

# QUEER THE VOTE 2020

North Carolina



NATIONAL  
LGBTQ  
TASK FORCE

Registration Deadlines	Primary Election	General Election
25 days prior to the election by mail or in person	<b>March 3, 2020</b>	<b>November 3, 2020</b>
<b>Early Voting in NC begins 20 days before the election, and ends 4 days prior to Election Day.</b>		
North Carolina operates a semi-closed primary. Registered party members can only vote in the primary election of the party they are registered with. Unaffiliated voters can participate in any primary election.		
<b>National Elections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President</li><li>• Senate seat: Thom Tillis</li><li>• 13 House seats, including a retirement in NC-03</li></ul>	<b>State Elections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Auditor</li><li>• Seats in the Senate &amp; House of Representatives</li><li>• 3 seats on the State Supreme Court</li><li>• 5 seats on the State Intermediate Court</li></ul>	

## **Voting Eligibility**

To be eligible to vote in North Carolina, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of the county where you wish to register for at least 30 days before the election, and be at least 18 years old. Eligible voters can pre-register up to two years before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, so long as they will be 18 by the time of the next general election. Additionally, if you have been convicted of a felony, you cannot vote or register to vote until you complete all terms of sentencing, including any term of incarceration, probation, or parole.

## **Voter Registration**

If you are eligible to vote in North Carolina, you must do so either in person or by mail. You must complete a [voter registration form](#), sign it (electronic signatures will not be accepted), and return it to your county board of elections. Voter registration forms can also be accessed at the North Carolina state board of elections, any county board of elections office, public libraries, and public high schools or college admissions offices. Additionally, you can register to vote through interactions with the Department of Motor Vehicles, public assistance agencies, and disability services agencies.

## **Voter Identification**

2020 will be the first year in which North Carolina voters will be required to present photo ID to vote. If you do not have an acceptable form of identification on Election Day, you can vote with a provisional ballot, which will be counted if you provide photo ID to the county board of elections before canvass, or if you sign an affidavit affirming that a reasonable impediment prevented you from providing photo ID. Acceptable forms of ID can be found [here](#), and include:

- North Carolina driver's license or non-operator card from the DMV (current or expired less than one year)
- Driver's license or photo ID from any U.S. state or territory, **only** if you registered in NC within 90 days of the election
- Approved college or university student and employee IDs
- U.S. passport, military ID, or veterans ID
- Tribal enrollment card from an approved state or federal tribe
- Approved state or local government or charter school employee ID

You can obtain a **free photo ID** at your local county board of elections at any time, except between the end of the early voting period and election day. In 2020, you cannot obtain an ID on March 1-3 or November 1-3.

**If you encounter any issues when voting, call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE.**

**Si tiene problemas al votar, contacte la línea directa para la protección del votante al 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA.**

## **North Carolina and the power of LGBTQ and Allied Voters**

In 2016 and 2018, North Carolina has proved that it is home to a powerful voting bloc of LGBTQ and Allied voters. In 2016, even as Donald Trump won the state by nearly 4 points, and Richard Burr won his Senate seat by about 6 points, Democrat Roy Cooper narrowly defeated Republican incumbent governor Pat McCrory.<sup>i</sup> McCrory was the first incumbent to lose an election since 1971, when the North Carolinian constitution was amended to allow governors to serve for two consecutive four-year terms.

One of the main reasons for McCrory's loss was his whole-hearted embrace and defense of HB 2, frequently referred to as the 'bathroom bill'—a bill which stated that individuals must use the bathroom that corresponded to the sex listed on their birth certificate. He lost to Roy Cooper, the Democrat who, as attorney general, refused to defend HB 2 in court.<sup>ii</sup> In polling conducted by the Human Rights Campaign, when voters were asked to give their top 3 reasons for voting against Pat McCrory, *57% cited HB 2.*<sup>iii</sup>

## **The Aftermath of HB 2**

When HB 2 originally passed in North Carolina, there were no openly LGBTQ elected officials serving in the state legislature. Since then, 4 LGBTQ representatives in the North Carolina House have either come out or been elected to office. Cecil Brockman (HD60), who was elected in 2015, came out as bisexual shortly after the passage of HB 2. In 2017, both Deb Butler and Marcia Morey were appointed to serve by Governor Cooper. They each won election the following year. Allison Dahle, who identifies as gay, was also elected in 2018. In just two years, North Carolina went from passing one of the most restrictive anti-trans laws, to electing four openly LGBTQ individuals to serve as representatives.

## **Early Voting and Same-Day Registration**

In North Carolina, early voting (also called one-stop absentee voting) is available at [one-stop sites](#) across the state. There, registered voters can cast a ballot, and unregistered voters can register and vote immediately afterwards. During this early voting period, voters can vote at any one-stop site in their county.

For unregistered voters who are using the same-day registration process, you must attest to your eligibility and provide proof of residence. You attest to your identity by completing a voter registration application and signing it. You can provide proof of residence by providing any of the following documents, so long as it includes your current name and address:

- North Carolina driver's license
- Any ID issued by a government agency, so long as it includes your name and address
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document
- Current college or university photo ID card paired with proof of campus habitation

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/north-carolina>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://slate.com/human-interest/2016/11/north-carolina-gov-pat-mccrory-lost-thanks-to-hb2.html>

<sup>iii</sup> [https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/A\\_Path\\_To\\_Victory\\_In\\_2018\\_Report.pdf?\\_ga=2.62260079.212644124.1576684313-1410239197.1574351424](https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/A_Path_To_Victory_In_2018_Report.pdf?_ga=2.62260079.212644124.1576684313-1410239197.1574351424)