



CHAPTER 120
ARTICLE 3 - CONTESTS

N.C.G.S. § 120-10.3.

Initiating a contest.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 05:38 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT eaebb521b234ecbe66d2a0d1 - e6c38b2e5c78a7066063baf3 - 77baf4d2a8217f33
--	---	---	--

§ 120-10.3(a) Who May Initiate. - A contest may be initiated only by a contestant by the filing of a written notice of the intent to petition for a contest in accordance with this section.

§ 120-10.3(b) When May Initiate. - The notice of intent may be filed no earlier than the date provided in G.S. 163-182.5 for the canvass by the board of elections with jurisdiction for the office under G.S. 163-182.4. The notice of intent must be filed no later than the latter of: (i) 10 days after a certificate of election has been issued, or (ii) 10 days after the conclusion of the election protest procedure under Article 15A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, but in no event may a contestant initiate a contest later than 30 days after the convening of a regular or special session of the General Assembly next after the election.

§ 120-10.3(c) Content of Notice. - A notice of intent shall state the grounds for the contest. The grounds shall be either or both of the following:

- (1) Objections to the eligibility or qualifications of the contestee as a candidate in the election based on specific allegations.
- (2) Objections to the conduct or results of the election accompanied by specific allegations that if proven true would have a probable impact on the outcome of the election.

The notice of intent shall also state that a contestee shall file an answer to the notice of intent in accordance with G.S. 120-10.4. The notice of intent shall be signed by the contestant and shall be verified in accordance with Rule 11(b) of the Rules of Civil Procedure. (2005-3, s. 2; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 6.1.)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II
3 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 163-182.5	(b)	"earlier than the date provided in"
G.S. 163-182.4	(b)	"with jurisdiction for the office under"
G.S. 120-10.4	(c)	"notice of intent in accordance with"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 120-10.3 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 120-10.3(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

This document reproduces the text of one section of the General Statutes of North Carolina from a source file whose SHA-256 digest is printed on every page. The digest fixes the bytes this export was made from; if the State's file changes, the digest will not match.

The text of the section is unaltered. Subsection designators have been moved from the run of text into the margin. The amendment history and the table of authorities are derived from the section by mechanical extraction — they add no characterization of the law.

This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

