time can be overwhelming! We know you're lost and confused, so follow these **easy 1, 2, 3 steps** to cast your first ballot! You can do it!

1. CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY

- Will you be 18 or older by November 5th, 2024?
- Are you a US citizen?
- Are you not currently serving a felony sentence, including probation or parole?

Got all the checks? Move on to the second step!



2. REGISTER

Choose **ONE** of these options for registering:

- Mail/In Person:** registration forms are found at your County Board of Election at www.rowancountync.gov/191/Elections.
Must be received by Oct. 11th at 5pm.



Check to see if you're already registered:

vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/

- Online** (must have current NC Driver's License or State ID): Official NCDMV: Voter Registration Application at ncdot.gov
- One-Stop Early-Voting:** show up at any voting location between **Oct. 17th - Nov. 2nd**, to register and vote on the same day (**must show valid ID, proof of residency**)!

3. CAST YOUR BALLOT

Make sure you have a **valid voter ID (see below)** and choose **ONE** of these easy options:

- ❑ **Vote by Mail with an Absentee Ballot:** At link below, request a ballot by **Oct. 29th at 5pm**. Ballots are mailed starting Sept 6th, and the deadline to return your ballot is **Nov. 5th at 7:30pm**.

–OR–

- ❑ **One-Stop Early-Voting** allows you to show up at any voting location between **Oct. 17th - Nov. 2nd**, to register and vote on the same day!

–OR–

- ❑ **Vote on Election Day, Nov. 5th, 2024!** Show up from 6:30am-7:00pm at your assigned polling station (see link below).



Vote By Mail
Ballot
Request:

votebymail.ncsbe.gov/app/home



Picture ID
required!
Find out if yours is
valid or how to get
a free one

ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id#free

**FIND MORE
INFORMATION AT**
[www.rowancountync.gov](https://www.rowancountync.gov/v/191/Elections)
[v/191/Elections](https://www.rowancountync.gov/v/191/Elections)

Or

[YouCanVote.org/Voter](https://YouCanVote.org/VoterGuide)
[Guide](https://YouCanVote.org/VoterGuide)

Digital Literacy

WHAT'S DIGITAL LITERACY?

Chances are you use the Internet or social media every day. Let's face it, it's almost impossible not to. Elections are no exception. A recent study by Pew found that more than 80% of users across X, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok say they encounter news-related content. But how much of that can we trust? How can we become more informed voters in the Internet Age?

Enter **digital literacy**. Most simply, digital literacy is **skills that help you wisely navigate online information**. When researching candidates or other election-related issues, digital literacy helps us choose trustworthy sources.

WAIT, SERIOUSLY? YOUTH NEED TO LEARN THIS?

What's the difference between **dis**information and **mis**information? Are .orgs always more reliable than .coms? Could you answer these questions? There are all sorts of popular misconceptions about the digital world! Debunking them is the first step in digital literacy.

Actually, let's debunk one right now! Just because youth are tech-savvy doesn't mean we're digitally literate.

DON'T BELIEVE US?

Here's what the research shows:

In a 2019 study of American high schoolers,

96%

could not tell a climate change denial website was funded by the fossil fuel industry.

In a 2016 study of American middle schoolers,

80%

believed a political advertisement was a real news story.

In a 2022 study of Stanford undergraduates, **only**

34%

could correctly identify a satire news site as satire.



bit.ly/3XnR|sn

Test your own digital literacy knowledge with this Kahoot quiz! You can even see how you rank against our KVD Youth Civic Leaders!

SO WHAT DO PROFESSIONAL FACT-CHECKERS DO?

They don't ...

- Use a checklist of strategies
- Assume having a ".org" or ".edu" means a site is legitimate
- Trust the "About Us" page or labels like 'expert' or 'peer-reviewed' without fact-checking

They ask:

"What do other sources say?"

Stanford researchers found that without exception, the pros practice something called **lateral reading**.

Lateral reading is simply **clicking off** a site or message to **consult better sources on the Internet**.

SOME HEALTHY HABITS

When you're scrolling away...



If it gives you the **ick**, simply **don't click!**

If something makes you emotional or just seems off, don't click it! Scroll on!

Don't let the algorithm think you're attracted by that kind of content!

If you have a minute...

Look at what the experts say!



We recommend: The Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network at poynter.org. It's a network of the world's top nonpartisan fact-checkers. Check out more of their resources below.



Scan to see a video of what **Lateral Reading** looks like!

bit.ly/4ev7N2y

About The Offices

In 2024, we elect offices at the **Federal, State, and Local** levels from the **Executive, Legislative, and Judicial** branches of government.



**EXECUTIVE
BRANCH**



**LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH**



**JUDICIAL
BRANCH**

★ FEDERAL BRANCH

US PRESIDENT

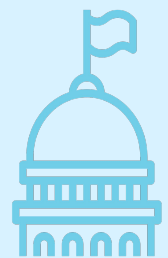
Heads the country's executive branch and can sign or veto **legislation** (laws) passed by Congress. The president also can issue executive orders, command the United States' armed forces, and make treaties with foreign countries.

To learn more, visit: [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)



US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Drafts and passes federal legislation (laws and policies for the country), creates the budget for the Federal Government (decides how money will be spent) The **US House** is made up of 435 members called **Representatives** or **Congresspersons**. The number of representatives each state has in the House depends on that state's population. Congressional Representatives are elected to 2-year terms.



North Carolina has **14** representatives in the U.S. House. US House Representatives are elected by the voting citizens in their **district**. To learn more, visit: [house.gov](https://www.house.gov)

★ STATE BRANCH

NC GOVERNOR

Heads North Carolina's executive branch by signing or vetoing bills drafted in the General Assembly and enforcing state law. The governor also grants pardons, proposes a budget to the state legislature, issues emergency orders, and appoints many state-level government officials. *To learn more, visit: governor.nc.gov*



NC LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Presides over the state senate and takes over Governor's duties if Governor is not able to. *To learn more, visit: ltgov.nc.gov*

NC SECRETARY OF STATE

Authorizes the establishment of North Carolina corporations and administers commercial regulations with the primary goal of strengthening the state's economy. *To learn more, visit: sosnc.gov*

NC AUDITOR

Examines government agencies finances & records and makes recommendations to improve services and eliminate wasteful spending.. *To learn more, visit: auditor.nc.gov*

NC SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Implements the state's laws for preK-12 Public Schools by the course content for NC schools and supporting school districts with curriculum, teacher licensing, and school operations. *To learn more, visit: dpi.nc.gov*

★ STATE OFFICES

NC TREASURER

Serves as the state's chief banker by facilitating North Carolina healthcare and pension plans, managing investments, and providing financial support to local governments. *To learn more, visit: nctreasurer.com*

Together, these ten offices make up North Carolina's **Council of State** –aka its executive governing body!

NC LABOR COMMISSIONER

Protects the health of North Carolina's workforce by carrying out workplace inspections and helping to settle labor disputes related to both pay and discrimination. *To learn more, visit: labor.nc.gov*

NC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Maintains the quality and safety of North Carolina's food supply by regulating state farm operations & marketing practices and addresses the environmental issues that affect agriculture.

To learn more, visit: ncagr.gov

NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Regulates the state's insurance industry by responding to insurance-related complaints and licensing insurance agents. Also serves as the state's chief fire marshall, leading building inspections and fire safety education efforts.

To learn more, visit: ncdoi.gov

NC ATTORNEY GENERAL

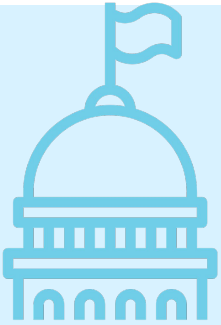
Represents state agencies in court proceedings and provides legal advice to all sectors of the North Carolina government. The attorney general may also initiate public interest lawsuits on behalf of the state.

To learn more, visit: ncdoj.gov

★ STATE OFFICES

NC STATE HOUSE & SENATE

The **North Carolina Assembly** is made up of the Senate and the House, and is the Legislative Branch of our State Government.



The NC State Senate has 50 members, and the North Carolina House of Representatives has 120 members. Each member is elected for a term of 2 years. The NC State House and Senate work hand in hand to **make the laws, budget, and policies for the State of North Carolina**. To learn more, visit ncleg.gov/senate & ncleg.gov/house

NC STATE SUPREME COURT

North Carolina is one of 21 states that elect judges rather than appointing them.

The State Supreme Court is the highest court in North Carolina at the top level of NC's State Judicial Branch. This court **interprets the law and determines if lower courts made any errors in their rulings**. The NC State Supreme Courts consist of a Chief Justice and 6 Associate Justices (Judges).



NC Supreme Court Justices serve 8-year terms. As of 2018, NC State Supreme Court Elections are partisan, meaning that each candidate runs with a political party. To learn more, visit: nccourts.gov/supreme

NC COURT OF APPEALS

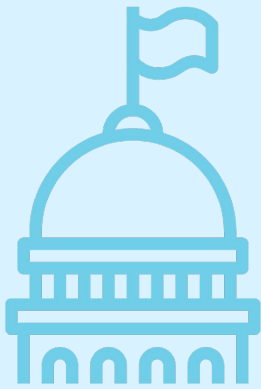
The NC Court of Appeals is the court under the NC State Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals **reviews trial court rulings to make sure the law was applied correctly**. Judges are elected and serve 8-year terms. Three Court of Appeals seats are up for election in 2024.

To learn more, visit: nccourts.gov/appeals

★ STATE OFFICES

NC SUPERIOR COURT

The NC Superior Court **handles felonies** (serious crimes that can result in a punishment of more than one year in prison time), **cases involving over \$25,000, and appeals from the District Courts.**



The courts in North Carolina are divided into five divisions, which are further divided into a total of 48 local districts. In 2024, *To learn more, visit: nccourts.gov/supreme*

★ LOCAL/DISTRICT OFFICES

DISTRICT COURT

District Court is the Judicial Branch of our local government. District Court Judges **decide cases about family and youth matters** such as child support, child custody, divorce, and distribution of property/money between divorcing spouses, as well as juvenile delinquency.



Most district court cases are decided by a judge rather than a jury. District Judges are elected every 4 years.

To learn more, visit: nccourts.gov/district-courts

★ LOCAL/DISTRICT OFFICES

COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County Commissioners are responsible for formulating county policies and budget for County programs like the libraries, health department, Cooperative Extension, Board of Elections, and more. They set the County property tax rate, and can call for bond referenda. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.rowancountync.gov/511/Board-of-Commissioners>.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Responsible for safekeeping public records, including military records, birth, marriage & death certificates, and other such paperwork. The Register of Deeds is elected for **4 years** in a **partisan** election. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.rowancountync.gov/490/Register-Of-Deeds>.

SOIL AND WATER SUPERVISOR

Enhances and promotes the natural resources by providing technical assistance, environmental education, and economic incentives to County residents. The District has the responsibility of conserving soil, water, and related natural resources within Durham County. The District Board that leads these efforts is made up of 5 Supervisors: 2 who are appointed and 3 who are elected by Durham Citizens. Supervisors are elected to **4-year terms**, and are elected in **non-partisan elections**, meaning the candidates don't run associated with a political party. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.rowancountync.gov/1133/Soil-Water-Conservation>.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education establishes the policies that govern the Rowan-Salisbury School System, including curriculum, facilities, financial resources and personnel. The Board also evaluates the superintendent. To learn more visit: <https://www.rssed.org/domain/44>.

Issues

There are many issues that are important to voters in the 2024 election. We have selected a few issues that emerged as most important to youth and show how the offices we elect this year impact those issues. To choose the issues to highlight, our youth Civic Leadership team (in Durham County) used various studies that looked at issues that were important to youth nationally and locally including [CIRCLE's 2024 Youth Poll](#) and [IOP's Harvard Youth Poll](#)

DEMOCRACY & VOTING

WE ELECT...	THEY DECIDE...
US President	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appoints Supreme Court Justices who rule whether or not national and state voting laws comply with US Constitution
US House	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass legislation about national voting rights• Propose amendments to the US Constitution or other legislation related to nation-wide voter eligibility
NC Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can sign or veto NC Legislature proposed election laws
NC Attorney General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determines how challenges to NC election law will be handled in court• Enforces NC election laws
NC Supreme Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rule on legal challenges to state voter legislation
NC State Senate & House	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have primary responsibility for determining "time, places, and manner" of election within bounds of US and NC State Constitution• Determine who is eligible to vote and requirements for voters• Draw election maps (US & NC Legislative Districts)• Manages Election Oversight Committee• Decides which State elections are partisan vs. nonpartisan

GUN VIOLENCE & CRIME

WE ELECT...	THEY DECIDE...
US President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can create executive orders for gun use and gun rights • Appoints US Attorney General
US House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass national laws related to gun ownership violence • Regulate gun sales through national commerce laws and taxation • Fund federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
NC Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can veto or sign NC Legislative approved laws related to gun ownership and use passed by NC Legislature • Can declare state of emergency related to gun violence as health issue • Can pardon people who have been convicted of a crime
NC Attorney General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can sue gun manufacturers & others on behalf of NC citizens
NC State House and Senate District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass laws regarding safety and gun ownership and use • Set penalties guidelines
District Court Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule on cases involving gun use and possession according to current laws

HEALTHCARE

WE ELECT...	THEY DECIDE...
US President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can create executive orders related to health & healthcare policy ● Appoints US Secretary for Health & Human Services
US House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pass laws related to healthcare including health insurance and mental health care ● Fund Medicare and Medicaid ● Provide funding for healthcare research & programs
NC Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can veto or sign laws about healthcare passed by NC Legislature ● Appoints and oversees the head of the NC Department of Health and Human Services
NC State Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Runs State Health Plan that covers 1 million state employees (including teachers)
NC Insurance Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can recommend charges against healthcare companies who engage in fraud
NC State Senate & House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set the budget for healthcare in the state budget ● Determine health care benefits for State Employees including teachers and schools personnel
Durham County Board of Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fund and oversees Durham Department of Health and its community health initiatives

EDUCATION

WE ELECT...	THEY DECIDE...
US President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appoints head of US Department of Education
US House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fund US Department of Education ● Creates national legislation about civil rights in schools like IDEA and Title 9 ● Provide less than 10% of funding for NC schools, mainly through nutrition programs and grants
NC Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appoints members of State Boards of Education ● Can sign or veto laws passed by NC Legislature regarding education
NC Superintendent of Public Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oversees the distribution of state education funds to public schools. ● Provides professional development for teachers and administrators. ● Develops curriculum guidelines and instructional materials for public schools
NC State Senate & House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Propose, amend, and pass state laws related to curriculum standards, teachers, salaries, and other educational policies ● Provides over 50% of funding for schools
Durham County Board of Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide local funding for Durham Public Schools (about 30% of current budget) ● Can propose and manage bonds to fund school building ● Can fund community education efforts in various county departments (including Kids Voting Durham!)

COST OF LIVING / AFFORDABILITY

WE ELECT...	THEY DECIDE...
<p>US President</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign into law or veto US Congressional legislation regarding taxes and wages ● Appoints Secretary of Housing & Urban Development
<p>US House</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine national minimum wage and federal income tax rate ● Fund HUD and federal housing and rental assistance programs
<p>NC Governor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign into law or veto NC legislation regarding state income and property tax ● Can lobby for companies to build factories and facilities in North Carolina to create jobs in-state
<p>Attorney General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oversees consumer protection and prosecutes price gouging and other consumer protection issues
<p>NC State Senate and House</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sets state minimum wage and state tax income, business, and other tax rates ● Determines regulations for landlords and renters in NC ● Sets limits on what local government can do when regulating new housing construction, rents, and other aspects of housing ● Create laws that relate to NC economic policy and corporate regulations
<p>Durham County Board of Commissioners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sets Durham County property tax rate ● Enacts local ordinances related to zoning and rezoning; appoints members to and supervises the Durham Planning Commission

CLIMATE

WE ELECT...	THEY DECIDE...
US President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines how the federal government prioritizes different environmental issues, • Appoints Secretary of Energy and EPA
US House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund EPA and other federal environmental agencies • Create laws on national environmental concerns
NC Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can sign or veto laws passed by State Legislature relating to environment
NC Attorney General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to bring lawsuits against companies harming the environment
NC Agricultural Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes agriculture soil, water, & forestry regulations
NC State Senate and House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can create laws relating to climate change and pollution and allocates a certain amount of money towards reducing climate change
Durham County Board of Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make decisions about County environmental practices
Durham Soil and Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides environmental education, technical assistance for agriculture, and funding nature restoration efforts

How Elections Work

A crucial step in being an informed participant is knowing how our system works! Here are some key election concepts.

WRITE IN CANDIDATES

KIDS VOTING BALLOT	ADULT BALLOT
<p>The Kids Voting ballot does not permit write in candidates for any office because of difficulty in tabulating and the complexity of write-in laws.</p>	<p>Adults have the option of writing in a candidate other than the ones listed for many races on their ballot. However for that vote to be valid, the person they write in must have qualified as a write in candidate for this election with NC Board of Election. If no one has qualified as a write-in candidate for a partisan race in a general election, the write in option will not be included.</p>

DISTRICTS

KIDS VOTING BALLOT	ADULT BALLOT
<p>All Kids Voting youth voters can vote in all of the district races for NC House & Senate and the judicial races. You won't be able to do this when you are an adult, so take advantage of it now!</p>	<p>Adults must live in a NC Senate or House district in order to vote in that race. Each adult voter has only 1 NC Senate and 1 NC House district they are eligible to vote in.</p>

UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

An uncontested election is one where the number of candidates on the ballot is less than or equal to the number of seats up for election, and you will notice that there a number of races like this on the 2024 ballot – nearly 70% nationwide. There are more uncontested races at the local levels than at the national level. Why are there so many races without a choice? What is a voters responsibility in educating themselves about the candidates and voting in an uncontested race where there is no choice? Read some of the resources in the deep dive section, and see how you would answer these questions.

DETERMINING WINNERS

KIDS VOTING BALLOT	ADULT BALLOT
All elections on the Kids Voting ballot are determined by who gets the most votes.	Every candidate is elected through popular vote (the one who got the most votes) EXCEPT the president; they get chosen through the Electoral College . (see below)

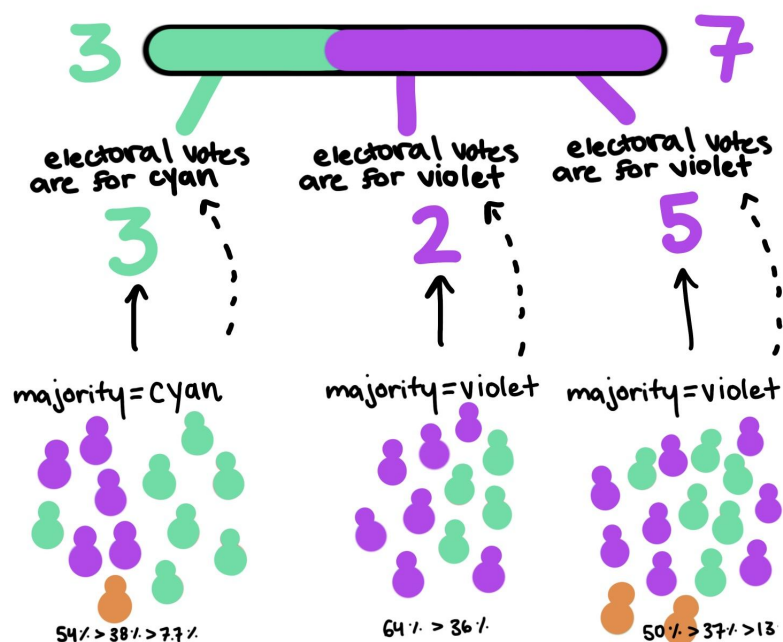
HOW THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORKS

Every candidate, except the president, is elected by **popular vote**, meaning the one with the most votes wins. The president, however, is chosen through the **Electoral College**. Each state has a certain number of "electoral votes" based on its population. The number of electoral votes for a state equals the total number of its Senate and House of Representatives members.

EX: North Carolina has 2 senators and 14 house representatives, which means NC has **16 electoral votes!**

The candidate who wins the majority of votes in a state receives all of that state's electoral votes, except in Maine and Nebraska. These two states split their electoral votes: the winning candidate gets most of the votes, while one electoral vote is awarded to the winner of each congressional district.

The presidential election is won by the candidate has at least **270 electoral votes**.



Political Parties & Elections

WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?

A **political party** is a group of people who share similar ideas and goals about how the government should work. To put their ideas into action, political parties try to help their candidates win elections so together they can make laws and policies that match their party goals.

A **party platform** is a set of ideas and goals that party leaders agree on. Just because a candidate runs as a member of the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, or Green Party doesn't mean they agree with or promise to support every part of their party's platform, even if they are running associated with that party.

PARTIES & ELECTIONS

Elections for each race are either **partisan** or **nonpartisan**. In non-partisan elections, candidates run without being connected to a political party. In partisan elections, candidates either must have the support of a political party or meet the qualifications to run as an "unaffiliated" candidate. In **primary elections**, held before the general election, voters from each party choose which candidate will represent their party on the ballot for each office.

What about write-in candidates? Do they need to have a political party?

[Write-in voting laws are complex](#). Write-in candidates are not affiliated with a political party, but they do need to hand in paperwork and signed citizen petitions prior to the election for votes for them to count. Kids Voting does not have a write-in option on its ballot.

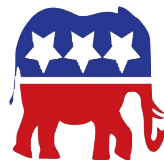
POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE 2024 NC BALLOT

This November, in North Carolina, you will see candidates affiliated with the **Democratic Party** (D), the **Republican Party** (R), the **Libertarian Party** (L), the **Constitution Party** (C), the **Green Party**, and, **Justice for All** on the ballot.

Candidates that don't affiliate with any party in a partisan election are identified as **"unaffiliated"** (U). Sometimes unaffiliated candidates are called **"independents."**



Democrats
democrats.org



Republicans
gop.com



Libertarians
lp.org/platform



Constitution
Constitutionparty.com



Green
gp.org/platform



Justice For All
cornelwest2024.com/justice_for_all

No Labels

The No Labels party qualified for the NC ballot but didn't have any candidates in this election
nolabels.org/our-ideas

We the People

We the People qualified for the ballot but sued to have their candidate Robert Kennedy removed from the NC ballot

For more information on political parties, scan the QR code to watch this 5-minute Youtube video from Reading Through History!

[What are Political Parties?](#)



bit.ly/4dlBW3s

2024 Referenda

WHAT'S A REFERENDUM?

At the state or local level, voters sometimes have the chance to directly decide on changes to the state constitution, laws, or government spending. These decisions are called referenda.

NC CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

In 2024, the NC Legislature is letting voters decide whether a section of the NC Constitution about voting eligibility should be amended (changed). Currently the constitution reads, "Every person born in the United States and every person who has been naturalized, 18 years of age, and possessing the qualifications set out in this Article, shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people of the State, except as herein otherwise provided."

If the majority of voters choose "for" on this amendment referendum, the constitution will be changed to what is written in the amendment below. If the majority of voters choose "against" the language in the constitution will remain as it currently is.

NC Constitutional Amendment:

Constitutional amendment to provide only a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age and otherwise possessing the qualifications set out in this Article, shall be entitled to vote at any election in this State.

Rowan-Salisbury Schools Board of Education Election Method:

Changing the method of election for the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan.

US President



Kamala D. Harris

Democratic Party

kamalaharris.com
Twitter @KamalaHarris
Instagram @KamalaHarris
ballotpedia.org/Kamala_Harris



Randall Terry

Constitution Party

terry2024.com
Twitter @RandallTerry
Insta@OfficalRandallTerry
ballotpedia.org/Randall_Terry



Chase Oliver

Libertarian Party

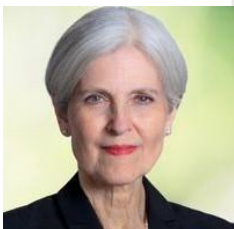
votechaseoliver.com
Twitter @ChaseForLiberty
Insta @ChaseForLiberty
ballotpedia.org/Chase_Oliver



Donald J. Trump

Republican Party

DonaldJTrump.com
Twitter @TrumpWarRoom
Insta @RealDonaldTrump
ballotpedia.org/Donald_Trump



Jill Stein

Green Party

jillstein2024.com
Facebook @DrJillStein
Twitter @@DrJillStein
Instagram @@DrJillStein
ballotpedia.org/Jill_Stein



Cornel West

Justice For All Party

cornelwest2024.com
Twitter @CornelWest
Instagram
@BrotherCornelWest
ballotpedia.org/Cornel_West

US House of Representatives, District 6



Kevin E. Hayes

Constitution Party

<https://hayesfornc.com/>



Addison McDowell

Republican Party

<https://www.mcdowellfornc.com/>

NC Governor



Mark Robinson

Republican Party

MarkRobinsonForNC.com

Instagram @MarkRobinsonForNC

ballotpedia.org/Mark_K._Robinson



Mike Ross

Libertarian Party

firetheuniparty.com

Twitter & Instagram @FireTheUniparty

ballotpedia.org/Mike_Ross



Vinny Smith

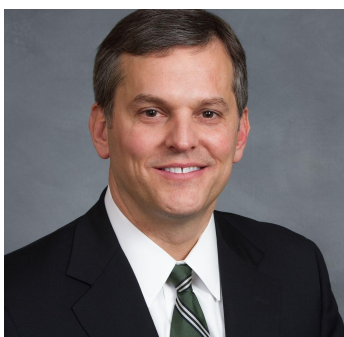
Constitution Party

vinnyfornc.com

Facebook @VinnyForNC

Twitter @VINNYSMITHFORNC

ballotpedia.org/Vinny_Smith



Josh Stein

Democratic Party

joshstein.org

Instagram @JoshSteinNC

Twitter @JoshStein

ballotpedia.org/Josh_Stein



Wayne Turner

Green Party

agreenforgovernor.org

ballotpedia.org/Wayne_Turner

NC Lieutenant Governor



Rachel Hunt

Democratic Party

RachelHunt.com

Twitter @HuntforNC

Instagram @HuntForNC

ballotpedia.org/Rachel_Hunt



Wayne Jones

Constitution Party

ballotpedia.org/Wayne_Jones_(North_Carolina)



Hal Weatherman

Republican Party

HalWeathermanForNC.com

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Instagram @HalWeathermanNC

ballotpedia.org/Hal_Weatherman



Shannon W. Bray

Libertarian Party

ShannonBray.us

Twitter @ShannonBrayNC

Instagram ShannonBrayNC

ballotpedia.org/Shannon_Bray

NC Attorney General



Jeff Jackson

Democratic Party

jeffjackson.house.gov

Twitter @JeffJacksonNC

ballotpedia.org/Jeff_Jackson



Dan Bishop

Republican Party

DanBishop.house.gov

Twitter @RepDanBishop

ballotpedia.org/Dan_Bishop

NC Auditor



Bob Drach

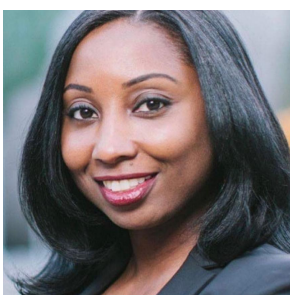
Libertarian Party

ElectDrach.org

Twitter @ElectDrach

Instagram @ElectDrach

ballotpedia.org/Bob_Drach



Jessica Holmes

Democratic Party

jessicafornc.com

Twitter @JessicaForNC

Instagram @JessicaForNC

ballotpedia.org/Jessica_Holmes



Dave Boliek

Republican Party

auditor-dave.com

Twitter @DaveBoliek

Instagram @daveforauditor

ballotpedia.org/Dave_Boliek

NC Agriculture Commissioner



Sean Haugh

Libertarian Party

seanhaugh.com

Twitter @emperorsean

ballotpedia.org/Sean_Haugh



Sarah Taber

Democratic Party

taberfornc.com

Facebook @sarahtabernc

Twitter @SarahTaber_bww

Instagram @sarahtabernc

ballotpedia.org/Sarah_Taber



Steve Troxler

Republican Party

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Twitter @SteveTroxlerNC

Instagram @stevetroxlernc

ballotpedia.org/Steve_Troxler

NC Insurance Commissioner



Natasha Marcus

Democratic Party

natashamarcus.com

Twitter @natashamarcusnc

Instagram @natashamarcusfornc

https://ballotpedia.org/Natasha_Marcus



Mike Causey

Republican Party

mikecauseync.com

Facebook @gocausey2012

Twitter @MikeCauseyNC

Instagram@mikecauseync

ballotpedia.org/Mike_Causey

NC Labor Commissioner



Luke Farley

Republican Party

luke4labor.com

Twitter @LukeFarleyNC

Instagram @LukeFarleyNC

ballotpedia.org/Luke_Farley



Braxton Winston II

Democratic Party

votebraxton.com

Twitter @braxtonwinston

Instagram @BraxtonWinston

ballotpedia.org/Braxton_Winston_II

NC Secretary of State



Elaine Marshall

Democratic Party

elainemarshall.com

Facebook @natashamarcusnc

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Instagram @elaine4nc

ballotpedia.org/Elaine_Marshall



Chad Brown

Republican Party

electchadbrown.com

Facebook @chadbrownfornc

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Instagram@chadbrown.nc

ballotpedia.org/Mike_Causey

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction



Maurice (Mo) Green

Democratic Party

mogreenfornc.com

Facebook @MoGreenforNC

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Instagram @mogreenfornc

ballotpedia.org/Mo_Green



Michele Morrow

Republican Party

morrow4nc.com

Facebook @MicheleMorrowNC

Twitter @MicheleMorrowNC

Instagram @michelemorrownc

ballotpedia.org/Michele_Morrow

NC State Treasurer



Wesley Harris

Democratic Party

harrisfornc.com

Facebook @WesleyHarrisNC

Twitter @WesleyHarrisNC

Instagram @WesleyHarris_NC

ballotpedia.org/Wesley_Harris



Brad Briner

Republican Party

bradbriner.com

Facebook @Brad-Briner-for-Treasurer

Instagram@brinerfortreasurer

ballotpedia.org/Brad_Briner

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 06



Jefferson G. Griffin

Republican Party

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Instagram @jefferson_griffin

ballotpedia.org/Jefferson_Griffin



Allison Riggs

Democratic Party

riggsforourcourts.com

Facebook @riggsforourcourts

Twitter @AllisonJRiggs

Instagram @riggsforourcourts

ballotpedia.org/Allison_Riggs

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 12



Tom Murry

Republican Party

jointom.com

Facebook @JoinTomMurry

Twitter @Tom_Murry

Instagram @tom_murry

ballotpedia.org/Thomas_Murry



Carolyn Jennings Thompson

Democratic Party

judgecarolynthompson.com

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Instagram @JudgeCarolynThompson

ballotpedia.org/Carolyn_J._Thompson

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 14



Ed Eldred

Democratic Party

eldredforjudge.com
Facebook @Eldredforjudge
Twitter @eldredforjudge
Instagram @eldredforjudge
ballotpedia.org/Ed_Eldred



Valerie Zachary

Republican Party

reelectjudgezachary.com
Facebook @judgevaleriezachary
Twitter @Valerie_Zachary
ballotpedia.org/Valerie_Johnson_Zachary

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 15



Chris Freeman

Republican Party

chrisfreemanforjudge.com
Facebook @Judge-Chris-Freeman-for-NC-Court-of-Appeals
Twitter @judgecfreeman
Instagram @judgechrisfreeman
ballotpedia.org/Christopher_A._Freeman



Martin E. Moore

Democratic Party

martinmoorelaw.com
Twitter @MartinEkimMoore
Instagram @mooreforjudge
ballotpedia.org/Martin_Moore_(North_Carolina)

NC State Senate District 33



Carl Ford

Republican

Facebook @SenatorCarlFord

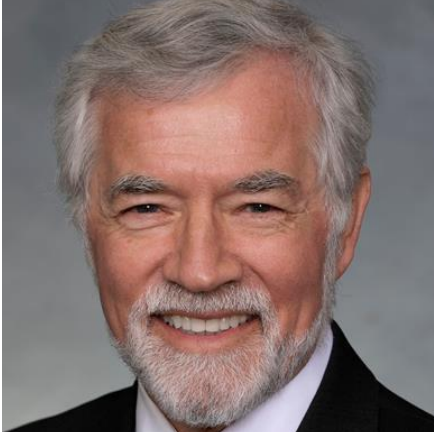


Tangela (Lucy Horne) Morgan

Democrat

Facebook @tangelamorgan4senate

NC State House of Representatives District 076



Harry Warren

Republican

<https://www.harrywarrennc77.com/>



Alisha Byrd-Clark

Democrat

<https://byrdclarkfornc.com/>

NC State House of Representatives District 077



Julia Craven Howard

Republican

https://ballotpedia.org/Julia_Howard

Kashmir Sibby
for NC HOUSE DISTRICT 77



Kashmir R.Sibby

Democrat

https://ballotpedia.org/Kashmir_Sibby

NC State House of Representatives District 083



Grant Campbell

Republican

<https://www.campbellfornc.com/>



Joanne Chesley

Democrat

<https://www.votechesley.com/>

NC District Court Justice District 27 Seat 05

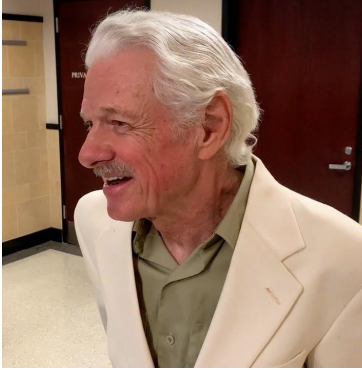


Ashley Andrews

Republican

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094190001273>

Rowan County Board of Commissioners



Mark Ortiz
We the People Party



Craig Pierce
Republican



Alissa Redmond
Democrat



Mike Caskey
Republican

Rowan Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor



Bruce L. Miller

Rowan-Salisbury Schools Board of Education Seat 03 (East)



Kathy McDuffie Sanborn

Rowan-Salisbury Schools Board of Education Seat 05 (Salisbury)



Bryan Wymbs

<https://bryanwymbs.com/>



Jonathan Barbee

<https://barbeeforrowan.com/>



Rebecca Childs

<https://childsforchoolboard.com/>

Rowan-Salisbury Schools Board of Education Seat 07 (Southeast)



McKenzie L. Kelly

<https://www.facebook.com/MLK4Schoolboard>



Lynn G. Marsh

https://www.facebook.com/lynnmarshschoolboard?_rdr

Deep Dive

LETTER TO YOUTH

Volunteer with Kids Voting kidsvotingdurham.org/2024vol

Get Out the Vote Planner bit.ly/3ZB2oml

FIRST TIME VOTERS

LEARNING FOR JUSTICE:

learningforjustice.orgour-votes-matter-action-steps-in-planning-to-vote

BALLOTPEDIA: ballotpedia.org/voter_toolkit

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF ELECTIONS: ncsbe.gov

Register online: ncdot.gov/voter-registration-application

See if you're already registered: vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup

Request an absentee ballot online: votebymail.ncsbe.gov

Find your designated election day polling location: ncsbe.gov/PPLkup/

Print the absentee ballot: ncsbe.gov/Absentee-Ballot

List of accepted IDs for voting: ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id

VOTE 411: Vote411.org

YOU CAN VOTE: youcanvote.org/local

DIGITAL LITERACY

Poynter 2020 MediaWise Voter Guide

[youtube.com/playlist?list=PL47sATSIrfkrTvEH9T2y0_wx863YUlh8v](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL47sATSIrfkrTvEH9T2y0_wx863YUlh8v)

Poynter Teen Fact Checking Network poynter.org/mediawise/programs/tfcn/

Lateral Reading and Other Strategies

CRASH COURSE: thecrashcourse.com/topic/navigatingdigitalinfo

ICIVICS EDUCATION: icivics.org/intro-lateral-reading

CIVIC ONLINE REASONING: cor.inquirygroup.org/research

Media Bias Chart

ALL SIDES: allsides.com/media-bias/fact-check-bias-chart

Curriculum

CIVIC ONLINE REASONING: cor.inquirygroup.org/curriculum

ABOUT THE OFFICES

Government Offices Official Websites

US President - [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

US House of Representatives - [house.gov](https://www.house.gov)

NC Governor - [governor.nc.gov](https://www.governor.nc.gov)

NC Lieutenant Governor - [ltgov.nc.gov](https://www.ltgov.nc.gov)

NC Secretary of State - [sosnc.gov](https://www.sosnc.gov)

NC State Auditor - [auditor.nc.gov](https://www.auditor.nc.gov)

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction - [dpi.nc.gov](https://www.dpi.nc.gov)

NC State Treasurer - [nctreasurer.com](https://www.nctreasurer.com)

NC Commissioner of Labor - [labor.nc.gov](https://www.labor.nc.gov)

NC Commissioner of Agriculture - [ncagr.gov](https://www.ncagr.gov)

NC Commissioner of Insurance - [ncdoi.gov](https://www.ncdoi.gov)

NC Attorney General - [ncdoj.gov](https://www.ncdoj.gov)

NC House of Representatives - [ncleg.gov/house](https://www.ncleg.gov/house)

N.C Senate - [ncleg.gov/senate](https://www.ncleg.gov/senate)

N.C. Supreme State Court - [nccourts.gov/supreme](https://www.nccourts.gov/supreme)

N.C State Court of Appeals - [nccourts.gov/appeals](https://www.nccourts.gov/appeals)

District Judges - [nccourts.gov/district-courts](https://www.nccourts.gov/district-courts)

More Information

NC SUPREME COURTS: youtube.com/nc-history

ISSUES

Hear about issues from across the political spectrum!

AMERICAN IN ONE ROOM: Results of First Time Voters Across US Deliberating 2024

Elections issues closeup.org/a1r-deliberation-results/

PROCON.ORG: procon.org

KQED YOUTH MEDIA: youthmedia.KQED.org/youth-voices-tackle-local-civic-issues

ALL SIDES: allsides.com/topics-issues

WUNC: wunc.org/youth-reporting-institute

CIRCLE - TUFTS UNIVERSITY: circle.tufts.edu/2024-youth-poll

INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AT HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL:

iop.harvard.edu/youth-poll/47th-edition-spring-2024

THE CITY OF DURHAM: durhamnc.gov/Durham-Youth-Listening-Project

Other studies

GALLUP: news.gallup.com/gen-voices-lack-trust-major-institutions

GENFORWARD AT UCHICAGO: Reflections on upcoming 2024 Election

genforwardsurvey.com/2024/06/05/data-may-2024-survey

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH LAB: y

unfporl.org/porl-spring-2024-national-poll-1

YOUNGOV:

yougov.com/americans-want-the-government-to-handle-the-issues-that-matter-most-to-them

HOW ELECTIONS WORK

CRASH COURSE: How Elections Work (video)

youtu.be/48EZKXweGDo?si=Z_3hT57MLgLrUGV4

HISTORY CHANNEL: history.com/elections

CRASH COURSE: Gerrymandering youtube.com/gerrymandering

NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ncleg.gov/Redistricting

Electoral College

PBS: (video)

pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ush22-soc-wim-electoralcollege/what-is-the-electoral-college-why-it-matters/

USA GOV: usa.gov/electoral-college

KIDS BRITANNICA - kids.britannica.com/electoral-college Look at 2024

Electoral College Scenarios (interactive) - 270towin.com

Ballot Counting

How Ballots Are Counted video - youtu.be/how-ballots-are-counted

More on how votes are counted (in NC) - hncsbe.gov/counting-process-nc

Unopposed Elections

Ballotpedia Uncontested Election Overview:

ballotpedia.org/Analysis_of_uncontested_elections,_2024

CIVIC PULSE: civicpulse.org/post/how-many-local-elections-are-uncontested

NPR A1 Radio Episode:

kmuw.org/2024-09-12/the-local-impact-of-uncontested-elections

POLITICAL PARTIES

Videos On Political Parties

ILLUSTRATE TO EDUCATE: youtube.com/@IllustratetoEducate

PBS ORIGIN: youtube.com/whypoliticalparties

VOX VIDEO LAB: youtube.com/democrats-party-history

VOX VIDEO LAB: youtube.com/republican-party-history

REFERENDA

Read more about the constitutional amendment

BALLOTPEDIA: [ballotpedia.org/North Carolina](https://ballotpedia.org/North_Carolina)

BALLOTPEDIA: [ballotpedia.org/NC Citizenship Requirements](https://ballotpedia.org/NC_Citizenship_Requirements)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Non Partisan Candidate Information

BALLOTPEDIA: ballotpedia.org

VOTE411/LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: vote411.org

BALLOT READY: www.BallotReady.org

VOTESMART: JustFacts.VoteSmart.Org

Judicial candidates

NC BOARD OF ELECTIONS:

ncsbe.gov/voting/upcoming-election/judicial-voter-guide-2024-general-election

Glossary

Ballot: a piece of paper or a form that people use to vote in an election. It lists the choices, like candidates or issues, and you mark your answer—usually by checking a box or filling in a circle.

Board of Elections: government offices that make sure elections are conducted lawfully & fairly. County Board of Elections operate voting sites, maintain voter registration lists, and generally run local elections.

Bond: an item on the ballot that lets voters decide “yes” or “no” to whether the government can borrow money to pay for big projects like building or roads.

Candidate: A person who seeks, or has been nominated, for an office in an election

Congressional Districts: the 435 areas that the members of the House of Representatives represent

Digital Literacy: skills that help you wisely navigate online information

District: a specific area of land that is divided for voting or government purposes.

Electoral College: a system for choosing the president of the US. Electors cast their state’s electoral vote for the candidates who received the most votes from their state.

Executive Branch: branch of government that carries out and enforces laws. Heads of this branch can declare state of emergency, and grant pardons for crimes. US Presidents, State Governors, and City Mayors are leaders of the US, State, and Local Executive branches.

Federal Government: level of government that runs the country and can make laws, collect taxes, oversee national defense & treaties and prints money. The President (executive), Congress (legislative) and Supreme Court (judicial) are the three branches of our federal government.

Judicial Branch: the branch of government that interprets laws and punishes those who violate laws.

Legislative Branch: the branch of government that makes the laws.

Local Government: level of government oversee our counties, cities, and towns. County Commissions and School Boards are examples of local government bodies.

Non-Partisan: not supporting or affiliated with a political party; for elections and candidates means they aren't running affiliated with a **political party**

NC Council of State the 10 elected offices of the state executive branch including Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Commissioners of Agriculture, Insurance, and Labor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Auditor and State Treasurer.

Partisan: supporting or affiliated with a particular political party; for election means that candidates are representing a particular political party

Party Platform: a written set of ideas and beliefs that a political party stands for

Political Party: a group of people who share similar ideas about how the government should work and what laws should be made. They come together to support candidates for elections who agree with their beliefs.

Referendum: (plural referenda) Ballot item that allows voters to decide directly on an issue or question like whether the government should borrow money to undertake big projects or amendments to the state constitution.

State Government: level of government that runs a state and has power over everything not specifically given to the federal government in the constitution including elections and schools. The three branches of the NC State Government are the Governor (executive), State General Assembly (NC Senate & NC House) (legislative), and NC Supreme and Superior Courts (judicial)

Uncontested Elections: one where the number of candidates on the **ballot** is less than or equal to the number of seats up for **election**

Unopposed Candidate: no one running against them

Voter turnout: amount of registered voters who cast a ballot in an election

Write in Candidate: candidates who are not formally listed on the ballot, but are physically written in