



2024 NC GENERAL ELECTION – CANVASS GUIDE FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEMBERS/PUBLIC OBSERVERS

What is Canvass? The term "Canvass" means the entire process of determining that the votes have been counted and tabulated correctly, culminating in the authentication of the official election results. ([NC 163-182.5](#))



According to the NC State Board of Elections (NCSBE) procedures, a county board of elections (CBOE) Canvass covers the following:

- Sample Audit – test to ensure voting equipment reads the voter's choices accurately.
- Absentee Ballot Review/Count – pertaining to ballots not processed before Election Day.
- Provisional Ballot Review/Count – ballots will have a preliminary review and are researched by CBOE staff to determine eligibility for counting.
- Election Day Reconciliation
- Challenges/Protests
- Close Contest Audit – also known as Recounts.



Watch our
video for
more on
the post-
election
process.



LWNC
Reporting
Form

Canvass is the responsibility of CBOE members. All decisions are made by Board members.

SAMPLE AUDIT

The NCSBE selects two precincts or polling locations and a race for each county after Election Day for the audit. A team of two workers, one from each of the major parties, conducts a hand-to-eye count of the ballot to check that the count registered on the tabulator machine accurately reflects the voter's choice on their ballot. Some counties may use risk-limiting audits on sample batches of ballots.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REVIEW/COUNT

Most ballots will have been received and reviewed at Absentee Ballot Review meetings before or on Election Day. All cure certificates must be received by 5 p.m. on the day of Canvass, Nov. 15 ([Numbered Memo 2021-03](#)). Remember: All absentee ballots that come through the Uniformed Service and Overseas Voter Portal and Visually Impaired Portal need to be replicated to be scanned and included with all the other ballots. Observers should pay attention to, and note, the reasons

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for denying a ballot. Many numbered memos provide specific guidance on approving ballots. To name a few: NMs [2021-07](#) (Notary Seals), [2021-03](#) (Envelope issues, revised), [2020-29](#) (Address issues on Envelope).

PROVISIONAL BALLOT REVIEW/COUNT

Voters must be offered a provisional ballot when their name does not appear in the poll book, when the voter questions the ballot style assigned to them, or when their eligibility to vote is questioned. This year, voters who do not present an acceptable photo ID will also need to vote using a provisional ballot. Those voters will either complete an ID Exception Form which will be reviewed during Canvass, or they will return to the CBOE office and present an acceptable ID before 5 pm on Nov. 14.

Provisional voting is a fail-safe voting option so that a person can always cast a ballot when they present to vote. At Canvass, the provisional ballots are reviewed for eligibility and are counted by the Board of Elections. Ballots are approved, partially approved, or denied by vote of the Board members. Observers should note the reasons for all ballot denials. The most common reason for denial is that the voter is not registered to vote in that county, but that determination is not always straightforward. Observers should make note of instances of voters who claim to have been registered at the same address and never moved. Also, please note the number of voters whose registration was not accepted due to failure of mail verification. This year, ID Exception Form review may raise additional issues. Please follow this discussion carefully. Numbered Memo [2023-04](#) Provisional Ballots and Canvass Procedures.

ELECTION DAY RECONCILIATION REVIEW

Election reconciliation takes place at every polling location at the close of voting. At Canvass, all reports are summarized and reviewed by the Board. All voted and unvoted ballots must match the initial ballot supply inventory. Any discrepancy is discussed. The Authorization To Vote forms and the ballot tabulator number must match, and all provisional, spoiled, and emergency bin ballots are counted. Any issues with observers, polling place difficulties, voter challenges, or other unusual events will be included in these reports. There may be reports of duplicate ballots because of poll worker error or communication issues with the receipt of absentee ballots. Those ballots will be discussed, and the duplicate ballot will be removed from the final results count.

This year, changes to the same-day-registration procedures may result in some SDR ballots being removed from counted ballots. Numbered Memo [2023-05](#) Same-Day Registration. Please follow any discussion of SDR ballots removed from the results totals.

VOTER CHALLENGES/PROTESTS

Voter challenges and protests are extremely rare and are governed by complicated statutes and court orders. Should these occur during the Canvass, take careful notes.

CLOSE CONTEST AUDIT (RECOUNTS)

If the unofficial result of a contest/race is within 1% of the total votes cast, the candidate(s) may request a recount. For statewide races, the NCSBE makes this determination. The demand for a recount must be in writing and delivered to the NCSBE.