



CHAPTER 163
ARTICLE 20 - ABSENTEE BALLOT

N.C.G.S. § 163-229.

Absentee ballots, applications on
container-return envelopes, and
instruction sheets.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2023-140, s. 35 — twenty-seventh act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 01:27 UTC	973a62bf47f0678202e72949 - cf21aff1a1267b8e5f66c29f - c0d95cad62891ba1

- § 163-229(a)** Absentee Ballot Form. - In accordance with the provisions of G.S. 163-230.1, persons entitled to vote by absentee ballot shall be furnished with official ballots.
- § 163-229(b)** Application on Container-Return Envelope. - In time for use not later than 60 days before a statewide general election in an even-numbered year, and not later than 50 days before a statewide primary, other general election or county bond election, the county board of elections shall print a sufficient number of envelopes in which persons casting absentee ballots may transmit their marked ballots to the county board of elections. However, in the case of municipal elections, sufficient container-return envelopes shall be made available no later than 30 days before an election. Each container-return envelope shall have printed on it an application which shall be designed and prescribed by the State Board, providing for all of the following:
- (1) The voter's certification of eligibility to vote the enclosed ballot and of having voted the enclosed ballot in accordance with this Part.
 - (2) A space for identification of the envelope with the voter and the voter's signature.
 - (3) A space for the identification of the two persons witnessing the casting of the absentee ballot in accordance with G.S. 163-231, those persons' signatures, those persons' printed names, and those persons' addresses.

- (4) A space for the name and address of any person who, as permitted under G.S. 163-226.3(a), assisted the voter if the voter is unable to complete and sign the certification and that individual's signature.
- (5) A space for approval by the county board of elections.
- (6) A space to allow reporting of a change of name as provided by G.S. 163-82.16.
- (7) A prominent display of the unlawful acts under G.S. 163-226.3 and G.S. 163-275, except if there is not room on the envelope, the State Board may provide for that disclosure to be made on a separate piece of paper to be included along with the container-return envelope.
- (8) An area to attach additional documentation necessary to comply with the identification requirements in accordance with State Board rules, as provided in G.S. 163-230.1.
- (9) A bar code or other unique identifier, affixed by the county board of elections, to allow both the county board of elections and the voter to track the ballot following return of the voted ballot to the county board of elections by the voter.

The container-return envelope shall be printed in accordance with the instructions of the State Board, which shall prohibit the display of the voter's party affiliation on the outside of the container-return envelope.

§ 163-229(c)

Instruction Sheets. - In time for use not later than 60 days before a statewide general election in an even-numbered year, and not later than 50 days before a statewide primary or general election or county bond election, the county board of elections shall prepare and print a sufficient number of sheets of instructions on how voters are to prepare absentee ballots and return them to the county board of elections. The instruction sheets shall include the means by which the voter's marked absentee ballot must be returned to the county board of elections and the date and time that the ballot must be received by the county board of elections. However, in the case of municipal elections, instruction sheets shall be made available no later than 30 days before an election.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
27 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1929	c. 164, s. 39	ENACTED
02	1939	c. 159, ss. 3, 4	AMENDED
03	1943	c. 751, s. 2	AMENDED
04	1963	c. 457, ss. 3, 4	AMENDED
05	1965	c. 1208	AMENDED
06	1967	c. 775, s. 1	AMENDED
07	1967	c. 851, s. 1	AMENDED
08	1967	c. 952, s. 5	AMENDED
09	1973	c. 536, s. 1	AMENDED
10	1975	c. 844, s. 13	AMENDED
11	1977	c. 469, s. 1	AMENDED
12	1985	c. 562, ss. 3, 4	AMENDED
13	1985	1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 986, s. 2	AMENDED
14	1987	c. 485, ss. 2, 5	AMENDED
15	1987	c. 509, s. 9	AMENDED
16	1987	c. 583, s. 3	AMENDED
17	1989	c. 635, s. 5	AMENDED
18	1989	1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 561, s. 5	AMENDED
19	1999	S.L. 1999-455, s. 8	AMENDED
20	2009	S.L. 2009-537, s. 4	AMENDED
21	2013	S.L. 2013-381, s. 4.1	AMENDED
22	2017	S.L. 2017-6, s. 3	AMENDED
23	2018	S.L. 2018-144, s. 1.2(d)	AMENDED
24	2018	S.L. 2018-146, s. 3.1(a), (b)	AMENDED
25	2019	S.L. 2019-239, s. 1.4	AMENDED

26	2020	S.L. 2020-17, s. 3(a)	AMENDED
27	2023	S.L. 2023-140, s. 35	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
6 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. 163-230.1	(a)	<i>"In accordance with the provisions of"</i>
G.S. 163-231	(b)(3)	<i>"the absentee ballot in accordance with"</i>
G.S. 163-226.3(a)	(b)(4)	<i>"any person who, as permitted under"</i>
G.S. 163-82.16	(b)(6)	<i>"change of name as provided by"</i>
G.S. 163-226.3	(b)(7)	<i>"display of the unlawful acts under"</i>
G.S. 163-275	(b)(7)	<i>"unlawful acts under G.S. 163-226.3 and"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-229 (2023).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-229(a) (2023).

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

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1929, c. 164, s. 39; 1939, c. 159, ss. 3, 4; 1943, c. 751, s. 2; 1963, c. 457, ss. 3, 4; 1965, c. 1208; 1967, c. 775, s. 1; c. 851, s. 1; c. 952, s. 5; 1973, c. 536, s. 1; 1975, c. 844, s. 13; 1977, c. 469, s. 1; 1985, c. 562, ss. 3, 4; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 986, s. 2; 1987, c. 485, ss. 2, 5; c. 509, s. 9; c. 583, s. 3; 1989, c. 635, s. 5; 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 561, s. 5; 1999-455, s. 8; 2009-537, s. 4; 2013-381, s. 4.1; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-144, s. 1.2(d); 2018-146, s. 3.1(a), (b); 2019-239, s. 1.4; 2020-17, s. 3(a); 2023-140, s. 35.)

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