DURHAM COUNTY
Board of Elections

ABSENTEE-BY-MAIL VOTING FAQ's

1. How do I request an Absentee-By-Mail Ballot?

   Any registered voter of Durham County may make a request for an absentee ballot. Requests can only be made by completing an Absentee Ballot Request Form (Instructions for completing the form are included with the form). The form can be downloaded at www.dcovotes.com.

   After completing your Absentee-by-Mail Request Form, there are four permissible options for returning your form to the Durham County Board of Elections Office:
   By Email: absentee@dconc.gov | By Fax: 919-560-0688
   By Mail: PO Box 868, Durham NC 27702 | In Person: 201 N. Roxboro St, Durham NC 27701

2. Can someone make a request for me?

   Yes, a near relative or legal guardian may request an absentee ballot on behalf of someone. This includes a spouse, sibling, parent, grandparent, in-law, stepparent, or stepchild.

3. Can I request a ballot by mail any time before the upcoming election?

   The deadline to request a ballot to be mailed to you is always the Tuesday prior to Election Day. The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 3rd General Election is Tuesday, October 27th at 5:00 pm.

4. What happens if I mail my request form and it is incomplete?

   If the Durham Board of Elections receives an incomplete form, you can expect a highlighted replacement form to be mailed to you or a staff member will attempt to contact you. It is important to timely return this form to successfully submit your request and have a ballot mailed to you. A quick guide for completing the request form is available to you as a resource at www.dcovotes.com.

5. Once I receive my ballot by mail, when do I need to return it to the Board of Elections?

   Absentee ballots must be returned to the Board of Elections by 5:00 pm on Election Day, unless it is mailed. A mailed ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received no later than 5:00 pm on the third business day following the election.

6. Can I return my voted Absentee-By-Mail Ballot to my precinct on Election Day?

   No, these ballots cannot be returned as voted ballots at a precinct on Election Day.

   Voted absentee ballots can be returned in person during the One-Stop voting period to any early voting site.

7. How can I ensure that my ballot was received and counted?

    Visit www.dcovotes.com to check the status of your absentee ballot for every election.

8. I am a Military/Overseas voter, how so I submit an absentee request?

    Visit www.dcovotes.com to submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA application can be used by military and overseas voters as a form of registration, voter registration update form, and absentee request all in one!

    The North Carolina Absentee-By-Mail Request Form may also be completed to request a ballot.

9. I am currently residing overseas and intend to return to the United States, how do I submit an absentee request?

    Visit www.dcovotes.com to submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA application can be used by military and overseas voters as a form of registration, voter registration update form, and absentee request all in one!

    The North Carolina Absentee-By-Mail Request Form may also be completed to request a ballot.

10. I am currently residing overseas, and I do not intend to return to the United States, but I am a United States Citizen and would like to vote in Federal elections for which I am eligible to vote in. How do I submit an absentee request?

    Visit www.dcovotes.com to submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA application can be used by military and overseas voters as a form of registration, voter registration update form, and absentee request all in one! Your request will be valid for eligible Federal races for the current election.

11. What is the Federal Post Card Application?

    This application is an 'all-in-one' application created to assist military and overseas voters through the voting process. This single form can be used for new voter registrations or updating voter registration information if needed, along with requesting a ballot by mail, email, or fax.