



# DURHAM COUNTY

## Board of Elections

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## Frequently-Asked Questions

### About Durham County's 2017 municipal elections

#### **Q. What's up for election in 2017?**

**A.** In odd-numbered years, municipalities hold elections. In the City of Durham, voters are electing Mayor (2-year term) and three of the six City Council seats (4-year terms). The City of Durham elects its officials through a nonpartisan primary and election. This year, the date of the City of Durham primary is Tuesday, October 10, 2017. The date of the City of Durham general election is Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

#### **Q. What municipalities are in Durham County?**

**A.** In Durham County, there is of course the City of Durham. There are also some small sections of the City of Raleigh, the Town of Chapel Hill, and the Town of Morrisville in Durham County. Because most of the county's municipal voters are City of Durham voters, these FAQs focus on the City of Durham. (If you wish to find out more information about the other municipalities, feel free to call or e-mail using the contact information above!)

#### **Q. I don't live within city limits. Can I participate in the 2017 municipal elections?**

**A.** If you do not live within the municipality, there are no elections that you are eligible to vote in this year. (If you dispute that you live within the municipality, you are entitled to vote a "provisional ballot" which will preserve the issue for the Board of Elections to make a determination based upon research after the election.)

#### **Q. How can I determine whether my residential address is within city limits?**

**A.** You can easily look up your information using the [voter lookup feature on the website of the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement](#). After finding your voter record, you can see whether a municipality is listed under "Jurisdictions" on the right-hand side of that page (third item from the bottom on the list of jurisdictions). You can also confirm whether you're assigned a municipal ballot by scrolling down further to see "Sample Ballots." If you live within the City of Durham, you will see link to a sample ballot (style "N001") for the "10/10/17 PRIMARY".

#### **Q. Which Durham City Council seats are up for election in 2017?**

**A.** Three of the six council seats are up for election: One for Ward I, one for Ward II, and one for Ward III. [Here's a map](#) to see how the City of Durham is divided up into three wards. The candidates run for the seat of the ward where they reside. However, all City of Durham voters have the opportunity to vote for all three ward contests. (The other three Durham City Council seats, which are all "at-large" and not specific to a ward, are next elected in 2019.)

#### **Q. How does a nonpartisan primary work?**

**A.** For all of the City of Durham contests on the ballot this year, the top two vote-getters in the primary will move on to the "general" election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

**Q. Why aren't there write-in options on my ballot for the City of Durham October primary?**

**A.** Because the primary serves to narrow the field to the top two candidates who filed to run, there is no write-in option. However, on your November 7, 2017 City of Durham ballot, you will see a write-in option for each contest. In municipal elections, there is no qualification process to become a write-in candidate.

**Q. Can I vote before Election Day?**

**A.** Yes! [See this flyer](#) with information and schedules for our four early voting sites which are open 17 days for both the City of Durham primary and election. Another option is to request a mail-in absentee ballot. ([See here for more information about absentee voting by mail.](#))

**Q. Can I vote early at my polling place?**

**A.** Not unless your polling also happens to be one the [four early voting sites](#) that are open this year. Your Election Day polling place is based on the precinct where you reside. Durham County is divided into 57 precincts, 56 of which have municipal area in them and will be open for elections this year.

**Q. I want to vote on Election Day. How do I find out where to vote?**

**A.** Check the [voter lookup](#) to confirm your Election Day polling place. On Election Day (both Tuesday, October 10, 2017, and Tuesday, November 7, 2017), polls are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

**Q. I'm registered within Durham County, but I have moved within the county since the last time I voted. Can I update my address and vote in the October City of Durham primary?**

**A.** Yes. The 25-day voter registration deadline for the October 10, 2017 City of Durham primary has passed, but you can update your address when you come in to vote. It's very simple to do this at an [early voting site](#) because those sites serve all voters countywide. You can also update your address on Election Day, but your new address may mean that you would be assigned to a different precinct and polling place. Give us a call at 919-560-0700 if you'd like to check on the proper Election Day polling place based upon your new address.

**Q. I'm not registered in Durham County but do reside in the City of Durham and would like to vote in the October City of Durham primary. What can I do?**

**A.** Be sure to visit an [early voting site](#) where you can complete a "same day registration," which allows you to register and vote in a single visit. To be able to register through this method, you will need to bring one of the following forms of identification: A North Carolina driver license, a photo ID from a government agency, or a copy of one of the following that shows the name and address of the voter: a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document.

**Q. Is photo ID required to vote now?**

**A.** No. There are some exceptions where *first-time* voters are required to provide documentation to confirm their identity/address, but unlike in past elections, the law now does not require all voters to provide photo ID to be able to vote in person.

**Q. Can I still vote in-person if I have difficulty walking into the voting site due to age or disability?**

**A.** All voting sites, whether they are early voting sites or Election Day polling places, offer "curbside voting," where voters can pull up to the front of the voting site and election officials will bring the ballot to the voter. This process does require signing an affidavit that you qualify due to a physical disability, and it does not automatically qualify other persons, such as your vehicle's driver, from also being able to vote in the vehicle.

**Q. What if I have other questions?**

**A.** Give us a call at 919-560-0700 during our regular business hours (weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or send us an e-mail at [elections@dconc.gov](mailto:elections@dconc.gov). More information is also available at our website, [www.dconc.gov/elect](http://www.dconc.gov/elect). See you at the polls!