

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU VOTE IN NC?

WATCH THIS VIDEO

courtesy of **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH CAROLINA



AFTER EACH ELECTION, NC CONDUCTS A SERIES OF POST-ELECTION AUDITS

In North Carolina, as in every state, there is a system of checks to assure election results are accurate. Results on election night are unofficial. During the 10 days following an election, election officials conduct a series of post-election audits. This process culminates when the County Board of Elections holds its Canvass meeting 10 days after Election Day to officially certify the results.

10 Facts About Election Security in NC

HOW DO WE ENSURE THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST IS ACCURATE?

When you vote, you fill out an authorization to vote (ATV) form along with your ballot. Authorization to Vote (ATV) forms are collected to show a record of voters' voting history. Your ballot is read by a machine. Election workers compare the number of ATV forms with the number of ballots cast. These numbers should typically match, but there can be some valid exceptions, like if a voter checked in but decided not to vote.

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HOW DO WE ENSURE ALL VALID BALLOTS ARE CAST?

If there are questions about a voter's ability to vote in an election, the voter will be asked to fill out a provisional ballot. These ballots are not tabulated on Election Day. Instead, the County Board of Elections conducts research to check the voter's eligibility. A variety of data can be reviewed. This may include the Department of Motor Vehicles database or the current voter registration database. Voters' addresses may be geocoded to confirm that they lived in the County when they voted.

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HOW DO WE ENSURE VOTING EQUIPMENT READS VOTERS' CHOICES ACCURATELY?

Prior to each election, voting equipment is subject to logic and accuracy testing to ensure its working properly. After each election, every County Board of Elections conducts a sample audit. The State Board of Elections tells each County their assigned contest and two randomly selected voting sites to audit. These sites may include an Election Day precinct, one-stop site, or that county's absentee by mail ballots. A bi-partisan team of trained volunteers conducts a hand-to-eye count of a contest among the voting sites. They compare the results of the hand-to-eye count with the results from the voting machines. The purpose of this is to ensure both counts are identical. This verifies the accuracy of the machine count. The process is open to the public.

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HOW ARE VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT REQUESTS AUTHENTICATED?

To vote by mail, a voter must first fill out an absentee ballot request form. Once a voter is determined to be eligible they will receive their ballot. They must sign their name and have two witnesses or a notary sign their name on the ballot return envelope. County Boards of Elections review returned absentee ballot envelopes. They meet weekly to vote to approve or reject absentee-by-mail ballots. These meetings begin on the fifth Tuesday before an election and are open to the public. Any voter can track their absentee-by-mail ballot using NC's online BallotTrax system.

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[NC BallotTrax](#)

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

- **NCVOTERGUIDE.ORG**: For candidate information and non-partisan voter guides.
- **NCVOTER.ORG**: Visit ncvoter.org for more information on how to vote in North Carolina including upcoming deadlines, early voting locations and more.
- **CALL THE HOTLINE**: Have trouble voting? Call for help anytime: 1-888-OUR-VOTE
- **LEARN HOW NC VOTING MACHINES ARE TESTED**: [Watch this video](#) to learn more about NC voting equipment is tested for logic and accuracy before each election.
- **LEARN MORE ABOUT ELECTION SECURITY**: [Click here](#) to learn about all the steps taken in NC to ensure the safety and security of our elections and what you can do to help.