



CHAPTER 163
ARTICLE 1 - TIME OF PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS

N.C.G.S. § 163-1.

Time of regular elections and primaries.

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, 05:37 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 1158e4b51d86ff1c9ec26cfe - 939a6c43c10faa9e6797e095 - 1bda3d33675e1a2c
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§ 163-1(a) Unless otherwise provided by law, elections for the officers listed in the tabulation contained in this section shall be conducted in all election precincts of the territorial units specified in the column headed "Jurisdiction" on the dates indicated in the column headed "Date of Election." Unless otherwise provided by law, officers shall serve for the terms specified in the column headed "Term of Office."

§ 163-1(b) On Tuesday next after the first Monday in March preceding each general election to be held in November for the officers referred to in subsection (a) of this section, there shall be held in all election precincts within the territory for which the officers are to be elected a primary election for the purpose of nominating candidates for each political party in the State for those offices.

§ 163-1(c) On Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in the year 1968, and every four years thereafter, or on such days as the Congress of the United States shall direct, an election shall be held in all of the election precincts of the State for the election of electors of President and Vice-President of the United States. The number of electors to be chosen shall be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which this State may be entitled. Presidential electors shall not be nominated by primary election; instead, they shall be nominated in a State convention of each political party as defined in G.S. 163-96 unless otherwise provided by the plan of organization of the political party; provided, that in the case of a candidate for President of the United States who has qualified to have his name printed on the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate under G.S. 163-122, that candidate shall nominate presidential electors. One presidential elector shall be nominated from

each congressional district and two from the state-at-large, and in addition, the State convention of each party and the unaffiliated candidate shall each nominate first and second alternate electors who shall serve if their slate is elected as provided by G.S. 163-209 and if there is a vacancy as provided by G.S. 163-210.

§ 163-1(d)

If primaries for the State Senate or State House of Representatives are temporarily moved from the date provided in subsection (b) of this section for any election year, all primaries shall be held on the same day.

OFFICE JURISDICTION DATE OF ELECTION TERM OF OFFICE

Governor State Tuesday next after the Four years, from

first Monday in November first day of January

1968 and every four years next after election

thereafter

Lieutenant State Tuesday next after the Four years, from

Governor first Monday in November first day of January

1968 and every four years next after election

thereafter

Secretary of State Tuesday next after the Four years, from

State first Monday in November first day of January

1968 and every four years next after election

thereafter

Auditor State Tuesday next after the Four years, from

first Monday in November first day of January

1968 and every four years next after election

thereafter

Treasurer State Tuesday next after the Four years, from

first Monday in November first day of January

1968 and every four years next after election

thereafter

SuperintendentStateTuesday next after theFour years, from
of Publicfirst Monday in Novemberfirst day of January
Instruction1968 and every four yearsnext after election
thereafter

Attorney

GeneralStateTuesday next after theFour years, from
first Monday in Novemberfirst day of January
1968 and every four yearsnext after election
thereafter

CommissionerStateTuesday next after theFour years, from
of Agriculturefirst Monday in Novemberfirst day of January
1968 and every four yearsnext after election
thereafter

CommissionerStateTuesday next after theFour years, from
of Laborfirst Monday in Novemberfirst day of January
1968 and every four yearsnext after election
thereafter

CommissionerStateTuesday next after theFour years, from
of Insurancefirst Monday in Novemberfirst day of January
1968 and every four yearsnext after election
thereafter

All other StateStateTuesday next after theFour years, from
officers whosefirst Monday in Novemberfirst day of January
terms last for1968 and every four yearsnext after election
four yearsthereafter

All other State Tuesday next after the Two years, from
officers whose first Monday in November first day of January
terms are not 1968 and every two years next after election
specified by law thereafter

State Senator Senatorial Tuesday next after the Two years
district first Monday in November
1968 and every two years
thereafter

Member of Representative Tuesday next after the Two years
State House of district first Monday in November
Representatives 1968 and every two years
thereafter

Justices and State Except as provided in Eight years, from
Judges of the Article 1A of Chapter 7A first day of January
Appellate of the General Statutes, next after election
Division at the regular election
for members of the General
Assembly immediately
preceding the termination
of each regular term

Judges of the Superior At the regular election Eight years, from
superior courts Court District for members of the General first day of January
Assembly immediately after next election
preceding the termination
of each regular term

Judges of the District At the regular election Four years, from the

district courtcourt district for members of the Generalfirst day in January

Assembly immediatelynext after election

preceding the termination

of each regular term

DistrictDistrictAt the regular electionFour years, from

AttorneyAttorneyfor members of the Generalfirst day of January

districtAssembly immediatelynext after election

preceding the termination

of each regular term

Members ofCongressionalTuesday next after theTwo years

House ofdistrict,first Monday in November

Representativesexcept as1968 and every two years

of the Congressmodifiedthereafter

of the Unitedby G.S. 163-104

States

United StatesStateAt the regular electionSix years

Senatorsimmediately preceding the

termination of each

regular term

CountyCountyAt the regular electionTwo years, from the

Commissionersfor members of the Generalfirst Monday in

Assembly immediatelyDecember next after

preceding the terminationelection

of each regular term

Clerk ofCountyAt the regular electionFour years, from the

superior courtfor members of the Generalfirst Monday in

Assembly immediately December next after
preceding the termination election
of each regular term

Register of County At the regular election Four years, from the
Deeds for members of the General first Monday in
Assembly immediately December next after
preceding the termination election
of each regular term

Sheriff County At the regular election Four years, from the
for members of the General first Monday in
Assembly immediately December next after
preceding the termination election
of each regular term

Coroner County At the regular election Four years, from the
for members of the General first Monday in
Assembly immediately December next after
preceding the termination election
of a regular term

County County Tuesday next after the Two years, from the
treasurer (in first Monday in November first Monday in
counties in 1968 and every two years December next after
which elected) thereafter election

All other County Tuesday next after the Two years, from the
county officers first Monday in November first Monday in
to be elected 1968 and every two years December next after
by the people thereafter election

(Const., art. 4, s. 24; 1901, c. 89, ss. 1-4, 73, 74, 77; Rev., ss. 4293, 4294, 4296-4299; 1915, c. 101, s. 1; 1917, c. 218; C.S., ss. 5914, 5915, 5917-5920, 6018; 1935, c. 362; 1939, c. 196; 1943, c. 134, s. 4; 1947, c. 505, s. 1; 1951, c. 1009, s. 2; 1953, c. 1191, s. 1; 1967, c. 775, s. 1; cc. 1264, 1271; 1969, c. 44, s. 80; 1971, c. 170; 1973, c. 793, s. 93; 1977, c. 265, s. 1; c. 661, s. 1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 782, s. 1; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 738, s. 2; 1996, 2nd Ex. Sess., c. 9, s. 2; 2003-434, 1st Ex. Sess., s. 6; 2004-127, s. 12; 2005-425, s. 3.2; 2015-66, s. 3; 2017-3, s. 2; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-21, s. 1; 2018-146, s. 3.1(a), (b).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II
5 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. 163-96	(c)	"each political party as defined in"
G.S. 163-122	(c)	"ballot as an unaffiliated candidate under"
G.S. 163-209	(c)	"slate is elected as provided by"
G.S. 163-210	(c)	"is a vacancy as provided by"
G.S. 163-104	(d)	"of the United by"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-1 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-1(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.

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