

Absentee Ballot Request for November 3 Elections

The North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association (NorCCRA) is encouraging CCRC residents to request an absentee ballot for the November 3 elections. To make that easier the General Assembly passed **HB1169, Bipartisan Elections Act of 2020**, which changes how NC voters vote their absentee ballots by mail. Any North Carolina registered voter may request and receive a mail-in Absentee Ballot. No Photo ID will be required to vote by mail. Previously, there had been a requirement for two witnesses to verify that you filled out your Absentee Ballot. That has been reduced to one witness.

It is important to remember that you may not have any staff person help you in filling out your request form or your Absentee Ballot. For your Absentee Ballot Request Form, you may ask a spouse, fellow resident, child or other persons over 18 years of age to help you fill it out. But you may not ask a staff person. This also applies to voting by Absentee Ballot. You (or your witness) must mail it to your Board of Elections.

Because of COVID-19, we have seen and heard stories of long voting lines, poll workers who are not comfortable working at the polls and other disruptions during the spring primaries. Health officials are already worried about a COVID-19 surge during the fall elections. As a safeguard, we are suggesting that you send in an Absentee Ballot Request Form. The addresses for all 100 county Boards of Election are provided on the request form. You are not obligated to use the Absentee Ballot if you decide to vote in person.

We are also providing more information on the actual process of requesting an absentee ballot and then the steps to follow for voting by mail. Absentee Ballots will be sent out 60 days before the election which means they will begin to be mailed on September 4.

For those who would like more detailed information, you can go to the NC State Board of Elections at the following website:

ncsbe.gov/voting-options/absentee-voting

Who can assist a voter in completing this Request Form?

- All voters are entitled to assistance from a near relative or verifiable legal guardian.
- If a voter is blind, disabled or unable to read or write and needs assistance in completing the Absentee Ballot Request Form (and a near relative is not available), they may request some other person to give assistance. That person's name and address must be listed under Part 2 of the form.
- If a voter is a patient in a facility (hospital, clinic, nursing home, rest home), a member of a Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT) authorized by the county board of elections can assist the voter in completing the request form. **No owner, manager, director, or employee can request an absentee ballot on behalf of the voter.**

Follow these 5 Steps to Vote by Mail

- Complete the Absentee Ballot Request Form (See attachment)
- Return the Request Form to your County Board of Elections (Addresses on third page of your handout.) Return it in person, by email, fax or US Postal Service. It must be received by Tuesday, October 27, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. You will not receive a confirmation mailing if your application is accepted. However, you will hear back if your application needs to be corrected or is rejected.
- Your County Board of Elections will mail absentee ballots to registered voters who have completed the Absentee Ballot Request Form. The package will include an Absentee Ballot, a return envelope with a certificate statement on it and an instruction sheet.
- Mark your ballot with your choices in the presence of one witness who is at least 18 years of age and is not a candidate for the election. The voter and the witness must each complete and sign the certificate on the return envelope and provide their addresses. Note: Employees of a facility may not serve as a witness for voters in a facility.
- Return the ballot in the return envelope by mail or deliver it in person to your County Board of Elections. If returning by mail, it must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day. You may not turn it in at an Early Voting site or an Election Day precinct.

Important Note:

You are not obligated to use your Absentee Ballot. If you decide to vote in your regular precinct on November 3, just discard your Absentee Ballot.