How Do I Pre-Register and Vote in North Carolina?

Overview
Students will learn about registering and voting in North Carolina, particularly focusing on North Carolina's pre-registration law, which allows 16 and 17 year-olds to pre-register to vote. The law was originally effective January 1, 2010 but was repealed in 2013 by NC's Voter Information Verification Act. In July 2016, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a number of VIVA's provisions and reinstated pre-registration for 16 and 17 year-olds. Students will also explore the importance of registering and voting, as well as the reasons for voter apathy. This lesson will culminate with students creating a commercial to encourage North Carolina's 16 and 17 year-olds to pre-register to vote. (For the latest about North Carolina election law, visit the State Board of Elections website at: http://www.ncsbe.gov/.)

Grade
10

North Carolina Essential Standards for American History: the Founding Principles, Civics and Economics
- FP.C&G.4.3 - Analyze the roles of citizens of North Carolina and the United States in terms of responsibilities, participation, civic life and criteria for membership or admission (e.g., voting, jury duty, lobbying, interacting successfully with government agencies, organizing and working in civic groups, volunteering, petitioning, picketing, running for political office, residency, etc.)
- FP.C&G.5.1 - Analyze the election process at the national, state and local levels in terms of the checks and balances provided by qualifications and procedures for voting (e.g., civic participation, public hearings, forums, at large voting, petition, local initiatives, local referendums, voting amendments, types of elections, etc.)

Essential Questions
- Why is it important to vote?
- What offices did North Carolina vote on in the most recent election?
- What criteria do you have to meet to pre-register/register to vote?
- What criteria do you have to meet to be able to cast a vote?
- Why do you think many Americans have chosen not to register and/or vote in past elections?
- What were the trends in youth voting in 2008?

Materials
- *Vote. North Carolina*, handout attached
- *Sample 2010 Registration Form,* attached
- *Create a Get Pre-Registered Commercial*, activity description attached
- *Just One Vote*, teacher reference document attached
- Optional: For a more comprehensive look at the history of NC's Voter Information Verification Act, please see Carolina K-12's "Preventing Voter Fraud or Encouraging Voter Suppression? Exploring North Carolina's Controversial Voter ID Law," available here.

Duration
45-60 min. (additional time may be needed for completing and presenting commercials)

Procedure

Why Do We Vote?
1. As a warm up, present a fictional divisive issue to students as if it is actually happening and have them brainstorm ways to solve the issue. The situation presented should lead students to determine that the

best way to solve it is through voting. For example, teachers might present one of the following scenarios to students:

- The cafeteria is going to allow one outside food vendor (i.e. Pizza Hut, McDonalds, Chick-fil-A, etc.) to sell food items during lunch. The problem is that the cafeteria has to determine how to decide which vendor to choose. How do you think we should decide?
- The administration is already beginning to consider prom this year. We have the option of having a live band or a DJ. How do you think it should be decided which to choose?
- The School Board is thinking about changing our daily school hours. They are considering leaving our schedule as it is, having us go to school from 9 AM-5 PM, or having us go to school from 6:30 AM – 2:00 PM. How do you think the School Board should decide what to do?

2. As the class discusses your chosen scenario, hopefully a student will determine that the best way to decide what to do is through a vote. Once this idea is presented, focus students on the concept of voting by discussion:
- Why do you think voting is a good way to decide this issue?
- If you feel that voting is a way for you to let your voice be heard or to have a say in the decision, how are you going to feel if the decision is made without a vote being offered to you? (For example, what if our principal makes the decision on his/her own, or what if you aren't allowed to vote?)
- Who should be allowed to vote on this issue and why? Do you think we should have certain qualifications someone has to meet before they can vote? Explain. (i.e. only seniors, only parents, only people who fully understand the situation, etc.)
- What happens if not everyone votes? Will the results be fair?
- Will you be willing to accept the results even if they reflect an opinion on the issue different than your own? Explain.

3. Finally, tell students that the issue you posed isn't actually being considered, but that you do want students to continue exploring the concept of voting. Ask students to share all of the situations they can think of in which people vote and list these on the board. Try to develop a list that includes all of the various offices that are voted on (within school, locally, statewide, and nationally.) Once students have compiled a substantial class list, circle the local, state, and national offices that require one to register to vote. Discuss:
- Who can vote for these various offices?
- What criteria do you have to meet before you can vote in these elections? (Note student responses on a piece of chart paper. Once students have exhausted their thoughts, go back through the list and discuss if any of their comments are only expectations, rather than requirements (for example, being an educated voter is really only an expectation, since there is no way to prove one's knowledge of the election issues.)
- (A student should have noted that registering to vote is a requirement. Circle this comment on the chart paper to focus students on voter registration.) What criteria do you have to meet to be able to register to vote? (Again note student responses on chart paper.)

How Do I Pre-Register and Vote in North Carolina?
4. Leave the chart paper out with the list of voter registration requirements listed. If anything on the list is incorrect or something has been left out, don't correct it just yet. Rather, tell students they are going to do a brief reading about voting in North Carolina and learn the requirements for voter registration and more. Provide students with a copy of the attached *Vote. North Carolina*, to read (this can be done as individuals or in partners). The handout not only lists the eligibility requirements for voting, but it also provides an overview of the NC Board of Elections and voter registration in North Carolina. As students read the handout, they may be surprised to learn that North Carolina's 16 and 17 year-olds can pre-register to vote! They will then automatically become full registered voters as soon as they turn 18. Once students have read the handout, discuss the following questions. (If any information needs to be corrected or added to the list students brainstormed, do so during the discussion.)

- Were you surprised by anything you read, or did you read something about voting or registering to vote that you did not know before?
- How old do you have to be to register to vote? Has this always been the case?
  - Explain to students that until January of 2010, a person had to be at least 18 on Election Day to register to vote. (Note: Youth can register, and even vote in the primary, if they turn 18 by the day of the general election.) However, due to the passing of a bipartisan bill in August of 2009, the NC General Assembly made it legal for 16 and 17 year-olds to pre-register to vote in North Carolina. (Only two other states had a similar law – Florida and Hawaii.) Pre-registration was then repealed in 2013 by NC's Voter Information Verification Act. However, in July 2016, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a number of VIVA's provisions and reinstated pre-registration for 16 and 17 year-olds.
- Why do you think the General Assembly passed this law? Why should 16 and 17 year-olds be allowed to pre-register?
- Why do you think the General Assembly later passed the Voter Information Verification Act in 2013, repealing pre-registration?
- Are you surprised that pre-registration is a controversial issue in our state? What do you think the arguments for and against pre-registration are?
  - Advantages
    - Evidence that preregistration encourages youth turnout, according to a 2010 case study of Hawaii and Florida.
    - Permits registration for first-time youth voters at already-established points of contact, such as in civics classes or at motor vehicle bureaus.
    - Has potential to increase youth engagement in state/local elections.
  - Disadvantages
    - Since preregistered youth may move between preregistration and their first chance to vote, these registrations may no longer be accurate and valid.
    - Costs may be a a factor; implementation in Colorado was estimated at $572,112 in 2013. Additionally, the cost of returned mailings to this mobile population can be significant.
    - Preregistration targets one part of the population only.
  - Read more at http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/preregistration-for-young-voters.aspx.
- What will you have to do to pre-register?
  - Teachers may want to project a sample 2016 registration form for students to examine in order to help them know what to expect. Explain to students that it is very important they fill the form out as clearly as possible and ensure that they complete all information. Explain that if their form is illegible, or there is missing information, their registration will be considered incomplete. Tell students they should take their time and double check any information they are unsure of (i.e. if you are unsure of the last four numbers of your social security number, wait and confirm this before turning the form in.)
  - Also draw student attention to the box labeled "Political Party Affiliation." Explain to students that if they have not yet decided what political party their views most align with, they might want to consider checking "unaffiliated." In North Carolina, all political parties allow unaffiliated voters to vote in their primaries. For teachers who would like to help students discover their political identities and explore the various parties, see Carolina K-12's lesson plan "Are You a Democrat or a Republican? Are You *Really*?," available in on the First Vote website or by e-mailing a request to CarolinaK12@unc.edu
  - Explain to students that after they have pre-registered, they should receive a pre-registration acknowledgement letter in the mail within a few weeks, informing them that their pre-registration was received and that it will become final once they become eligible to vote. Tell students that if they move outside of their county, they MUST pre-register to vote again in their new county! Also, tell students that if they don't receive a letter confirming the receipt of their pre-registration

application, they may want to contact their Board of Elections to ensure the application was received and completed correctly.

- According to the reading, where can you pre-register to vote? Register to vote?
- Given that registering to vote simply involves filling out a form and mailing it in, why do you think so many North Carolinians do not register?
- Do you feel that 18 is an appropriate age to allow someone to vote, or should the age be different? Explain.
- According to the top paragraph of the handout, only three of the five members of the NC State Board of Elections may be of any one political party, and only two of the three members of a county board may be of the same political party. Why do you think the boards are organized in this way?
- What are the federal laws regarding voter eligibility? Why do you think there are laws addressing denial of voting?
- Review the state eligibility requirements for voting in North Carolina. Are there any requirements set by law that you would change? Explain.
- If you have been convicted of a felony, are you ever able to vote again? Explain. Do you agree with this law? Why or why not?
- Why do you think North Carolina provides the opportunity to vote early?
- Some people in our community may not be able to pre-register, register, or vote based on their citizenship status. How can someone who falls in this category still participate in the political process? (Any young person, regardless of citizenship status, can lobby for issues they care about, volunteer for a campaign or candidates they support, engage in civil discourse such as writing letters to the editor, collecting signatures for a petition, attending/presenting at a governmental meeting, etc. Registering to vote and voting is only one small part of the democratic process, a process in which all people should participate in as many ways as possible.)

➢ **Teacher Note:** History proves that legislation is constantly changing. Make sure to confirm the latest North Carolina election law at the State Board of Elections website at: http://www.ncsbe.gov/

<div align="center">Voter Statistics</div>

5. Have students brainstorm all of the reasons why a person should pre-register/register and vote. Once a substantial list has been compiled, discuss:
   - We have noted here many great reasons for why a person should pre-register/register and vote. Does anyone have a guess as to how many of North Carolina's young citizens are registered to vote?
     o Voting registration data from North Carolina's State Board of Elections indicates that there were 6.3 million registered voters in North Carolina as of May 23, 2015, out of over 10,042,802 residents. Explain to students that according to Democracy NC, "…research shows that while only about 10 percent of North Carolina citizens over 40 are not registered to vote, nearly one third of those aged 18 to 25 are not on the rolls.")
   - Do you think the pre-registration law might help improve these voter registration statistics? What else might encourage young people to pre-register/register?
   - Registering isn't the only important step – after registering, it's important we actually cast an informed vote on Election Day. Does anyone know what the average voter turnout across the US was for the last Presidential election in 2012?
     o Overall, turnout in 2012 was 68.3 percent – down slightly from 69.6 percent in 2008. *Source: http://www.wral.com/2012-turnout-data-shows-nc-sharply-split/12009162/#yEMIiOpMOiMxbZd3.99*
   - What do you think the turnout was among young voters, ages 18-29, in particular?
     o Predictions that young voters would be less motivated were true. Turnout for voters 18-25 dropped by more than 5 percent from 2008, though it was slightly higher in counties with large universities. (*Source: http://www.wral.com/2012-turnout-data-shows-nc-sharply-split/12009162/#yEMIiOpMOiMxbZd3.99*) According to "Rock the Vote", 53% of registered 18-29 year olds across the US cast a ballot for President in 2008. This was a 4-5% increase from 2004.)

- Why do you think many citizens choose not to vote in federal elections?
- Can anyone guess what voter turnout was for our last local election? (Teachers should pull this information for the last local election at http://www.ncsbe.gov/Election-Results.)
- This number is obviously much lower than the turnout for national elections. Why do you think this is?
- Can one vote make a difference? Explain. (As students ponder this question, teachers may want to share some of the historical moments when one vote made quite a difference; see the attached handout "Just One Vote.")

Optional Discussion: The Twenty-Sixth Amendment

6. Point out to students that young people have not always had the right to vote. Discuss the Twenty-Sixth Amendment with students:
   - In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment indicated that only individuals over the age of twenty-one were able to vote. While males aged eighteen and older were called upon or encouraged to fight in the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, they were unable to vote in national, state, or local elections.
   - During the Vietnam War, protesting abounded, particularly within a younger group known as the "Counter-Culture." This group disagreed with the nation's presence in Vietnam, was angered by the fact that the war was fought largely by draftees and was angered that the average age for war fatalities was 19 years-old.
   - While the discrepancy between the fighting age and the voting age had arisen in previous times of war, even as early as the Civil War, youth never had a voice in the discussions. During Vietnam, the youth became a voice. Congress noted the disparity and it set forth to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to individuals eighteen and older.
   - Eighteen-year-olds were not granted the right to vote until the ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment on July 1, 1971.
   - North Carolina and Oklahoma were the *last* two states to ratify the amendment.
   - Yet, today voters between the ages of 18 and 24 are less likely to vote than any other age group!

   Discuss:
   - Do you agree or disagree with the ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment? Should the voting age be 18 or should it be a different age? Explain.
   - Even though so many youth fought to get the voting age lowered to 18, today people between the ages of 18-29 are less likely to vote than any other age group! Why do you think this is?
   - Can you think of any other ways not previously mentioned to encourage young people in particular to vote?

Create a Get Pre-Registered Commercial

7. Divide students into groups and hand out the attached assignment, "Create a 'Get Pre-Registered' Commercial." Go over the requirements for the commercials with students. Teachers who are short on time can assign this as a quick in-class activity, giving students approximately 15-20 minutes to plan their commercials and then present. Teachers can alternately choose to have students present during a later class date, allowing them time to arrange props and costumes. Additionally, teachers can consider recording the commercials for play within the school or posting on the Internet. (Teachers may want to show students examples of actual registration and voter advocacy commercials. See www.rockthevote.com for examples.)

Additional Activities
- Create and administer a voter survey. Instruct students to conduct a survey to research local voter participation in recent elections. (Teachers can choose to have the survey focus on local elections, state elections, national elections, or a combination of all three. Since there is often a great difference in voter turnout for local elections compared to national elections, the survey should be specific enough so that results for each type of election can be examined separately.)

- Either as a class or in small groups, have students create the survey form together. The survey should include information such as:
  - basic demographic information (gender, age, level of education, occupation, etc.)
  - questions about voting behaviors ("Did you vote in the most recent elections? Why or why not?"; or, "Do you plan to vote in upcoming elections? Why or why not?")
  - questions about improving the voting process and voter registration ("Do you think the voting process could be improved?";the survey can also provide options that the interviewee chooses from – students should brainstorm and determine which options to include)
- Teachers should determine how many people they would like each student to survey. Teachers should encourage students to survey the widest variety of people possible (different ages, occupations, etc.).
- Based on the survey questions classes create, teachers should create a spreadsheet where results can be compiled, reviewed by students, and discussed.
- Have the class compile the top reasons voters did not vote in previous elections. Students can then write a letter to the Board of Elections explaining their class findings and making recommendations on how to improve local voter turnout. (Students can do this individually or as a class letter that everyone signs.)

NORTH CAROLINA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Please use black or blue ink and print legibly.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

01 Date Received

1 Are you a citizen of the United States of America? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YOU CHECKED "NO" IN RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM.

Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before election day? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you at least 16 years of age and understand that you must be 18 years of age on or before election day to vote? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YOU CHECKED "NO" IN RESPONSE TO BOTH OF THESE QUESTIONS ABOVE, DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM.

2

Last Name (Required)

First Name (Required)

Middle Name (Required)

Date of Birth MMDDYYYY (Required)

☐ Jr ☐ Sr ☐ II
☐ III ☐ IV ☐ V

If you know your NC Voter Registration Number, please enter it here:

County of Birth

State of Birth

3 Do you have a NC Driver's License or DMV issued identification card? If yes, provide the number. ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you do not have a NC DMV-issued license or ID card, do you have a Social Security Number? If yes, provide the last 4 digits. ☐ Yes ☐ No   X X X - X X -

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS INFORMATION (STREET ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE) - No P.O. Boxes or Rural Routes

4

Street Address where you live (Required)

Apartment, Lot, or Unit Number

N C

City (Required)

State   Zip Code

County

Have you lived here for 30 days or more? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No," date moved? MMDDYYYY

Phone (Optional)

MAILING ADDRESSS

5

Mailing Address (If different from your residential address)

City

State   Zip Code

MAP/DIAGRAM
If you do not have a street address, draw a map of where you reside. Please include roads and landmarks.

6

GENDER	RACE		ETHNICITY	POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION		
☐ Female	☐ African American/ Black	☐ American Indian/ Alaska Native	☐ Hispanic/Latino	☐ Democrat	☐ Republican	☐ Libertarian
☐ Male	☐ Asian	☐ Multiracial	☐ Not Hispanic/ Latino	☐ Unaffiliated	☐ Other	
	☐ White	☐ Other				

If you indicate a political party that is not currently qualified or you do not indicate a choice, you will be listed as "Unaffiliated."

PREVIOUS REGISTRATION (Name & Address used for your last voter registration - If applicable)

7

Last Name used in Previous Registration

First Name

Previous Address

State   Zip Code

Previous City

Previous County

I Attest, under penalty of perjury, that in addition to having read and understood the contents of this form, that:
· I am a United States citizen, as indicated above;
· I am at least 18 years old, or will be at the time of the next General Election, or I am at least 16 years old and understand that I must be at least 18 years old on Election Day of the General Election in order to vote;
· I shall have been a resident of North Carolina, this county, precinct, or other election district for 30 days before the election in which I intend to vote;
· I will not vote in any other county or state after submission of this form and if I am registered elsewhere, I am canceling that registration at this time; and
· I have not been convicted of a felony, or if I have been convicted of a felony, I have completed my sentence, including any probation or parole. (Citizenship and voting rights are automatically restored upon completion of the sentence. No special document is needed.)

WARNING: If you sign this form and know it to be false, you can be convicted of a Class I felony.

Signature (Required)

Date

version092009

TO MAIL: MOISTEN, FOLD AND SEAL

Just One Vote

1820 One electoral college vote kept President James Monroe from being elected president without dispute when he ran for a second term in 1820. He was so popular that all but one of the members of the electoral college voted for him. John Quincy Adams cast the one vote against Monroe. Adams stated that the reason he did this was "to make certain that only George Washington would ever have the honor of being elected President by a unanimous vote."

1845 One vote made Texas one of the United States. In 1845, the Republic of Texas asked to become part of the United States. Many Americans, however, feared that another southern state would bring trouble. When the Senate voted on this issue, a tie occurred. Then one senator changed his vote, and by this single vote, Texas became the 28th state.

1846 One vote decided on war with Mexico. In 1846, the Mexican army invaded Texas and President Polk asked for a Declaration of War. The Senate did not want to go to war, and the declaration passed by only one vote. The United States won the war against Mexico and with that victory added five states — Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and California.

1867 One vote gave the United States the state of Alaska. The Alaska Purchase of 1867 was ratified by just one vote — paving the way for the territory to be America's largest state when it became part of the United States in 1958.

1868 One vote saved President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office. The House brought charges of impeachment against Johnson, but the Senate, which decides impeachment cases, found him innocent by one vote. Impeachment is the first step by which officials, such as the president, may be removed from office. President Johnson was not convicted by the Senate and therefore he was not removed from office.

1876 One vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States. In the 1876 presidential election, Samuel Tilden received a half million more popular votes than Hayes. The electoral college was not in agreement about who should be America's next leader. A special commission was formed to make the final decision. The commission decided, although Hayes had lost the actual vote by the citizens of the United States, he had won the electoral vote by just one ballot: 185 to 184.

1916 One vote in each of the voting districts of California re-elected President Wilson. If Wilson's opponent, Charles E. Hughes, had received an additional vote in each one of California's voting precincts, he would have defeated Wilson.

1920 One vote gave women the right to vote. In August, 1920, Tennessee's legislature ratified the 19th Amendment to the Constitution by just one vote, giving the Amendment the necessary approval of two thirds of the states to make it effective. The key vote in Tennessee was cast by 24-year-old Harry Burns, one of the nation's youngest state legislators, who had previously been against the right of women to vote.

1948 One vote per voting precinct gave Harry S. Truman the presidency. If Truman's opponent, Thomas E. Dewey, had received one vote more per precinct in Ohio and California, there would have been a tie and the House of Representatives would have decided the election. And because Dewey had more support in the House than Truman, Dewey would have won.

1960 One vote per voting precinct would have elected Richard Nixon rather than John F. Kennedy president.

2000 The election on November 7, 2000, was the closest presidential race in history. In the final count, Governor George W. Bush of Texas won by 4 electoral votes, but Vice President Al Gore had won the popular vote by 337,576 votes. Bush was the first presidential candidate in more than a century to win the presidency while losing the popular vote. The deciding factor in Bush winning the election was a victory in Florida by just 537 votes over Gore!

2005 - The winner in more than 20 elections in North Carolina cities was determined by less than three votes.

Sources: http://pbskids.org/democracy/vote/onevote1820.html; http://womenshistory.about.com/od/suffrage1900/a/august_26_wed.htm; http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/

Create a "Get Pre-Registered" Commercial

To encourage youth to participate in the democratic process, North Carolina allows 16- and 17-year-olds to 'pre-register' to vote. They will automatically become full registered voters when they turn 18. Young adults hold very different views than older generations and must continue to share these views and influence public policy by pre-registering to vote and then casting a ballot.

As a young person, you know best how to encourage your peers to pre-register to vote in future elections. You also know *where* young voters get their information. You will use this insight to plan a commercial to be used online to encourage North Carolina's 16 and 17 year-olds to pre-register. The internet has become a powerful tool for spreading ideas. According to the Pew Research Center, 92% of teenagers used the Internet daily in 2015. This is your chance to design an innovative approach to recruit young people to get in involved in the democratic process!

Design a commercial to encourage 16 and 17-year olds at your school to pre-register to vote. Make sure to consider the following questions when designing your commercial:
- ✓ Who do you think could best influence your peers to pre-register? Fellow young adults? Famous citizens?
- ✓ What are the benefits of pre-registering and voting?
- ✓ Why is pre-registering and voting an essential trait of a healthy democracy?
- ✓ How are the views of young people different than the views of older generations?
- ✓ Are there particular political stances that will excite young people? (i.e., free tuition to state colleges, restoring the draft for military service, death penalty, gun laws, etc.)

Make sure your final commercial also shares the following information:
- ✓ Who can pre-register and register to vote?
- ✓ What is the process to get pre-registered or registered to vote?
- ✓ Who can vote?

Requirements for final commercial:
- ✓ Complete commercials should be 3-5 minutes when presented.
- ✓ Commercials should appear organized, well thought out, and be presented in a serious fashion (even if your commercial employs humor, you should do so in a mature, committed way)
- ✓ All group members must actively participate in the planning and presenting of the commercial
- ✓ Be creative – you can use props, costumes, music, scenery, etc.; your commercial can be done in any genre or style that you choose
- ✓ Your final commercial must convince viewers to pre-register to vote!

vote.
North Carolina

How do I vote?

The North Carolina State Board of Elections is the state agency responsible for administering laws involving the elections process and campaign finance disclosure in North Carolina. The governor of North Carolina appoints the five members of the bi-partisan board. No more than three members of the state board may be of any one political party. The State Board of Elections, using names put forward by the political parties, appoints the three members of each of the bi-partisan county boards of elections. No more than two members of the county board may be of the same political party. In preparation for voting, voters who visit the website for the North Carolina State Board of Elections (www.ncsbe.gov) can identify their precinct, print off a sample ballot and obtain other information about the election process.

HELP WANTED
NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS

Both federal and state laws set eligibility requirements for voting in North Carolina.

Federal law related to voter eligibility states that:
★ One cannot be denied the right to vote because of age if one is over 18.
★ One cannot be denied the right to vote because of gender.
★ One cannot be denied the right to vote because of race.

North Carolina law related to voter eligibility states that:
★ You must be 18.
★ You must have a 30-day residence in the North Carolina county where you live.
★ You must not be registered to vote or vote in any other county or state.
★ You must have your rights of citizenship restored if you are convicted of a felony. A felon can have his/her voting rights restored, after completing his or her sentence.

HELP WANTED
NORTH CAROLINA CANDIDATES

The North Carolina Constitution states that candidates running for elected office in North Carolina must be:
★ 21 years old
★ Eligible to vote for the office sought

The Constitution outlines additional qualifications for certain elected offices, such as Governor, Attorney General and North Carolina Senate.

Brought to you by this newspaper, the N.C. Civic Education Consortium and the N.C. Press Foundation. Access NCPA (N.C.'s online newspapers) and NCPF through www.ncpress.com. For additional classroom lessons on voting and elections, visit the Newspaper in Education website, www.AllThingsvoting.org, and search the database at www.civics.org.

Think more!

Voters who visit the website for the North Carolina State Board of Elections www.ncsbe.gov can identify their precinct, print off a sample ballot and obtain other information about the election process.

How do voters make decisions about candidates? Interview registered voters to find out where they get their news and information about candidates and ask which sources the voters consider most reliable. Discuss with friends and classmates where they gather news and information about candidates and voting.

★ **Pre-Register**
North Carolina's 16 and 17 year-olds can "pre-register" to vote using the same registration form as eligible voters. By checking the "pre-register" box on the form, automatically, they become fully registered voters when they turn 18 years old.

★ **Register**
If you are eligible to vote, you can register through North Carolina agencies including the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Employment Security Commission, and WorkFirst and Medicaid programs. Contact your county board of elections or visit your public libraries and high schools to request mail-in registration forms that can be completed and sent to the county board of elections office.

★ **Vote Early**
For early voting, all North Carolina counties must open at least one location, starting 19 days before an election. This is sometimes called "One Stop Absentee Voting" or "In-Person Absentee Voting." One Early Voting site must be at the county Board of Elections office or at a nearby building. The county may open other sites on different days and hours. At least one site must remain open from 19 days to 3 days before Election Day.

Citizens may also vote early by mail with an Absentee Ballot. The voter or a close relative must make the request in writing to the county board of elections between 50 and seven days before November 6 or Election Day.

★ **Vote on Election Day**
Each county board of elections divides its county into polling precincts. Each precinct designates a site where voters living in the precinct go to vote on November 6. Registration cards list voters' polling precincts. Check your registration card or request your polling site from your county boards of elections.