Purpose & Background

The Wake County Public School System continues working towards the Vision 2020 goal: “By 2020, WCPSS will annually graduate at least 95% of its students ready for productive citizenship as well as higher education or a career.”

One of the goal measures outlined in the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan is “Voter Registration of 18-year-olds in high school.” Additionally, Board Policy 3640 requires that “a district contact and other appropriate school personnel collaborate with the local board of elections to facilitate and encourage voter registration at all high schools in the school system.” We appreciate the work of school-based Voter Registration Coordinators to support this goal and provide students with a direct opportunity to register to vote and opportunities to develop their voice for being an involved, active citizen in our democracy.

This document serves as a reference for those who are eligible to vote with information from the Wake County Board of Elections website. If you will be 18 by or on November 3, 2020, you are eligible to vote in the 2020 General Election.

How to Register

There are three ways to register to vote. Please review those ways below. In order to be eligible to vote in the November 3 election, voter registration forms must be submitted to the Board of Elections by 5:00PM on October 9, 2020.

Download a Voter Registration

Download the paper copy of the voter registration form, print it out, and complete the form. Please use blank ink pen to complete and mail to the Wake County Board of Elections office using this address:

Wake County Board of Elections
P.O. Box 695
Raleigh, NC 27602

In order to be eligible to vote in the November 3 election, voter registration forms must be submitted to the Board of Elections by 5:00PM on October 9, 2020.

Online Voter Registration

You may apply to register to vote online here if you have a North Carolina driver’s license. Click the button below to complete an application for new voter registration or to update your address or party affiliation. Updated information will only apply to your voter registration.
Please note: There is no fee to apply for voter registration through the PayIt online service and you do not need to create an account with PayIt. Select “Continue as a guest” to bypass creating an account.

Once the online application is complete, it is sent to the N.C. State Board of Elections, which handles voter registrations.

If there are any issues with the application or if more information is needed, your county board of elections will contact you to complete the process. Voter registration applications submitted fewer than 25 days before an election will not be processed until after the election.

Same-Day Voter Registration

You may still register to vote in person using same-day registration in your county during the early voting period. Same-day registrants must attest to their eligibility to vote and must provide proof of residence. Please review this website to see what documentation will be needed. The early voting period is October 15-31, 2020.

How to Vote

Early Voting

The early voting period is open from October 15-31, 2020. If you missed the October 9, 2020 registration deadline, you can do same-day voter registration. Unlike on Election Day, when registered voters can only vote at their specific precinct, one-stop voting allows registered voters to vote at any one-stop absentee voting site in the county. One-stop sites will have all the ballot styles for a given election at each site. For more information, including times and locations for one-stop early voting in Wake County, please visit this website.

Absentee By Mail Voting

Any registered voter in Wake County may request an absentee ballot or may vote at an early voting site. No excuse is required. To request an absentee ballot, please review this website. The last day to register to vote is October 9, 2020 and the last day to request an absentee ballot is October 27, 2020 at 5:00PM.

Absentee ballots delivered to the Board of Elections must be received by 5:00PM. If mailing your ballot, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day.

November 3, 2020

The polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. On Election Day, you vote in your assigned precinct in order to make sure you receive a ballot that contains all races for which you are eligible to vote. To locate your assigned polling place, please visit this website.
Already registered?

Check your Voter Registration
You may have pre-registered to vote when you were 16 or 17 or registered at the DMV. If you’re not sure, you can check here. This will let you know if you are already registered and eligible to vote in the November 3 election.

Check your Polling Place
For one-stop voting sites, review this information. If you are voting on November 3, check your polling place here.

For more upcoming election information
Review this website with helpful links and details for the November 3, 2020 election in Wake County.