

# Exploring Who Can Vote & How to Vote



- *This Power Point is an accompaniment for the lesson “**Exploring Who Can Vote & How to Vote**” available in the [Database of K-12 Resources](#)*
- *To view this PDF as a projectable presentation, save the file, click “View” in the top menu bar of the file, and select “Full Screen Mode”*
- *To request an editable PPT version of this presentation, send a request to [CarolinaK12.unc.edu](http://CarolinaK12.unc.edu).*

Adults, such as parents and teachers, often don't listen to teenagers.

AGREE



DISAGREE



Most teenagers don't care about political and social issues.

AGREE



DISAGREE



Voting is one of the most important rights and responsibilities a citizen has.

AGREE



DISAGREE



One vote can't make a difference.

AGREE



DISAGREE



There are many ways I can participate in the political process, even though I'm not old enough to vote.

AGREE



DISAGREE



Federal, state, and local  
government officials should  
consult people our age on the  
decisions they make.

AGREE



DISAGREE



The voting age should be raised – most  
eighteen year olds don't know enough to  
be able to vote.

AGREE



DISAGREE





Most politicians care very much  
whether young people (18-22 year  
olds) vote.

AGREE



DISAGREE





# NORTH CAROLINA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Please use black or blue ink and print legibly.

01

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Received	

1	Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<b>IF YOU CHECKED "NO" IN RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM.</b>	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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>IF YOU CHECKED "NO" IN RESPONSE TO BOTH OF THESE QUESTIONS ABOVE, DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM.</b>

2	Last Name (Required)	First Name (Required)	
	Middle Name (Required)	Date of Birth MMDDYYYY (Required)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> III <input type="checkbox"/> IV <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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	
	City (Required)		N C	
	County	Have you lived here for 30 days or more? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	State Zip Code	
	If "No," date moved? MMDDYYYY		Phone (Optional)	

## MAILING ADDRESS

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
	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> African American/Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino  <input type="checkbox"/> Democrat <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian <input type="checkbox"/> Unaffiliated <input type="checkbox"/> 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.)

Signature (Required)

Date

version092009

TO MAIL: MOISTEN, FOLD AND SEAL

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

# Requirements for Voting in NC



- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Must be a resident of the county, and prior to voting in an election, must have resided at his or her residential address for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election.
- Must be at least 18 years old or will be 18 by the date of the next general election. (If 17 years old, persons may register no earlier than 60 days prior to the date of the primary election for the general election.)
- Must not be serving a sentence for a felony conviction (including probation or on parole). If previously convicted of a felony, the person's citizenship rights must be restored. Citizenship and voting rights are automatically restored upon completion of the sentence. No special document is needed.
- Must rescind any previous registration in another county or state.

# Where to Vote and Will It Count?



- During the **early voting** period prior to Election Day, citizens may vote at any polling place in their county, even outside their precinct. This might be attractive to people who want to vote during a lunch break but who work far away from their home/assigned precinct.
- On **Election Day**, voters who appear in the correct county but at the improper precinct may cast a **provisional ballot**, which will be counted for all contests in which the voter was eligible to participate.
- “A **provisional ballot** is one that is linked to a specific voter so it can be traced and examined at a later time. Voters are given provisional ballots when there is some sort of administrative problem with their ballots.
  - For example, more than a quarter of those who cast provisional ballots are those for whom there was no record of registration.
  - Another reason voters received provisional ballots was they voted at the wrong precinct on primary day. Those ballots will count for statewide and countywide races but not for legislative seats or county commissioner if it was cast in the wrong district.” (Source: WRAL)

# Voting Age: From 21 to 18 to ???

- Following the Civil War, the Fourteenth Amendment (adopted July 9, 1868) defined citizenship and indicated that voting rights were restricted to males over age twenty-one.
- During the Vietnam War era, many young people were angry that they could be drafted into the army but could not exercise their voice about whether the United States should declare war. They fought for a Constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to eighteen.
- Adopted on July 1, 1971, the Twenty-Sixth Amendment granted all citizens over age eighteen the right to vote.



# Twenty-Sixth Amendment

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

**Section 2.** The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

# Citizenship as a Requirement of Voting

- From 1776 to 1926, non-citizens could vote in over forty states and territories.
- As anti-immigrant sentiment spread across the United States following World War I, Arkansas became the last state to remove voting rights from non-citizens in 1926.
- As of 2014, six towns in Maryland (including Takoma Park which lowered the voting age) allow non-citizens to vote in municipal elections. Washington D.C. and New York City have also seen efforts to expand the franchise to non-citizens.





# Should Felons Vote?

- The idea of taking away a criminal's right to vote has been around since ancient Greece & Rome. A condition called "civil death" in Europe involved the loss of several rights, including voting rights.
- Civil death was brought to America by English colonists, but most aspects of it were eventually abolished, leaving only felon disenfranchisement intact in some parts of modern America.
- State approaches to felon disenfranchisement vary tremendously.
  - In Maine and Vermont, felons never lose their right to vote, even while they are incarcerated.
  - In Florida, Iowa and Virginia, felons and ex-felons permanently lose their right to vote.
  - Florida has a supplementary programs which facilitate gubernatorial pardons.
  - The remaining states each have their own approaches to the issue.
- In 38 states and the District of Columbia, most ex-felons automatically gain the right to vote upon the completion of their sentence.
- In some states, ex-felons must wait for a certain period of time after the completion of their sentence before rights can be restored.
- In some states, an ex-felon must apply to have voting rights restored.





# Should Felons Vote?

- The Iowa Supreme Court upheld a lifetime voting rights ban for convicted felons in a 4-3 decision in late June 2016.
- While Virginia was one of nine states requiring restoration by a governor or court action, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe announced an executive order in April 2016 automatically restoring voting rights to all convicted felons who complete sentence, parole, and probation.
- According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections, convicted felons are prohibited from voting until after they complete their sentence. This means a person cannot vote while incarcerated or on probation/parole. Voting rights are automatically restored post-sentence.

“They were arrested, they were charged, they were convicted, they were sentenced and they served their time. But they fulfilled that aspect of citizenship. It may not be a positive aspect in our opinion, but they have done everything that we have asked. And then when they are released, when their time is done, we then say to them, 'You are still not worthy enough to be called citizen again.’”

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