



# DURHAM COUNTY

## Board of Elections

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## Frequently-Asked Questions

### Durham County May 2018 Primary and Election

#### Q. What's up for election in 2018?

A. Find a list of all offices up for election [here](#), which includes state, county, and the Durham Board of Education.

#### Q. When are elections scheduled in 2018?

A. Across the State of North Carolina, a partisan primary is scheduled on Tuesday, May 8. Durham Public Schools' Board of Education offices (Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4) will have their final election on May 8. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6.

#### Q. Am I in a new district for US Congress, NC Senate, or NC House?

A. As of right now, Congressional districts have not changed since 2016. There have been recent district changes for NC Senate and NC House. You can check to see what districts you are assigned to by using the [voter lookup feature on the website of the State Board of Elections](#). If you'd like to look at district maps for any type of election jurisdiction, check out our [maps page](#).

#### Q. How does the primary work?

A. Some of the offices on the May 8 ballot are partisan primary contests. That means that voters are selecting a party nominee to appear on the General Election ballot in November. In some cases, not enough candidates filed to even need a primary to determine the party nominee, in which case that candidate would automatically advance to the General Election and wouldn't appear on the primary ballot.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the recognized political parties in North Carolina are the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties.

#### Q. Why aren't all of the offices up for election on my primary ballot?

A. As explained above, only those offices where enough candidates filed to need a primary will be on the May 8 ballot, to determine the party nominee(s) for those offices.

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<sup>1</sup> State law also allows for the potential second primary to narrow the field to the top vote-getters when enough candidates file that the winning candidate in certain contests does not meet a certain threshold, and one of the other candidates demands a second primary. See G.S. 163-111. In that past, that threshold has been at least 40% of the vote (applied through a mathematical equation for contests in which voters vote for multiple choices), but a law change that is effective for 2018 lowers that threshold to at least 30% of the vote. See S.L. 2017-214, Sec. 3. In Durham County, not enough candidates filed to even have the mathematical possibility of a second primary under the new law. However, elsewhere in the State, there is a possibility for a second primary on either July 17 or June 26, 2018.

**Q. I'm registered as a voter affiliated with a political party. Do I get a choice in which ballot I vote for the May 8 primary?**

**A.** No, being affiliated with a political party means that you may only vote that party's primary ballot (and all ballots will also include the nonpartisan election of Durham School Board).

**Q. I'm registered as an unaffiliated voter. Do I get a choice in which primary I participate in?**

**A.** Yes. In North Carolina, all of the political parties open up their primary to unaffiliated voters. This means that when appearing to vote, an unaffiliated voter will have a choice of one of the party ballots, or can vote a nonpartisan ballot that would only include the Board of Education contest.

**Q. I'm registered as a Durham County voter with Republican party affiliation. Why don't I see a Republican primary ballot?**

**A.** In Durham County, no office had enough Republican-affiliated candidates file to need a primary. Voters who are affiliated as Republican will be offered a nonpartisan ballot that includes the Board of Education contest for their respective district.

**Q. How can I change my party affiliation or change to unaffiliated?**

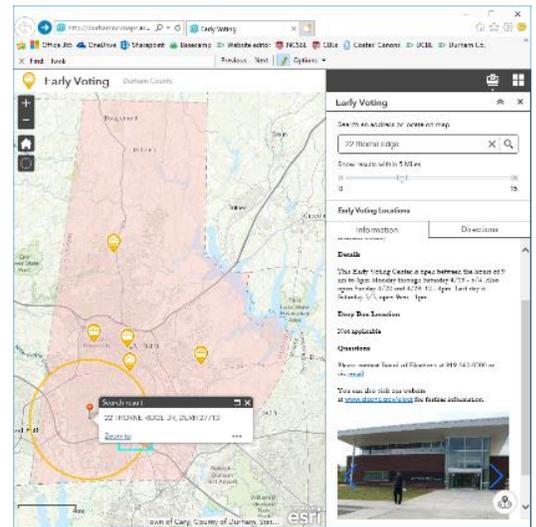
**A.** Complete a [Voter Registration Form](#) to update your registration. This must be done by Friday, April 13 in order to change party affiliation in time for the 2018 primary.

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

**A.** Yes! [See this flyer](#) with information and schedules for early voting for the May Primary. Another option is to request a mail-in absentee ballot. ([See here for more information about absentee voting by mail.](#))

**Q. How I can find out the closest early voting location to me?**

**A.** Our office has a [new online tool](#) that can provide driving directions to early voting sites and help you determine the closest and most convenient location for you. Just enter in your address and the tool will locate sites within a radius of that address. Click on the "Directions" tab on the right side to get driving directions from your address to that site. Photos of the early voting site you choose and other information is available through this tool as well.



**Our new Early Voting online tool!**

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

**A.** Not unless your polling also happens to be one the 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.

**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 according to your voter record. The State's website also has a [tool to look up the assigned polling place by address](#). On Election Day, 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 at the same time?**

**A.** Yes. You can update your address by sending in a [Voter Registration Form](#) to our office by Friday, April 13, but you can also 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 on your new address.

**Q. I'm not registered to vote, but do reside in Durham County and would like to vote in the 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. I'll be turning 18 years old after May 8, 2018, but before the General Election on November 6, 2018. Can I vote in the primary?**

**A.** Yes! State law allows young persons who turn 18 years old by the date of the General Election to participate in the primary. You can also definitely register to vote (technically, pre-registering) before turning 18. Soon-to-be 18-year-olds will be assigned a ballot that does not include Board of Education, because that is a final election occurring in May and not a primary.

**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 age or disability.

**Q. I'm the driver of a vehicle bringing a voter to a voting site to vote curbside. Can I also vote curbside?**

**A.** Only if you can also truthfully sign an affidavit attesting to qualification due to age or disability.

**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!