

**DEMOCRACY NC**



# Voting by Mail in 2020



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## OVERVIEW

- Resources & Materials
- Voter Registration Overview
- Understanding Voting by Mail
- How to Vote by Mail
- Frequently Asked Questions

# WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE:

- Pro Tips throughout this presentation
- PDF copy of this presentation
- Print resources on voting by mail
- Links for voter education resources that can be accessed online
- FAQ on voting by mail



# VOTER REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

## To register to vote in North Carolina you must be:

- A US citizen;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day – November 3;
- Not serving a felony sentence, including probation or parole; and
- A resident of the precinct, county, and state in which you are voting for at least 30 days before Election day.

*\*If you have recently moved, you can register/update your registration at a one-stop early voting site.*



**Pro Tip:** Check your voter registration and update it, if necessary!

# VOTING BY MAIL IN 2020

- **Typical vote by mail is typically 3-5% of voters**
- **Major increase in vote by mail**
  - 2016: 259,959 ballots requested
  - 2020: 26,906 ballots requested
- **Challenges**
  - Somewhat complex process
  - Resources at the local and state level
  - Changing guidance at the state level
  - Changes at the federal level (USPS)



# VOTERS HAVE OPTIONS!

## Early Voting Options

- Vote by mail or
- Vote in-person
  - Thursday, October 15 through Saturday, October 31

or **Election Day** on Tuesday, November 3



**Pro Tip:** Make a plan to vote now!

# IMPORTANT DATES

## 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

- **By Tuesday, September 1**
  - Online Absentee Ballot Request Portal goes live
- **Friday, September 4**
  - State Board of Elections will start sending absentee ballots to voters
- **Friday, October 9**
  - Last day to register to vote / update registration remotely
- **Thursday, October 15**
  - Early voting begins statewide

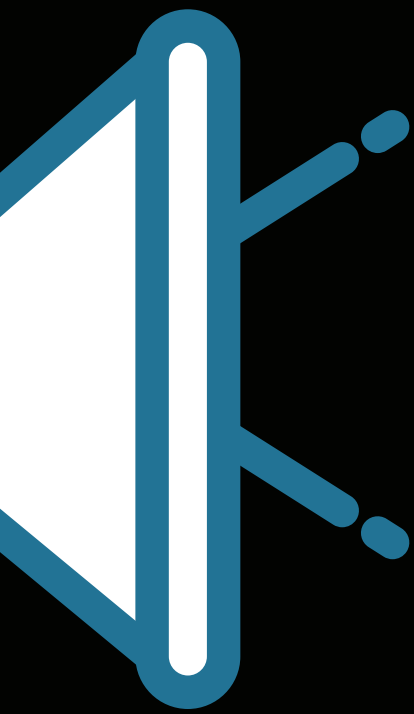
# IMPORTANT DATES

## 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

- **Tuesday, October 27**
  - Last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you
- **Saturday, October 31**
  - Last day of Early Voting
  - Last day to register to vote / update registration in person
- **Tuesday, November 3**
  - Election Day 2020







# OVERVIEW

## VOTING BY MAIL

- Request your ballot
- Vote the ballot that is mailed to you
- Return your ballot



Look out for Pro Tips throughout the presentation!

# ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

North Carolina Absentee Ballot Request Form  
November 3, 2020  
Read instructions before completing this form.

Contact information for your local county boards of election can be found on pages three and four of this form.

<b>Voter Information Required</b>	<b>1</b>	Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Suffix (Jr, Sr, II, III, IV) _____ Former Name (if name has changed) _____
<b>Voter Identification Required</b>	<b>2</b>	Date of Birth _____ <b>ALSO: Either</b> NC Driver's License/NC DMV ID Number _____ <b>Or</b> Last four digits of voter's Social Security number _____
<b>Your NC Residential Address Required</b>	<b>3</b>	If you have lived at this address less than 30 days, when did you move here? (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ County _____ If you do not receive mail at this address, provide your full mailing address: Mailing Address _____
<b>Where do you want your ballot mailed?</b>	<b>4</b>	If you leave this section blank, your ballot will be sent to your mailing address, or if none is listed, to your residential address above. Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>5</b>	We will use your contact information if we have a question about this request. Phone _____ Email _____
<b>Requesting an absentee ballot for a relative? If yes, provide the information required</b>	<b>6</b>	If you are a voter's near relative or legal guardian and are requesting an absentee ballot for that voter, provide your name, address and relationship to the voter (see instructions). Also, you must sign in Section 9 below. Near relative or Legal Guardian's name (print) _____ Relationship to Voter _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
<b>Are you helping a voter complete this form? If yes, you are required by law to complete this section.</b>	<b>7</b>	Complete this section if you are assisting a voter who is blind, disabled, or unable to read or write, but are not a near relative or legal guardian. The voter must sign or make their mark. (If a MAT assisted, complete this section.) Assistant's full name (print below): _____ Assistant's address: _____ If the voter is a patient in a hospital, clinic, nursing home or rest home and the voter needs assistance with voting and returning the ballot, provide the name and address of the hospital or facility here: _____
<b>If you are Military and/or Overseas (UOCAVA)</b>	<b>8</b>	Member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty or eligible spouse/dependent <input type="checkbox"/> I would like my ballot delivered to my: <input type="checkbox"/> Email or Online _____ <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. citizen outside the United States <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing address _____ Address where you are stationed or living overseas: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Fax number: _____
<b>Signature Required</b>	<b>9</b>	Voter sign and date here _____ Date _____ Near relative or Legal Guardian (if applicable) sign and date here _____ Date _____
<b>Continued Request</b>	<b>10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you would like to request absentee ballots for other possible elections in 2020 due to your continued or expected illness or disability.

FRAUDULENTLY OR FALSELY COMPLETING THIS FORM IS A CLASS 1 FELONY UNDER CHAPTER 163 OF THE NC GENERAL STATUTES

- Updated form released on August 19
- Instructions
- List of all 100 county board of elections

# REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

- Get the form: [demnc.co/absenteeform](https://demnc.co/absenteeform)
- Print, complete, and sign
- Return to your County Board of Elections Office
  - Email (new!)
  - Fax (new!)
  - Mail
  - In person
- Online portal (coming in September!)



**Pro Tip:** Request your absentee ballot as soon as possible!

# REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

**Important:** absentee ballot request forms may only be returned by

- the voter,
- the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, or
- a Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT)

## **Who qualifies as a near relative?**

Spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild

# REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

## What is a Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT)?

MAT is a group appointed by the local county board of elections office to provide assistance with mail-in absentee voting to voters. Traditionally MAT assisted voters living in congregate living facilities such as nursing homes.

**IMPORTANT:** the deadline to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, October 27 at 5 pm!



**Pro Tip:** Write your phone number on your form.

# Receive & Vote Your Ballot

- Your ballot will arrive via mail in September
- **Carefully** read all instructions
- Fill out and sign your ballot
- No copy of ID required\*

*\*Unless it is requested because you did not provide proof of identification when you registered to vote.*

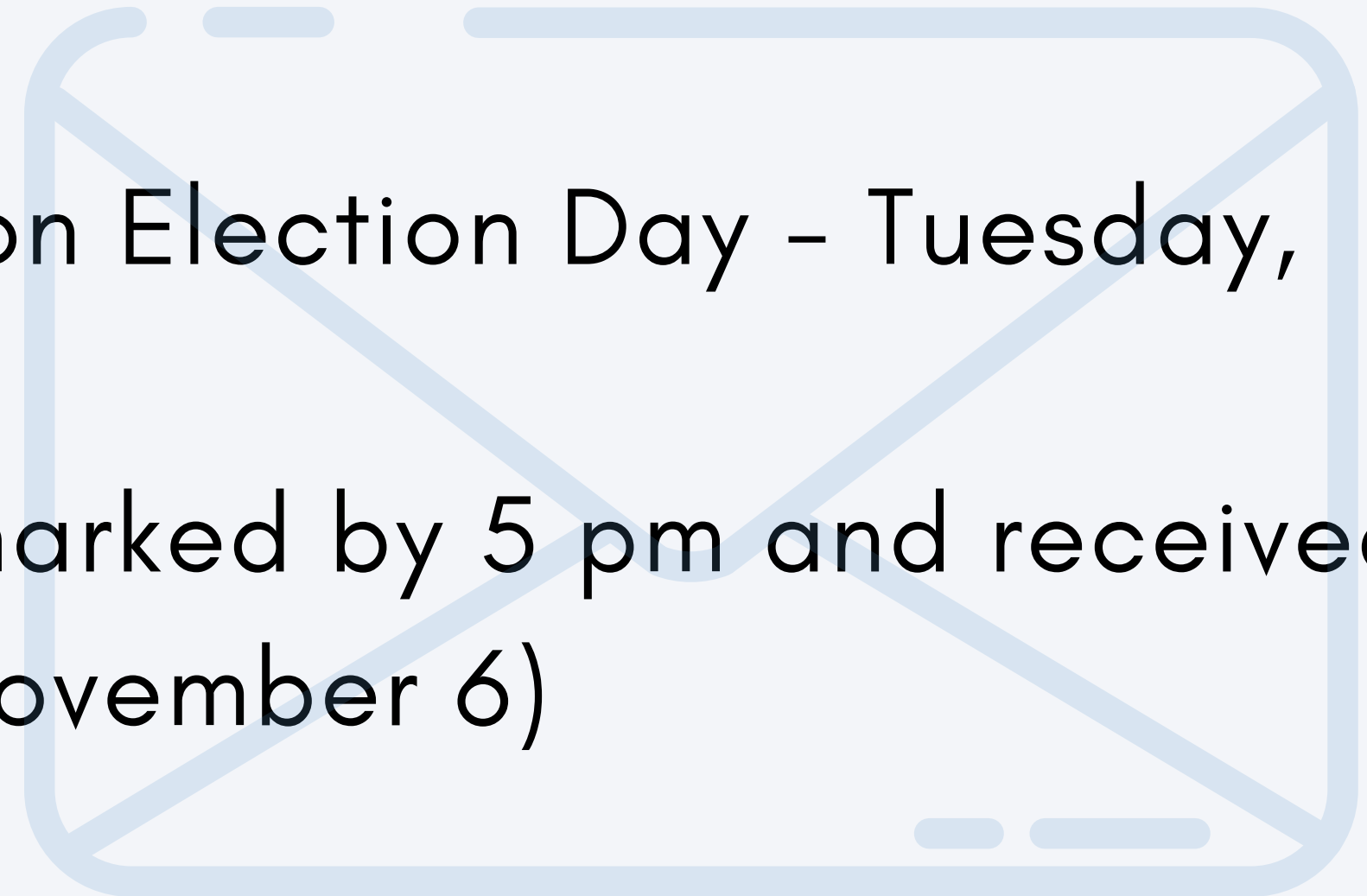
- Only ONE witness signature needed (new!)

# Who can be a witness?

- Must be over 18 years old
- A person who assists a voter with completing their ballot may also serve as a witness
- Cannot be a candidate for office *unless they are a near relative*
- Employees of a facility may not serve as a witness for voters in a facility
  - See instructions included with the ballot for full list of excluded employees

# RETURN YOUR BALLOT

- Returning your ballot:
  - Via mail
  - Deliver by hand to a one-stop early voting site
- Must be returned by 5 pm on Election Day - Tuesday, November 3
  - via mail: must be postmarked by 5 pm and received within 3 days (Friday, November 6)





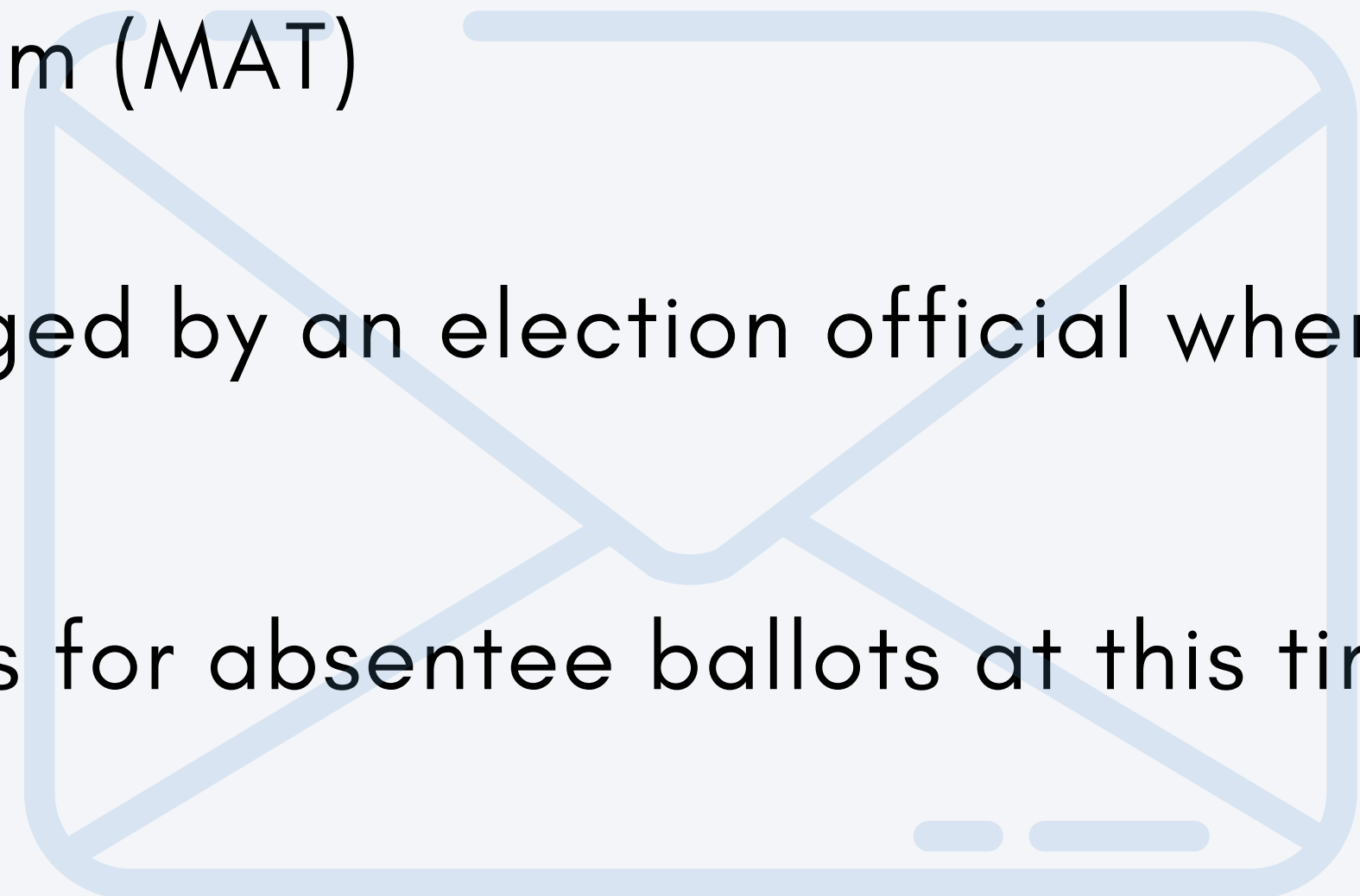
# RETURN YOUR BALLOT

**Important:** absentee ballots may only be returned by

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Your absentee ballot must be logged by an election official when it is returned.

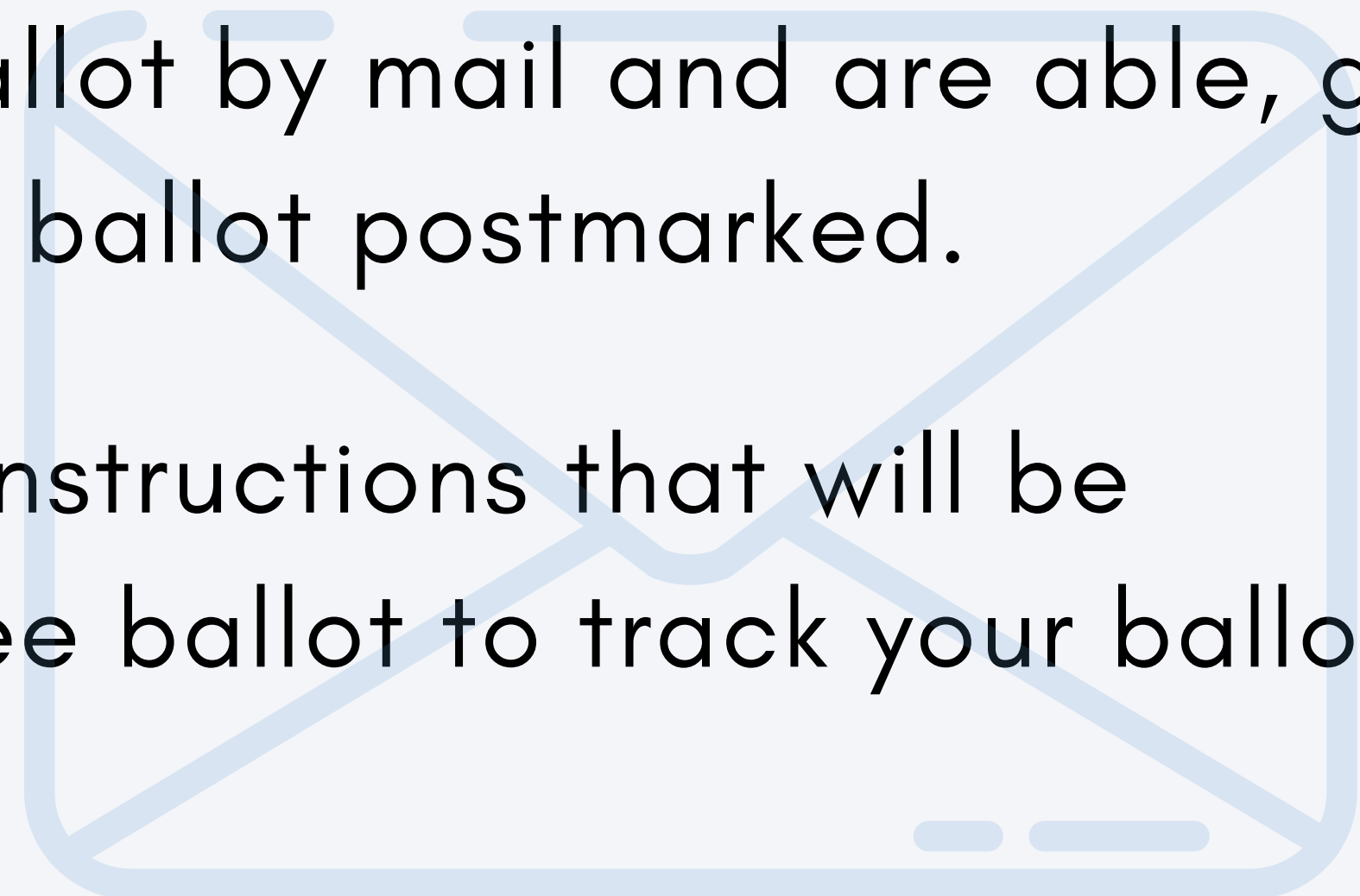
We do not have secure drop boxes for absentee ballots at this time.



# WORRIED ABOUT THE USPS?

## Pro Tips for returning your ballot:

- Vote and return your ballot before before Election Day.
- If you are returning your ballot by mail and are able, go to the USPS and have your ballot postmarked.
- Utilize the ballot tracking instructions that will be provided with your absentee ballot to track your ballot.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Do I need an excuse to vote by mail?**
  - No. North Carolina does not require any excuse.
- **Is it too early to request a mail ballot?**
  - You can request your ballot today!
- **How do I know if my request form was accepted?**
  - Check online at: [demnc.co/lookup](https://demnc.co/lookup). After finding your record, scroll to the bottom of the page, and look under "Absentee Request."
  - You will be notified if there is an issue with your request.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **If I request an absentee ballot, do I have to vote it?**
  - No. If you decide to vote in person, you should bring your un-voted ballot to be marked as spoiled and discarded.
- **Will there be secure drop boxes for absentee ballots?**
  - Not at this time. You must mail in your absentee ballot or return it at an early voting site.
- **How much will postage cost for my absentee ballot?**
  - 55 cents (one regular stamp) or a "Forever" stamp

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **When will I receive my absentee ballot?**
  - Mailing starts September 4.
  - If you already requested a ballot and do not receive it between September 15 and 20, email or call your county board of elections to ask about the status of your request.
- **Do I need to include photo ID with absentee ballot?**
  - No. However, if you did not provide proof of identification at the time you registered to vote, there will be instructions about what documentation you need to provide with you absentee ballot.

# RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- Upcoming Statewide Advocates Call
  - Tuesday, August 25th at 6 pm
  - [demnc.co/augustcall](https://demnc.co/augustcall)
- [NCVoter.org](https://NCVoter.org)
- 888-OUR-VOTE (888-687-8683)
- Provided after this presentation:
  - Presentation slides
  - Detailed Frequently Asked Questions
  - Voter education materials