

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

75 Stamp Act Drive NE · Building H
PO Box 2 · Bolivia · NC · 28422
www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections

Phone: 910-253-2620
Fax: 910-253-2618
elections@brunswickcountync.gov

Board Meeting Agenda **October 21, 2025 · 4:00 pm · Regular and Absentee Meeting**

This meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David R. Sandifer Building, 30 Government Center Drive NE, Bolivia, NC, 28422.

Members of the public may observe the meeting in-person or via live video feed online using [Zoom](#); no registration or passcode is required. *Note: There will be no interaction with ZOOM audience members during the meeting.*

- 1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a. September 12, 2025 – Special Meeting
 - b. September 16, 2025 – Regular Meeting
 - c. October 7, 2025 – Absentee Meeting
 - d. October 14, 2025 – Absentee Meeting
- 4. Public Comments**
 - a. [Public Comment Policy](#)
 - b. [Online Public Comment Portal](#)
- 5. Consideration of Absentee Ballots**
- 6. Director's Report**
- 7. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Discuss early voting for the 2026 primary election
- 8. New Business**
 - a. Discuss voters registered at commercial addresses
- 9. Adjourn**

See board meeting schedules here: <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/644/Board-Meetings>

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For full agenda packet scan QR Code



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Updated/Posted 10.21.25 3:30 p.m.

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Meeting Minutes · Special Meeting · September 12, 2025 · 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Randy Pelton, Secretary Edward Lewis, Member Paula Clarity, Member Joe Myers, and Member David Smudski

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress

Also Present: County Attorney Bryan Batton, Assistant County Attorney Ryan King

Meeting Opening

Mr. Pelton called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda.

Preliminary Hearing for Voter Challenge

A voter challenge has been filed challenging the voter's registration by Randy Pelton as the chair; Trevor Moehrke

Ms. LaVere was sworn in and provided testimony; she summarized that when a voter is reported as a convicted felon the voter is provided 30 days notice to object to their voter registration being removed. If an objection is filed the statute says the board should file a challenge to the voter's registration. Ms. Knotts provided information that the voter provided with his objection. He provided information that he was not convicted as a felon; that his conviction was that of a misdemeanor. North Carolina via interstate compact is handling his parole on behalf of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Batton confirmed that the only conviction in Pennsylvania is that of a misdemeanor.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to dismiss the challenge. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Batton will draft an order as such.

Hearing for Voter Challenge

Two voter challenges have been filed by Michael Felmly challenging the voter's registration of Lori Mabe Smith and Richard F. Smith, Jr.

Mr. Pelton called to see if the challenger Michael Felmly was present; Mr. Felmly identified that he was present. Mr. Pelton called to see if Mr. and Smith were present; Both identified as being present.

Boyd Worley identified himself as an attorney representing Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Myers made a motion to hear both voter challenges simultaneously. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pelton provided qualification for being a registered voter.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were sworn in to provide testimony.

Mr. Smith provided testimony regarding his residency and evidence submitted in the agenda packet.

Ms. Smith provided testimony regarding her residency and evidence submitted in the agenda packet.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith took an additional oath that they meet all qualifications to be registered to vote.

Mr. Felmly was sworn in and provided testimony as to his belief that Mr. and Mrs. Smith are not qualified to be registered.

Ms. Sally Caldwell was sworn in to provide testimony in knowledge of Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Smudski made a motion to overrule the challenge and find the voters properly registered. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Batton will draft an order as such.

The full hearings can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/UZsM74kN0II?si=KXscm-px0KHt6FAL>

Adjourn

Mr. Lewis made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Regular Meeting · September 16, 2025 · 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Randy Pelton, Secretary Edward Lewis, Member Joe Myers, and Member David Smudski

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Melissa Chambers, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress

Meeting Opening

Mr. Pelton called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smudski made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Smudski made a motion to approve minutes from the August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Director's Report

August voter registration statistics were provided in the agenda packet.

Staff recognition

Ryan Childress was recognized for five years of service with the county in his position with the board of elections staff.

Municipal Election Updates

- Sample ballots are now available on our website and if a voter searches their registration record, a link to their sample ballot is available. If a voter has no ballot this election, their record will display 'no eligible ballots.'
- We are planning for Logic and Accuracy testing of voting equipment soon, an email will be sent when dates are finalized.
- In-person poll worker training began today.

Board members noted they would like information provided to them about in-person training. Ms. Chambers will send information to all board members.

- Plan to start counting absentee ballots on election day at 2 PM, a resolution will need to be approved at a future meeting. Once the process starts on election day, board members will need to remain on-site until unofficial election results are posted election night.

Ms. LaVere clarified the absentee preparatory steps that can be conducted ahead of the election day meeting and that any absentee and early voting challenges are handled at the canvass meeting.

Ms. Chambers provided information provided by the state that ‘as of January 1, 2024, the parties may appoint observers where the party “has a candidate appearing on the ballot.” G.S. § 163-45.1(b)(1)–(3) (S.L. 2023-140, sec. 7(b)). This means that there must be an official party nominee on the ballot, identified on the ballot with the party. This change in the law means that political parties are no longer entitled to appoint observers in nonpartisan elections.’

New Business

Appoint Early Voting Officials, Municipal Election

Effective January 1, 2024, for each primary and election, county boards of election shall appoint precinct officials for each early voting site, other than the county board office.

- County boards shall work to ensure, if at all possible, that the chief judge and judges working at any site at the same time do not all belong to the same political party.
- Each shift judges are designated to assure party balance, with shift lead, one ballot station, and one help desk serving as chief judge and judges, with machine techs available should there be a change to schedule. Staff also designates a bi-partisan team when closing the voting machines and securing ballots at the end of each day.
- Political parties were provided notice and were required to submit any names for consideration by September 9, 2025.
 - List submitted by Democrat Party was included in the agenda packet
 - Republican Party declined to submit a list
- Staff recommends all election day chief judges and judges that are working in specialty roles be appointed. Staff further recommends that those being trained to serve in specialty roles of Help Desk, Ballot Station and Machine Tech be appointed as judges. Staff recommendations also include those recommended to be appointed as assistants

Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the list of early voting officials as recommended by staff.

Discussion of Early Voting Locations – 2026 Primary

Summary:

- This discussion is for informational purposes ahead of having to vote on a plan at our regular October meeting.
- Early voting dates: Thursday, February 12 – Saturday, February 28
- All sites must be open on the last Saturday from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm
- By unanimous vote of all its members, board may provide for one or more satellite sites.
- If unable to reach unanimity in favor of a plan, a member or members of the county board of elections may petition the State Board to adopt a plan for the county and the State Board may adopt a plan for that county.
- On each weekday all satellite early voting sites must be open from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm.
- If satellite sites are open on Saturdays or Sundays, then all satellite sites shall be open for the same number of hours on those Saturdays or Sundays.
- These recommended locations have been reserved for use during the early voting period.
 - Leland Cultural Arts Center - 1212 Magnolia Village Way, Leland, NC, 28451
 - Brunswick Center at Supply – 101 Stone Chimney Road SE, Supply, NC 28462
 - Sunset Beach Community Center – 200 Station Trail, Sunset Beach, NC 28468
 - Brunswick County Cooperative Extension - 25 Referendum Drive NE, Building N, Bolivia, NC, 28422
- We do not currently have any viable options for early voting in the Southport and Shallotte areas.
- Sites explored that are not viable options
 - Shallotte area
 - Brunswick Center at Shallotte
 - Focus Broadband Meeting Room
 - Mulberry Park Building
 - Southport area
 - Moose Lodge
 - St. James Community Center
 - Duke Energy Meeting Space
 - Brunswick Little Theater
 - Sacred Heart Church
 - Southport City Gym
 - Brunswick Center at Southport
 - Calabash area
 - Brunswick Center at Calabash
 - Sea Trail Convention Center

Ms. LaVerre encouraged additional ideas to be submitted and the staff will explore viability prior to the regular meeting in October.

Resolution to Delegate Administrative Duties Relating to Absentee Voting to the Director and Staff

The current resolution was last adopted on October 17, 2023. Since the composition of the board has changed, staff is presenting it again for adoption by the current board. There have been no changes to the 2023 version that was passed.

Ms. LaVere summarized that all items in the resolution are pulled from the general statutes or numbered memos outlining allowable procedures for advanced preparatory steps for processing absentee ballots. She also clarified that UOCAVA ballots can be duplicated ahead of time with a bipartisan team, while other ballots may need duplicated by a bipartisan team during an absentee meeting (damage, unreadable, etc.).

Mr. Smudski made a motion to table the resolution until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Lewis made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Absentee Meeting · October 7, 2025 · 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Randy Pelton, Secretary Edward Lewis, Member Joe Myers, and Member David Smudski

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Melissa Chambers, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Candidate Coordinator Noelle Powers, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, and Absentee Assistant Christy Souter

Meeting Opening

Mr. Pelton called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smudski made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Resolution to Delegate Administrative Duties Relating to Absentee Voting to the Director and Staff

Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the resolution as drafted. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Additional Early Voting Officials

Ms. Chambers requested the board to approve additional early voting officials to ensure adequate staffing and bipartisan representation due to previously appointed officials becoming unavailable.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve 5 additional early voting officials as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Absentee Ballots

There are two ballots for the board's consideration.

Mr. Johnson opened the central scan and ran a zero report for the board's signature.

Ballots recommended for approval:

2 Overseas ballots that have been received electronically.

The board reviewed the disclosures returned with the ballots.

Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the overseas ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Myers and Mr. Lewis duplicated the electronically received ballots onto official ballots, with Mr. Pelton and Mr. Smudski reviewing.

Duplicated ballots were scanned into the central scan.

Information only: 0 Pending Cure ballots

After scanning was complete, Mr. Johnson announced that two ballots were scanned today with the total scanned for this election as two.

Ms. Rushton confirmed that the number of ballots approved today was two.

The ballots were placed in a bin and sealed, with seals signed by Mr. Myers and Mr. Lewis. The secure vDrive was placed in a storage container and sealed. The following vote count and seal numbers were logged and will be confirmed at the start of the next meeting.

- Ballot count: 2
- Ballot bin: 5723159 and 5723160
- vDrive storage container: 37471330

The board signed an audit sheet confirming the number of ballots scanned today and seal numbers.

Mr. Smudski made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Absentee Meeting · October 14, 2025 · 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Randy Pelton, Secretary Edward Lewis, Member Paula Clairty, Member Joe Myers, and Member David Smudski

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Melissa Chambers, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Candidate Coordinator Noelle Powers, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, and Absentee Assistant Christy Souter

Bi-Partisan Duplication Team: Gwen Causey, Julie Paladino, Myrtle Stevenson, and Patricia Vandergrift

Meeting Opening

Mr. Pelton called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smudski made a motion to approve the agenda, amended to add a discussion of Numbered Memo 2023-06 (as updated on 10.8.2025). Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Absentee Ballots

There are 14 ballots for the board's consideration.

Mr. Johnson verified the seal on the vdrive as 37471330; Ms. LaVere verified it matched the seal number placed at the end of the meeting on October 7.

Upon opening the central scan, Mr. Johnson verified a ballot count of 2; Ms. LaVere verified it matched the ballot count from the meeting on October 7.

Ballots recommended for approval:

Civilian ballots:

8 Civilian ballots recommended for approval. The board spot checked ballots recommended for approval. Ms. Rushton provided a summary of what is reviewed on a civilian ballot return container; voter signature, appropriate witness signature and information or notary, and a copy of an acceptable form of photo ID.

Mr. Smudski made a motion to approve the ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

The ballots were opened by the bipartisan team. It was discovered that one ballot contained white out and was appropriately duplicated by the bipartisan team.

Overseas ballots:

5 Overseas ballots that have been received electronically and duplicated by the bi-partisan team ahead of the meeting. The ballots were reviewed by the board.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve the ballots. Motion carried unanimously.

Duplicated ballots were scanned into the central scan.

Ballots for disapproval:

One civilian ballot was returned with incomplete witness information. The ballot has been spoiled and reissued to the voter.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to disapprove the ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Information only: 0 Pending Cure ballots

After scanning was complete, Mr. Johnson announced that 13 ballots were scanned today with the total scanned for this election as 15.

Ms. Rushton confirmed that the number of ballots approved today was 13.

The ballots were placed in a bin and sealed, with seals signed by Mr. Smudski and Ms. Clarity. The secure vDrive was placed in a storage container and sealed. The following vote count and seal numbers were logged and will be confirmed at the start of the next meeting.

- Ballot count: 15
- Ballot bin: 5723151 and 5723152
- vDrive storage container: 37471329

The board signed an audit sheet confirming the number of ballots scanned today and seal numbers.

Discussion of Numbered Memo 2023-06

Ms. LaVere provided a summary of the revised memo that was issued by the state on October 8, 2025. This memo provided updated guidance regarding observers in non-partisan elections. Precincts in which parties have a candidate registered to that party, even though it is not displayed on the ballot, may have observers. Unaffiliated candidates may also appoint observers that may serve in the precincts in which that candidate appears on the ballot.

Deadline to submit observer names to the board of elections is noon on the day before the observer is going to observe.

Mr. Smudski asked for clarification as to whether the parties had been provided with the updated information. Ms. LaVere confirmed that party chairs were provided with updated information from the state via email on October 13 and it was posted on the Board of Elections website.

Mr. Smudski made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments for October 21, 2025 Regular and Absentee Meeting

Mark Predieri: My comment is on behalf of the voters of Brunswick County. We all agree that enfranchisement is a vital, constitutionally guaranteed right. It should be an important aspect of Board of Elections policies to facilitate voting for its residents. With the rapid growth of the Brunswick County population, it is important to provide multiple sites for availability of voting, especially for early voting. Also, to provide more voting opportunities for working people, who keep our county thriving, a variety of days, especially weekend availability, is vital to enable voting for them. We are fortunate to have a Board of Elections staff that does a stellar job of providing voting opportunities for all Brunswick County voters. Please approve the policies that will allow them serve those residents better.

Carol A Candelaria: Commissioners: Consider we need expanded # of sites to serve a population of over 124,924 in Brunswick County, the 7th fastest growing county out of the over 3,000 counties in the United States. I am in favor of expanding/maintaining weekend options, including Saturday and Sunday voting. Please make sure sites serving traditionally marginalized communities are located close to public transportation.

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Date: 10/21/2025

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Consideration of Absentee Ballots

Absentee Seal Numbers and Ballot Counts:

These numbers are logged on an audit sheet and signed by the board at each meeting.

Meeting	Absentee Bin Seals	vDrive Seals	Ballots Approved at Meeting	Ballots Scanned at Meeting	Total Ballots Scanned this Election Recorded at end of meeting
10/7/25	5723159 5723160	37471330	2	2	2
10/14/25	5723151 5723152	37471329	13	13	15
10/21/25					

Summary:

There are 62 ballots being considered at today's meeting.

Information Only:

1 Pending Cure

55	Ballots Recommended for Approval - Board to Spot Check¹
48	Civilian
2	Overseas returned by mail or will be duplicated during board meeting
1	Military returned by mail or will be duplicated during board meeting
4	Accepted – Exception (returned with properly executed Photo ID Exception Form) ²
2	Ballots Requiring Board Review - Approval³
2	Accepted Cure
4	Ballots Requiring Board Review - Pending Board Decision
1	Civilian ballots received in a sealed return envelope, but the ballot envelope was unsealed ⁴
1	Civilian ballots where the voter indicated that their photo ID documentation is inside the ballot envelope ⁵
1	Military ballots where the voter indicated that their photo ID documentation is inside the ballot envelope
1	Civilian ballots that were returned by an unauthorized person ⁶
1	Ballots Requiring Board Review - Disapproval⁷
1	Civilian ballot with incomplete witness information. Ballot has been spoiled and a new ballot issued

¹The Resolution to Delegate Administrative Duties Relating to Absentee Voting to the Director and Staff approved by the board on 10/7/25 states that “The board will not review individual ballot envelopes that have been recommended by staff for approval and will accept staff’s recommendation for those ballot envelopes and photo ID documentation. The board will spot-check a minimum of two envelopes and accompanying photo ID documentation to ensure accuracy and consistency. The board reserves the right to review all ballot envelopes that have been recommended by staff for approval.”

² Per [Numbered Memo 2020-25](#), these ballots should be approved by the board if the board does not unanimously conclude that the exception form is false.

³ Per [Numbered Memo 2020-25](#), the board must individually review all ballot envelopes that: (1) have been recommended for disapproval by staff, (2) have a cure certification associated with that ballot envelope, or (3) where staff need further guidance from the board as to whether the envelope was properly executed or the photo ID documentation meets all legal requirements.

⁴ [Numbered Memo 2021-03](#) provides that when the ballot is inside the executed ballot envelope which is not sealed but the ballot envelope is received in a sealed return envelope, this anomaly is not a deficiency. Staff is instructed to re-seal the return envelope with a notation of “sealed in return envelope” and the county board should open the return envelope and address the ballot at its next absentee meeting.

⁵ [Numbered Memo 2021-03](#) states “A voter may respond to a notification that their ballot is missing photo ID documentation by stating that it is in the ballot envelope. If this occurs, staff must defer the review of the photo ID documentation to the next absentee board meeting, when the county board can review the application and, if approved, open the ballot envelope and confirm photo ID compliance.”

⁶ [Numbered Memo 2020-23](#) states that delivery of an absentee ballot by a person other than the voter, the voter’s near relative, the voter’s legal guardian, or a person of the voter’s choice when the voter needs assistance due to disability, is not sufficient evidence in and of itself to establish that the voter did not lawfully vote their ballot. A county board shall not disapprove an absentee ballot solely because it was delivered by someone who was not authorized to possess the ballot.

⁷ [Numbered Memo 2020-25](#) states “Whether the county board delegates the initial review of absentee envelopes to staff or chooses to have a bipartisan team of board members review envelopes during the meeting, all board members present at the meeting must approve or disapprove the ballots.”

The Resolution to Delegate Administrative Duties delegated the task of “Inspecting ballot envelopes and return envelopes for deficiencies and contacting voters as required by [Numbered Memo 2021-03](#).”

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Agenda Item: Director's Report 10/21/25

- Municipal Election Updates
- Poll Worker Orientation for 2026 Primary Election – Visit the [Precinct Officials](#) page of our website for more information.
 - IN-PERSON
 - Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 10 AM
 - Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 AM
 - Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 2 PM
 - VIRTUAL
 - There will be at least one virtual session offered on date yet to be determined.

Attachments:

1. September voter registration statistics

Brunswick County Voter Registration Statistics Monthly Report

	2025											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Registered Voters	136,908	137,034	137,451	137,894	138,433	139,004	139,656	140,363	141,183			
Voters Removed	6,951	534	304	744	313	319	374	505	453			
New Registrations Processed	942	684	712	759	811	922	994	1,091	1,159			
Registrations Processed w/ No Changes	254	726	302	538	200	207	543	540	475			
Voter Registration Changes Processed	447	370	420	544	389	398	501	443	547			
Total Monthly VR Transactions	8,594	2,314	1,738	2,585	1,713	1,846	2,412	2,579	2,634			
Verifications Mailed Out	10,182	1,165	1,789	1,741	1,166	1,854	1,374	1,780	1,815			
NCOA Mailing	0	0	1,378	0	0	0	999	0	0			
Verifications returned undeliverable	9,351	511	44	1,025	20	25	41	794	165			
Voter Returned Confirmation Card Update	5	316	66	22	33	22	9	11	28			
Confirmations Mailed Out	9,234	535	119	102	944	36	40	718	21			
Democratic	27,065	27,006	27,028	27,093	27,100	27,134	27,203	27,267	27,311			
Republican	56,320	56,402	56,578	56,721	56,962	57,167	57,389	57,673	58,007			
Libertarian	692	687	683	687	691	696	706	708	711			
Green	35	34	34	34	34	34	37	37	36			
No Labels*	329	336	335	332	328	0	0	0	0			
Constitution*	4	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0			
Justice For All*	8	8	7	7	6	0	0	0	0			
We The People*	14	16	16	16	16	0	0	0	0			
Unaffiliated	52,441	52,540	52,765	52,999	53,291	53,973	54,321	54,678	55,118			
Democratic	19.77%	19.71%	19.66%	19.65%	19.58%	19.52%	19.48%	19.43%	19.34%			
Republican	41.14%	41.16%	41.16%	41.13%	41.15%	41.13%	41.09%	41.09%	41.09%			
Libertarian	0.51%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.51%	0.50%	0.50%			
Green	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%			
No Labels	0.24%	0.25%	0.24%	0.24%	0.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			
Constitution	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			
Justice For All	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			
We The People	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			
Unaffiliated	38.30%	38.34%	38.39%	38.43%	38.50%	38.83%	38.90%	38.95%	39.04%			
Female	66,934	67,034	67,257	67,471	67,751	68,036	68,376	68,746	69,180			
Male	57,851	57,925	58,112	58,313	58,572	58,850	59,130	59,461	59,812			
Undesignated Gender	12,123	12,075	12,082	12,110	12,110	12,118	12,150	12,156	12,191			
American Indian	396	398	396	400	401	402	404	405	407			
Asian	568	572	576	585	604	610	616	621	626			
Black	8,896	8,918	8,926	8,957	8,979	9,006	9,465	9,089	9,150			
Multi-Racial	249	249	247	247	245	244	244	245	240			
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	12	12	13	14	14	12	12	12	12			
White	113,517	113,636	114,047	114,287	114,770	115,286	115,847	116,490	117,226			
Other Race	2,563	2,598	2,629	2,662	2,692	2,744	2,780	2,827	2,861			
Undesignated Race	10,707	10,651	10,617	10,742	10,728	10,700	10,708	10,674	10,661			
Hispanic	2,380	2,407	2,435	2,452	2,472	2,508	2,532	2,570	2,596			
Not Hispanic	73,723	73,683	73,823	73,903	74,101	74,304	74,508	74,684	74,900			
Undesignated	60,805	60,944	61,193	61,539	61,860	62,192	62,616	63,109	63,687			

*These parties are no longer considered official parties in North Carolina. All voters registered in these parties will become unaffiliated.

[NCSE Press Release on Status Removal](#)

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Date: 10/21/2025

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Early voting for the 2026 primary election

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[GS 163-166.35](#)

Summary:

- Due date for early voting plans has not been released by the State Board of Elections yet. They expect it to be sometime in late November or early December.
- Early voting dates: Thursday, February 12 – Saturday, February 28
- All sites must be open the last Saturday from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm
- By unanimous vote of all its members, board may provide one or more satellite sites.
- If unable to reach unanimity in favor of a plan, a member or members of the county board of elections may petition the State Board to adopt a plan for the county and the State Board may adopt a plan for that county.
- On each weekday all satellite early voting sites must be open from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm.
- If satellite sites are open on Saturdays or Sundays, then all satellite sites shall be open for the same number of hours on those Saturdays or Sundays.
- These recommended locations have been reserved for use during the early voting period.
 - Leland Cultural Arts Center - 1212 Magnolia Village Way, Leland, NC, 28451
 - Brunswick Center at Supply – 101 Stone Chimney Road SE, Supply, NC 28462
 - Sunset Beach Community Center – 200 Station Trail, Sunset Beach, NC 28468
 - Brunswick County Cooperative Extension - 25 Referendum Drive NE, Building N, Bolivia, NC, 28422
- We do not currently have any viable options for early voting in the Southport and Shallotte areas.

Board Action:

- Board discussion of weekend hours and locations

Attachment:

Draft early voting schedule

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

75 Stamp Act Drive NE · Building H
PO Box 2 · Bolivia · NC · 28422
www.brunswickncvotes.gov

Phone: 910-253-2620
Fax: 910-253-2618
elections@brunswickcountync.gov

2026 Primary Election Early Voting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Government Center Location</u> Cooperative Extension (in lieu of Board of Elections)	<u>Satellite Locations</u> Leland Cultural Arts Center Brunswick Center at Supply Sunset Beach Community Center
Thursday, February 12, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Friday, February 13, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 14, 2026	Closed	TBD
Sunday, February 15, 2026	Closed	TBD
Monday, February 16, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Tuesday, February 17, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Thursday, February 19, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Friday, February 20, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 21, 2026	Closed	TBD
Sunday, February 22, 2026	Closed	TBD
Monday, February 23, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Tuesday, February 24, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Thursday, February 26, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Friday, February 27, 2026	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 28, 2026	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Government Center Location

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension - 25 Referendum Drive NE, Building N, Bolivia, NC, 28422

Satellite Locations

Leland Cultural Arts Center - 1212 Magnolia Village Way, Leland, NC, 28451

Brunswick Center at Supply – 101 Stone Chimney Road SE, Supply, NC 28462

Sunset Beach Community Center – 200 Station Trail, Sunset Beach, NC, 28468

Visit our website for more information about early voting:

www.brunswickncvotes.gov

**Draft of weekend hours was passed by majority at the April 16, 2024 board meeting. Because the schedule was not passed unanimously, final determination will be made by the State Board of Elections at a future meeting.*

Summary of Southport Area Locations Reviewed for Early Voting

Location	Address	Reason(s) Not Suitable
Beach Road Church	4457 Flagship Ave SE, Southport	Active school on site; children present; parking across the street in residential area.
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	5269 Doshier Cutoff SE, Southport	Use not permitted per diocese policy.
Generations Church	4019 Executive Park Blvd SE, Southport	Road construction adjacent to site; located on busy highway with no stoplight for access.
Southport Baptist Church	200 N Howe St, Southport	Very limited parking; primarily street parking.
City of Southport Gym	211 N Atlantic Ave, Southport	Very limited parking; primarily street parking.
Duke Energy Education Center	8520 River Rd SE, Southport	Unable to accommodate early voting request.
Longshoreman ILA Building	211 W 10th St, Southport	Contact indicated it would be too disruptive to facilitate early voting.
Bellamy-Joyner American Legion	530 W 9th St, Southport	Parking lot too small; gravel/grass surface.
Vacant CVS / Lowe's (Live Oak Village)	4961 Long Beach Rd SE, Southport	Property management declined to rent spaces for early voting period.
Cape Fear Regional Jetport	4015 Airport Rd SE, Southport	Room too small (1,200–1,300 sq. ft.); immovable furniture; poor room flow; active business operations.
Oak Island Presbyterian Church	1503 E Oak Island Dr, Oak Island	Small, sloped parking lot; not ADA compliant.
First Baptist Church of Oak Island	4608 E Oak Island Dr, Oak Island	Limited dirt parking; regular parking is across residential street.
Oak Island Recreation Center	3003 E Oak Island Dr, Oak Island	Room small (approx. 1,700 sq. ft.); limited parking; not ideal for use.
Fort Caswell	100 Caswell Beach Rd, Oak Island	No response received to inquiry.
Boiling Spring Lakes Community Center	1 Leeds Rd, Boiling Spring Lakes	Limited parking; site used for afterschool/daycare programs.
Town of St. James Homer E. Wright Event Center	4136 Southport-Supply Rd, Southport	Ongoing road construction; traffic conflicts; town denied use for early voting in 2024 general election.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

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Date: 10/21/2025

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Commercial Addresses for Voter Registration

Background:

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of a board member who was approached by a private citizen regarding voters in Brunswick County who appear to be registered at commercial mail facilities (e.g., UPS Stores). The inquiry concerned how such registrations can be addressed.

The appropriate remedy under North Carolina law is for a voter challenge to be filed. Because the deadline to hear voter challenges before the municipal election has passed, any new challenges cannot be considered until after the election. However, a challenge may still be filed now to be heard once the municipal election has concluded.

Note: Any voter removal that is not based on **individualized evidence specific to the challenged voter's circumstances** must be **completed at least 90 days before the primary election**, which falls on **December 3, 2025**.

See attached document for additional information.

Commercial Address as Residential Address for Voter Registration

From email correspondence with Adam Steele, Associate General Counsel, 10/20/25

Residency requirements for voting are spelled out in [GS 163-57](#). There is nothing in the statute that would preclude a commercial address from being used to register to vote.

Footnotes 34 and 35 of the [voter challenge guide](#) and the decisions linked in them discuss residence on commercial property and other nontraditional situations.

- Footnote 34: [In re Greene](#), State Board of Elections (2019); [In re Wilkins](#), State Board of Elections (2015) (affirming the county board of elections' determination that a candidate successfully established his residence in living quarters situated above a car wash in violation of a city zoning rule).
 - From Greene: In determining where an individual resides, our State has considered that “the meaning of the term ‘residence’ for voting purposes . . . is a judicial question” derived from constitutional standards rather than statute. *Owens v. Chaplin*, 228 N.C. 705, 710 (1948). Certain caselaw regarding residency has been codified. See G.S. § 163-57, entitled “Residence defined for registration and voting.”
- Footnote 35: *Greene* (reversing the county board's decision and determining that a sheriff candidate had established his residence in an RV in violation of local ordinances even though he owned a more comfortable house in South Carolina); [In re Lilly](#), State Board of Elections (2020) (reversing the county board's decision and determining that a county commissioner candidate had established residence despite evidence that his house lacked running water and he could have instead resided in a more comfortable home owned by his mother).
 - From Lilly: Residency may be established without a showing of any legal claim or title to a habitation, and an individual may establish a residence for voting purposes notwithstanding clear restrictions prohibiting their use of a premises as a residence.

Voter Challenges Regarding a Post Office, etc. at a Voter's Residential Address

Email from Paul Cox, General Counsel, 10/12/22

In 2018, a federal court issued a **permanent injunction** against the State Board, barring the Board from:

using the challenge procedure set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 163A-911 et seq. [now §§ 163-85 et seq.] to remove voters from the rolls **without individualized inquiry as to the circumstances of each voter** in the 90 days preceding a federal election in the absence of a request of the registrant, necessity under State law by reason of criminal conviction or mental incapacity, or the death of the registrant[.]

N.C. State Conf. of NAACP v. Bipartisan Bd. of Elections & Ethics Enf't, No. 1:16CV1274, 2018 WL 3748172, at *12 (M.D.N.C. Aug. 7, 2018). The court determined that the provision in the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) banning systematic voter removals within 90 days of a federal election serves the purpose of avoiding disenfranchisement in error: “while at most times during the election cycle, the benefits of systematic programs outweigh the costs because eligible voters who are incorrectly removed have enough time to rectify any errors, eligible voters removed days or weeks before Election Day will likely not be able to correct the State’s errors in time to vote.” *Id.* at *6. The court therefore ordered the Executive Director of the State Board to “take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure statewide compliance with the NVRA consistent with this Court’s Memorandum Opinion and this Order.”

Then-Executive Director Kim Strach issued [Numbered Memo 2018-07](#) in compliance with that order. The memo states, in relevant part:

[A]ll county boards of elections are hereby instructed as follows:

2. No voter challenges based on other qualifications without individualized knowledge within the 90 days before an election. Do not remove a voter from the rolls within the 90 days preceding a federal election based on a voter challenge brought without an “individualized inquiry as to the circumstances of each voter.” Do not hold a hearing or take any other action to consider a voter challenge that is brought without an individualized inquiry by the challenger. . . .

The judge explained in her order that, a county board’s removal of voters based on “generic evidence [that] conveyed no information about each challenged voter’s specific circumstance” violated the NVRA’s prohibition on systematic removal. The judge contrasted generic evidence with “reliable first-hand evidence specific to the voters challenged.”

The court case that led to this injunction involved numerous voter challenges that were, as here, nearly identical and were brought in three counties. Those challenges relied on postcards or letters mailed to voters’ residential addresses which were returned to sender. The court concluded that such efforts constituted “**generic evidence [that] conveyed no information about each challenged voter’s specific circumstances.**” *N.C. State Conf. of NAACP*, 2018 WL

3748172, at *7. “In fact,” the court said, “most of these voters were targeted based on information about their status contained on the State Board’s website.” *Id.*

“...challenges based on information on the State Board’s voter lookup tool, along with Google Maps photos and county records listing the status of a building, involve no individualized inquiry in the circumstances of the voter to be challenged. Accordingly, in compliance with the court injunction and Numbered Memo 2018-07, a county board may not schedule hearings on any voter challenges that include such generic evidence” within 90 days of a federal election.

90 days before the primary is December 3. For a challenge to be heard after December 3, it would have to include evidence specific to the circumstances of the challenged voter showing that the voter is not a resident of the precinct, county, or state.