

You can track your ballot in NC to make sure your vote gets accepted. Here’s what to do

BY EVAN MOORE
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Early voting has officially started in North Carolina, which means many are beginning to receive their absentee ballots prior to **Election Day on Nov. 5**. If you’re one of the thousands of voters planning to cast your ballot by mail, you can track its status from “printed” to “accepted.”

Here’s how you can make sure your vote counts this year.

HOW CAN YOU TRACK YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT IN NC?
Once you have requested your absentee ballot, you can track its status by **signing up online for status notifications** through BallotTrax, according to the NC State Board of Elections (NCSBE). To register, you’ll need

to enter your **first and last name, date of birth and zip code**. After you register, you can sign up to receive email, text and/or voice notifications about the status of your mail-in ballot.

I’M HAVING ISSUES TRACKING MY BALLOT. WHAT DO I DO?
If you think there has been an error tracking your ballot, you should contact your county’s

board of elections. To find contact information for your county, visit vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo. BallotTrax’s website says to contact the State Board of Elections by phone at (919) 814-0700 or by email at Elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov with issues.

WHEN ARE ABSENTEE BALLOTS COUNTED IN NC?
Returned absentee ballots are approved at

absentee meetings of county boards of elections that occur beginning several weeks before the election, according to NCSBE.

In many counties, approved ballots are inserted into the voting machine at the board meeting, but in all counties, the **results are not reported until Election Day**.

I NEVER RECEIVED MY ABSENTEE BALLOT. WHERE IS IT?
The State Board of Elections began mailing out absentee ballots on Friday, Sept. 20. If you never received yours, **you should contact NCSBE** at 919-814-0700 or Elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov. You can also contact your county’s board of elections directly. To find

contact information for your county, visit vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo.

HOW DO I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?
Registered NC voters can request absentee ballots by filling out a request form. You can:

1. Use the online North Carolina Absentee Portal by visiting votebymail.ncsbe.gov/app/home.
2. Print the form and submit it to your county’s board of elections in-person or by mail. The form is available in English and Spanish from ncsbe.gov/voting.

The deadline to request absentee ballots is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29.

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NC will have a new state superintendent next year. See which candidates want your vote.

BY T. KEUNG HUI
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North Carolina voters will pick a new state superintendent to lead the public school system. Current State Superintendent Catherine Truitt lost her re-election bid in the Republican primary. Now GOP candidate Michele Morrow will take on Democrat Maurice “Mo” Green.

The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the state Department of Public Instruction. This includes the \$11 billion in

state funding for public schools that DPI distributes to local school districts and charter schools.

The superintendent advocates and informs the state on issues in education, makes recommendations for policy changes to the legislature and governor and works with the State Board of Education.

Truitt was elected in 2020. During her tenure, she pushed for higher pay for teachers, changes in how reading and math are taught, overhauling how schools are graded by the state and harsher penalties for teachers who have sex with students.

Now a new superintendent

will have to deal with issues such as helping western North Carolina schools recover from Hurricane Helene and helping schools make up for pandemic learning losses.

Green and Morrow came out ahead in their respective March primaries to face off this fall.

Green is the former superintendent of Guilford County Schools, which is the state third-largest school district. He is the former executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a group that funds progressive causes.

Morrow is a registered nurse, conservative activist, homeschool parent

and former Christian missionary.

The race has gotten national attention due to CNN reporting about Morrow’s past social media posts. Those include talking about killing Democrats such as former President Barack Obama and encouraging President Donald Trump to use the military to stay in power in 2021.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES
The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer asked Mo Green and Michele Morrow to fill out a candidate questionnaire. Only Green responded. Find responses from the candidates below or by visiting newsobserver.com/voter-guide.

Democrat:
Mo Green
Republican:
Michele Morrow

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‘A sad reminder’: NC reports first flu-related death of season, located in Charlotte

BY JOE MARUSAK
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North Carolina reported its first flu-related death of the season this week.

A Charlotte-area adult died of influenza complications during the second week of October, state officials said.

To protect the family’s privacy, no other information will be released about the person, officials said.

“This is a sad reminder that influenza can be a very serious illness,” State Epidemiologist Zack Moore said in a statement Wednesday.

Get vaccinated, wash your hands regularly, cover your cough and stay home and wear a mask around others if you’re

sick, Moore said.

Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, are expected to increase in the weeks ahead, he said.

Everyone 6 months and older should get seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccines, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends.

RSV vaccinations are recommended for ages 75 and older; adults 60 to 74 at increased risk of severe RSV; and pregnant women during weeks 32 through 36 of their pregnancy, health officials said.

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*APR= Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are variable and following the introductory period, based on as low as Prime Rate minus 0.25% (currently 8.50%). The maximum rate is 18.00% and the lowest rate could never be below the floor of 4.00%. Rate is also affected by your credit history and profile and, like terms, are subject to change without notice. Loans are subject to credit and property approval. Appraisals are required on loan amounts of \$100,000 or greater. Closing costs are fees charged by a financial institution that may include property title search, flood certification and, if deemed necessary, a property evaluation fee. Homeowner's insurance and, if applicable, flood insurance is required. Interest may be tax deductible; consult tax advisor for details. Membership eligibility required. Allegacy is federally insured by NCUA and is an Equal Housing Lender.


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