10 Things Every North Carolina Poll Worker Should Know

As a poll worker, your job is to help every eligible voter make their voice heard. Below is a list of things to know before you report for your poll worker assignment.

1. Voters CANNOT register to vote on Election Day

The regular voter registration deadline is 25 days (October 9, 2020) before an election. However, any eligible individual who misses that deadline may register and vote during the early voting period at any early voting site in their county.

2. NO ID required to vote

Voters are NOT required to show photo ID for elections held in 2020. Note: Those voters who are voting for the first time in North Carolina and registered via mail without providing identification will be required to do so in order to vote.

3. Take all complaints of voter intimidation seriously

Voter intimidation is a crime. As a result, ALL incidents of intimidation should be immediately reported to local elections officials.

4. Voters CAN receive assistance going in and out of a voting booth and preparing a ballot

North Carolina voters may receive assistance from a near relative (spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, child, grandchild, in-law, stepparent or stepchild) in casting their ballot. In addition, a physically disabled, blind or illiterate voter who is unable to enter the voting booth or mark a ballot may request assistance from another person, except the voter’s employer, union representative, or an agent thereof.

5. Curbside voting IS permitted

Every voting site in North Carolina in 2020 offers curbside voting for voters who are unable to enter the polling place without physical assistance due to age or disability. Curbside voters must sign an affidavit affirming that they are unable to enter the voting place to cast their ballot, and they have the same rights to assistance as any other voter.

6. All individuals at polling locations should be encouraged to wear face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Poll workers are required to ENCOURAGE all voters or election observers to wear face masks. If a voter states an exception applies for why they can’t wear a mask, the poll worker should try to make an accommodation by providing curbside service or by allowing the voter to enter without a face covering. No voter should be turned away if they don’t have or cannot wear a face mask. For more information on voting and COVID-19, click here.

7. If there are questions about eligibility, voters SHOULD NOT be turned away and MUST be provided a provisional ballot

If there are questions about a voter’s qualifications they SHOULD be given the opportunity to cast a provisional ballot. The law mandates that no person should be denied the option to vote a provisional ballot and in no circumstances should a voter be turned away.
8. **Keep track of your supplies**

Pay attention to how many paper and provisional ballots you have at all times. If your supplies may not be sufficient to support turnout, call your local elections office and ask them to send more.

9. **Voters MAY bring voting guides and notes into the voting booth, but CANNOT take photos or videos of a voted ballot**

Voters may bring voting guides, notes and other materials into the voting booth. Voters are allowed to have phones or electronic devices with them to access a slate card or candidate information while voting, as long as the devices are not used to photograph or videotape a ballot or communicate with anyone via voice, text, email or any other method.

10. **All voters in line at the 7:30PM closing time must be allowed to vote**

North Carolina polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters in line at 7:30 p.m. will be able to cast a ballot. Only after all voters and finished voting and have exited the polling should you complete end-of-day poll closure procedures.