



CHAPTER 163
ARTICLE 20 - ABSENTEE BALLOT

N.C.G.S. § 163-231.

Voting absentee ballots and transmitting them to the county board of elections.

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-third act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 03:37 UTC	516c2364774ce9c6d11fc15d - c3d9126aff496f3eddb78d09 - 76bd1c11196a1de8

- § 163-231(a) Procedure for Voting Absentee Ballots. - In the presence of two persons who are at least 18 years of age, and who are not disqualified by G.S. 163-226.3(a)(4) or G.S. 163-237(c), the voter shall do all of the following:
- (1) Mark the voter's ballots, or cause them to be marked by that person in the voter's presence according to the voter's instruction.
 - (2) Fold each ballot separately, or cause each of them to be folded in the voter's presence.
 - (3) Place the folded ballots in the container-return envelope and securely seal it, or have this done in the voter's presence.
 - (4) Make the application printed on the container-return envelope according to the provisions of G.S. 163-229(b) and make the certificate printed on the container-return envelope according to the provisions of G.S. 163-229(b).
 - (5) Require those two persons in whose presence the voter marked that voter's ballots to sign and print their names on the application and certificate as witnesses and to indicate those persons' addresses. Failure to list a ZIP code does not invalidate the application and certificate. Failure to include a printed witness name does not invalidate the application and certificate if the identity of an individual can solely be ascertained by the witness's signature.
 - (6) Do one of the following:

a. Have the application notarized. The notary public may be the person in whose presence the voter marked that voter's ballot.

b. Have the two persons in whose presence the voter marked that voter's ballots to certify that the voter is the registered voter submitting the marked ballots.

Alternatively to the prior paragraph of this subsection, any requirement for two witnesses shall be satisfied if witnessed by one notary public, who shall comply with all the other requirements of that paragraph. The notary shall affix a valid notarial seal to the envelope, and include the word "Notary Public" below his or her signature.

The persons in whose presence the ballot is marked shall at all times respect the secrecy of the ballot and the privacy of the absentee voter, unless the voter requests assistance and that person is otherwise authorized by law to give assistance. When thus executed, the sealed container-return envelope, with the ballots enclosed, shall be transmitted in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section to the county board of elections which issued the ballots.

§ 163-231(b)

Transmitting Executed Absentee Ballots to County Board of Elections. - The sealed container-return envelope in which executed absentee ballots have been placed shall be transmitted to the county board of elections who issued those ballots as follows:

(1) All ballots issued under the provisions of this Article and Article 21A of this Chapter shall be transmitted by one of the following means:

a. Mail or commercial courier service, at the voter's expense, and received by the county board not later than 7:30 P.M. on the day of the statewide primary or general election or county bond election.

b. Delivered in person, by the voter or the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to the county board not later than 7:30 P.M. on the day of the statewide primary or general election or county bond election.

c. Electronically transmitted to the county board, if the ballot was issued under the provisions of Article 21A of this Chapter.

- (2) If ballots are received later than the hour stated in subdivision (1) of this subsection, those ballots shall not be accepted unless required by federal law or the ballots are received in accordance with Article 21A of this Chapter or the State Board or court order extended the closing time of the polls for every poll in the county in accordance with G.S. 163-166.25. If the State Board or court order so extended the closing time of the polls, the ballots shall be received by the closing time as extended by the State Board or court order in order to be counted.

§ 163-231(c)

Delivering Executed Absentee Ballots in Person. - For purposes of this section, "Delivered in person" includes physically handing the voted absentee ballot to an election official at an early voting site under Part 5 of Article 14A of this Chapter during any time that early voting site is open for voting, but does not include depositing the voted absentee ballot in a drop box or other location designated for the return of voted absentee ballots. The voted absentee ballots delivered to the early voting site shall be kept securely and delivered by election officials at that early voting site to the county board of elections office for processing.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
23 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	1939	c. 159, ss. 2, 5	ENACTED
02	1941	c. 248	AMENDED
03	1943	c. 736	AMENDED
04	1943	c. 751, s. 1	AMENDED
05	1945	c. 758, s. 5	AMENDED
06	1963	c. 457, ss. 2, 5	AMENDED
07	1967	c. 775, s. 1	AMENDED

08	1971	c. 1247, s. 3	AMENDED
09	1973	c. 536, s. 1	AMENDED
10	1977	c. 469, s. 1	AMENDED
11	1979	c. 799, s. 5	AMENDED
12	1985	c. 562, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
13	1987	c. 583, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
14	1987	1989 (Reg. Sess., 1990), c. 991, s. 4	AMENDED
15	1999	S.L. 1999-455, s. 11	AMENDED
16	2009	S.L. 2009-537, ss. 6, 8(a)	AMENDED
17	2011	S.L. 2011-182, s. 5	AMENDED
18	2013	S.L. 2013-381, s. 4.4	AMENDED
19	2014	S.L. 2014-111, s. 11	AMENDED
20	2017	S.L. 2017-6, s. 3	AMENDED
21	2018	S.L. 2018-144, s. 3.4(j)	AMENDED
22	2018	S.L. 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 4.8	AMENDED
23	2023	S.L. 2023-140, s. 35	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
4 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. 163-226.3(a)(4)	(a)	<i>"and who are not disqualified by"</i>
G.S. 163-237(c)	(a)	<i>"not disqualified by G.S. 163-226.3(a)(4) or"</i>
G.S. 163-229(b)	(a)(4)	<i>"envelope according to the provisions of"</i>
G.S. 163-166.25	(b)(2)	<i>"in the county in accordance with"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-231 (2023).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-231(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

(1939, c. 159, ss. 2, 5; 1941, c. 248; 1943, c. 736; c. 751, s. 1; 1945, c. 758, s. 5; 1963, c. 457, ss. 2, 5; 1967, c. 775, s. 1; 1971, c. 1247, s. 3; 1973, c. 536, s. 1; 1977, c. 469, s. 1; 1979, c. 799, s. 5; 1985, c. 562, ss. 1, 2; 1987, c. 583, ss. 1, 2; 1989 (Reg. Sess., 1990), c. 991, s. 4; 1999-455, s. 11; 2009-537, ss. 6, 8(a); 2011-182, s. 5; 2013-381, s. 4.4; 2014-111, s. 11; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-144, s. 3.4(j); 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 4.8; 2023-140, s. 35.)

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