

# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ABSENTEE VOTING

#### WHAT IS ABSENTEE VOTING?

Absentee Voting is when a Voter votes prior to Election Day.

#### WHAT TYPES OF ABSENTEE VOTING ARE THERE?

There are 2 types of Absentee Voting.

- Absentee by Mail: Civilian Absentee Voting & Military/Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting
- One Stop Absentee Voting: Commonly referred to as One Stop (Early) Voting

#### WHO CAN VOTE ABSENTEE?

Any Voter in Rockingham County is eligible to vote Absentee.

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

#### WHAT IS THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS?

The Rockingham County Board of Elections is the agency charged at the local level with responsibility for administering all Elections in Rockingham County.

#### WHO IS ON THE BOARD?

Toni K. Reece – Chair  
Royce Richardson – Vice Chair  
Bonnie Purgason – Secretary  
Jeff Parris – Member

#### WHO ARE THE STAFF MEMBERS?

Tina Cardwell – Elections Director  
Amy Simpson – Elections Senior Deputy Director  
Susan Barker – Elections Deputy Director

#### DOES THE OFFICE OPERATE YEAR ROUND?

Yes – The Rockingham County Board of Elections operates on a full time, year-round schedule.

#### HOW IS THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS GOVERNED?

The Board of Elections Office is governed by the North Carolina General Statutes, the North Carolina Administrative Code, and the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

## HOW IS THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS FUNDED?

The Rockingham County Board of Elections is funded by the Rockingham County Commissioners.

North Carolina General Statute 163A-777 states:

*“The respective boards of county commissioners shall appropriate reasonable and adequate funds necessary for the legal functions of the county board of elections”.*

-The Rockingham County Board of Elections approved budget for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 is \$467,098.

-These funds include:

- Contracts (Voting Equipment, Security, etc.)
- Funds for all Election supplies and equipment
- Funds for preparing for and conducting all Elections
- Funds for yearly office operations
- Salaries (Board Members, Full Time Staff, Temporary Staff, One Stop Officials, Precinct Officials)
- Utilities

\*Elections Budgets are similar every other year.

\*One budget year has 1 Election (General)

\*The next budget year has either 3 or 4 Elections:

3 Elections (Municipal, Primary, and Second Primary) Non Presidential Election Years

4 Elections (Municipal, Presidential Primary, Primary, and Second Primary) Presidential Election Years

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

### WHAT IS CAMPAIGN FINANCE?

Campaign Finance is the term used for Election Laws that pertain to Political Committees.

### WHO IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS?

Candidates, Party Committees, and Political Action Committees may be subject to Campaign Finance Reporting.

Please contact the Board of Elections Office (336) 342-8107 for more information.

### WHERE ARE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS SUBMITTED?

Campaign Finance Reports for Rockingham County Committees are submitted to the Rockingham County Board of Elections Office.

Campaign Finance Reports for North Carolina Committees are submitted to the North Carolina State Board of Elections Office.

Campaign Finance Reports for United States Committees are submitted to the Federal Election Commission.

# **ELECTIONEERING**

## **WHAT IS ELECTIONEERING?**

Electioneering is working for the success or defeat of a particular candidate, party, ballot item, etc.

## **WHAT ARE ELECTIONEERING LIMITS?**

Electioneering Limits are the limits beyond which persons Electioneering must remain.

## **HOW WILL AN ELECTIONEERER KNOW WHERE THE LIMITS ARE?**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections has defined areas in which persons Electioneering must remain.

The Electioneering Limits at each Voting Location are clearly designated using orange cones, signs, chain sets, or any combination of these.

# **ELECTIONS**

## **WHAT ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS?**

Municipal Elections, Primary Elections, Second Primary Elections, and General Elections.

ABC Elections, Referenda, and Special Elections may be added to any existing Election.

## **WHEN ARE THE ELECTIONS IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY?**

Municipal Elections: November of Odd Numbered Years

Primary Elections: May of Even Numbered Years

Second Primary Elections (If No Federal Office Involved): June of Even Numbered Years

Second Primary Elections (If Federal Office Involved): July of Even Numbered Years

General Elections: November of Even Numbered Years

## **WHO CAN VOTE IN ELECTIONS IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY?**

In Municipal Elections, any Voter in Rockingham County who lives within the City/Town limits can vote.

\*Note: For The City of Reidsville, only Voters that live in District A can vote in District A and only Voters that live in District B can vote in District B.

\*Note: The City of Eden has Wards but they are voted on At Large so all Voters that live in the City Limits of Eden will Vote on all Wards.

In Presidential Primary Elections, Primary Elections, Second Primary Elections, and General Elections, any Voter in Rockingham County may vote.

# **OBSERVERS AND RUNNERS**

## **WHAT IS AN OBSERVER?**

Observers are persons appointed by the Political Party Chairmen to visit One Stop (Early) Voting Sites and Election Day Precincts in order to observe the voting processes in Rockingham County.

Observers are not Rockingham County Precinct Officials, do not take an oath, and are not paid.

Observers names are submitted to the Board of Elections by the Party Chairmen at least 5 days prior to the day in which they are to Observe.

## **WHAT IS A RUNNER?**

Runners are persons appointed by the Political Party Chairmen to visit One Stop (Early) Voting Sites and Election Day Precincts in order to obtain voter lists created by Observers.

Runners are not Rockingham County Precinct Officials, do not take an oath, and are not paid.

Runners names are submitted to the Board of Elections by the Party Chairmen at least 5 days prior to the day in which they are to serve as a Runner.

## **ARE OBSERVERS/RUNNERS PERMITTED IN EVERY ELECTION?**

No – Observers/Runners are not Permitted in Municipal Elections.

# **PRECINCT OFFICIALS**

## **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A PRECINCT OFFICIAL?**

Precinct Officials play a crucial role in the proper administration of Elections in Rockingham County. Precinct Officials are responsible for properly running our One Stop (Early) Voting Sites and Election Day Precincts. Precinct Officials must ensure that all Elections laws and procedures are followed while performing their duties and assisting Voters when they present to vote.

## **WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS?**

According to the law, in order to serve as a Rockingham County Precinct Official, you must be a registered Voter in Rockingham County, must be of good repute, and must be able to read and write.

You may not serve if you are an Elected Official, are a candidate for nomination or Election, hold any office within a Political Party, or are related to or working with a candidate who is on the ballot.

## **HOW ARE PRECINCT OFFICIALS APPOINTED?**

Rockingham County Precinct Officials are recommended by the Rockingham County Political Party Chairmen and are appointed by the Rockingham County Board of Elections. Appointments are made in August of odd numbered years. Rockingham County Precinct Officials are appointed to two year terms.

WILL PRECINCT OFFICIALS BE PAID?

Yes – Precinct Officials are Paid.

Rockingham County Precinct Officials are compensated for their service. Amounts paid to Precinct Officials vary depending upon the job performed.

Chief Judges:	\$200
Judges:	\$155
Assistants:	\$125

Other amounts paid...

Training	\$15
Supply Pickup (Chief Judges)	\$20
Setup	\$15
Results Return	\$20
Supply Return (Chief Judges)	\$20

**PRECINCTS**

HOW MANY PRECINCTS ARE IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY?

Rockingham County has 15 Precincts

- Draper:** First Baptist Church of Draper
- Eden - 1:** Bridge St. Recreation Center
- Eden Central:** Osborne Baptist Church
- Hogans:** Comers Chapel
- Huntsville:** Huntsville Elementary School
- Ironworks:** Monroeton Elementary School
- Leaksville - 2:** Leaksville Christian Church
- Lincoln:** Lincoln Elementary School
- Matrimony:** Vera Holland Building
- McCoy:** Reidsville Alliance Church
- Moss Street:** Zion Baptist Church
- New Bethel:** Sharon Baptist Church
- Rock Central:** Rockingham Co. Agricultural Building
- Southeast:** Williamsburg Elementary School
- Western:** Madison Mayodan Public Library

## ARE ALL PRECINCTS OPEN FOR ALL ELECTIONS?

No – In Municipal Elections, only Precincts that have Voters within the Municipalities are open because only Voters living within the City/Town limits can vote in a Municipal Election.

Precincts open for Municipal Elections:

**Draper:** First Baptist Church of Draper

**Eden - 1:** Bridge St. Recreation Center

**Eden Central:** Osborne Baptist Church

**Leaksville - 2:** Leaksville Christian Church

**Matrimony:** Vera Holland Building

**McCoy:** Reidsville Alliance Church

**Moss Street:** Zion Baptist Church

**Rock Central:** Rockingham Co. Agricultural Building

**Western:** Madison Mayodan Public Library

\*Note: Southeast Precinct does not open for Municipal Elections. There are only 4 registered Voters in the city limits in Southeast. During Municipal Elections, these voters are temporarily transferred to an adjacent Precinct. Voters from Southeast that reside in the city limits may vote Absentee by Mail, vote early at a One Stop (Early) Voting Site, or vote at McCoy Precinct on Election Day. These Voters are notified by mail of their options.

## REGISTERING TO VOTE

### WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a resident of Rockingham County.
- Be 18 years of age or will be 18 years of age by the next General Election.

In addition, you must not...

- Be actively serving a felony conviction.
- Be registered to vote in any other county or state.

### HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

To become a registered voter in Rockingham County, you must complete an official Voter Registration Application. On the application, you must provide your full name, residential address, date of birth, citizenship status, and either the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number or your North Carolina Drivers License Number. You must also sign the application. Completed and signed Voter Registration Applications must be delivered to the Rockingham County Board of Elections office for processing.

# **RUNNING FOR ELECTED OFFICE**

## **WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO FILE FOR OFFICE?**

GS 163A-973 Candidates for all partisan offices must be a member of their party for 90 days prior to filing. The age and residency requirements vary by office and can be confirmed by contacting the Board of Elections. With the exception of Congressional candidates, who do not have to reside in the district in which they choose to run, candidates filing for district seats must reside in that district.

## **MAY I USE MY NICKNAME ON MY "NOTICE OF CANDIDACY" AND ON THE BALLOT?**

Yes. GS 163A-972(b) In signing the notice of candidacy the candidate shall use only that candidate's legal name and may use any nickname by which he is commonly known. A candidate may also, in lieu of that candidate's legal first name and legal middle initial or middle name (if any) sign a nickname, provided that the candidate appends to the notice of candidacy an affidavit that the candidate has been commonly known by that nickname for at least five years prior to the date of making the affidavit. The candidate shall also include with the affidavit the way that candidate's name (as permitted by law) should be listed on the ballot if another candidate with the same last name files a notice of candidacy for that office.

## **IS THERE A COST TO FILE FOR AN ELECTED OFFICE?**

Yes. The filing fee for most offices is 1% of the annual salary of the office sought; however, there are some exceptions. In a Municipal Election filing fees are fixed by the governing board. Contact the Board of Elections office for exact fees.

## **WHICH CANDIDATES HAVE TO FOLLOW THE CAMPAIGN REPORTING LAWS?**

GS163A-1421(d) All candidates filing for office must follow all rules and regulations set out in the campaign finance manual. However, if you file under the threshold (which means that you will not spend or receive more than \$1000.00 during your entire campaign) you will not be required to file reports with the Board of Elections.

## **DO I NEED A CAMPAIGN TREASURER?**

Yes. GS 163A-1412(a) Each candidate, political committee, and referendum committee shall appoint a treasurer and, under verification, report the name and address of the treasurer to the Elections Board. You may appoint yourself or any other individual, including any relative, except your spouse. GS 163A-1412(f). Each treasurer must have treasurer training within three months of appointment and at least once every four years thereafter. The State Board will provide this training.

## **IS IT EVER ACCEPTABLE TO ACCEPT A CONTRIBUTION ON A COMPANY CHECK?**

No. GS 163A-1430. No candidate, political committee, political party, or treasurer shall accept any contribution made by any corporation, foreign or domestic, regardless of whether such corporation does business in the State of North Carolina. This section does not apply with regard to entities permitted to make contributions by GS 163A-1436(f).

**MAY I ACCEPT CASH?**

Yes. GS 163A-1428(b) Any contribution over \$50.00 must be by check, draft, or money order. Contributions of \$50.00 or less may be made in cash.

**MAY I MAKE PAYMENTS BY CASH?**

Yes. GS 163-278.8(e)(f) All expenditures for media expenses must be made by check only. All expenditures for non media expenses (except postage) of \$50.00 or more must be made by check. All expenditures must be itemized on the Report of Expenditures.

**IS "PASSING THE HAT" AN ACCEPTABLE WAY OF RECEIVING CONTRIBUTIONS?**

No. GS 163-278.14(a) "Passing the Hat" is considered an anonymous contribution, because you have no record of who contributed and how much each person gave. If you receive an anonymous contribution, it must be paid over to the State Board of Elections for deposit in the General Fund of the State of North Carolina.

**ARE THERE PENALTY FEES SHOULD I FORGET TO FILE MY CAMPAIGN REPORT?**

Yes. GS 163-278.34 It is important to remember that the report must be either hand delivered or postmarked on the day the report is due. If the report is late and the office is a statewide election, the candidate shall pay \$250.00 a day, not to exceed \$10,000.00, to the State Board of Elections. If the office only affects non-statewide elections, the candidate shall pay \$50.00 a day, not to exceed \$500.00, to the State Board of Elections.

**HOW LONG MUST I KEEP RECORDS OF MY CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPENDITURES, AND LOANS?**

GS 163-278.35 The candidate or treasurer must keep reports for two years to satisfy the Campaign Reporting Act. A longer period may be required for tax and accounting purposes.

**MAY I OBTAIN A LIST OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY?**

Yes. You may request from the Board of Elections Office a list of Registered Voters in Rockingham County.

**SIGNS**

**AM I LEGALLY ALLOWED TO POST SIGNS?**

Yes. When you file for office, the Board of Elections will give you information pertaining to the placement of political signs. You must follow all laws pertaining to the placement of political signs. Political signs placed improperly may be removed and disposed of. The Board of Elections has no legal authority to enforce sign laws or sign regulations.



## CAN POLITICAL SIGNS BE REMOVED?

General Statute 14-384 makes it a misdemeanor to remove lawfully placed signs, including political signs. Complaints as to an alleged violation of this criminal statute should be directed to law enforcement by the complaining party, not the County Board of Elections.

There is also a provision in General Statute 136-32(e) that makes it a misdemeanor to remove lawfully placed signs on right-of-ways. An alleged violation of this statute should also be reported to local law enforcement by the complaining party.

Signs placed on property without permission may be removed by the property owner. This does not apply on days voting is taking place for properties that serve as a voting location.

Items unlawfully placed upon the property of another have no legal protection and can be disposed of by the property owner or can be saved by the property owner and given back if requested.

The Board of Elections has no authority over placement of political signs.

## WHEN CAN POLITICAL SIGNS BE PLACED WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY?

Signs may be placed on state maintained right-of-ways 30 days prior to One Stop (Early) Voting and must be removed 10 days after the Election.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGN LAWS FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES?

### CITY OF EDEN

No private sign shall be posted on any traffic control, street light, power, telephone, or other utility poles or on any tree in the right-of-way of any street or road; nor shall any private sign be permitted which interferes in any way with a utility line.

No private sign shall be erected in the public right-of-way, nor project over the public right-of-way.

At all intersections, no signs shall interfere with clear sight distances for any driver crossing or entering a roadway.

Wall signs shall be permitted to project up to eighteen (18) inches from a building wall over the public right-of-way if such projection is necessary to the installation of the sign.

### CITY OF REIDSVILLE

Political signs are prohibited within City maintained street right-of-ways.

Political signs placed on NCDOT maintained right-of-ways should follow N.C.G.S. 136-32.

### TOWN OF MADISON

It shall be unlawful for any person to tack, nail or otherwise fasten any notice, advertisement, sign, political circular or like paper to any electric or telephone pole in the town or within the right-of-way of any street, road, highway or within four (4) feet from the edge of the pavement or shoulder of any street or sidewalk.

## TOWN OF MAYODAN

It shall be unlawful for any person, persons or corporation to attach signs of any sort whatsoever to telephone poles, electric utility poles, or other poles or posts within the corporate limits of the Town of Mayodan without the express authority of the person owning or controlling said pole or post.

It shall also be unlawful for any person attaching signs to any poles or posts, even with the express authority of the person owning said pole or post, to leave said sign up after the date of the event for which the sign was erected.

## TOWN OF STONEVILLE

Has no regulations.

## TOWN OF WENTWORTH

Follows County regulations.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGN LAWS FOR ROCKINGHAM COUNTY?

Political Yard Signs may be placed in Rockingham County and Wentworth under the following conditions:

- ▶ Signs are permitted in any zoning district and there is no limit on the number of signs.
- ▶ Signs shall not be illuminated and contain no moving parts.
- ▶ No commercial message shall be displayed on any campaign sign.
- ▶ Signs shall be placed at least 10 feet off the road right-of-way.
- ▶ A Zoning permit is required if sign is greater than 16 square feet.
- ▶ A Zoning and Building permit are required if sign is permanently installed.
- ▶ Signs shall be removed within 5 days after the election.

Political Yard Signs may **NOT** be placed:

- ▶ On power and/or utility poles.
- ▶ On governmental sign poles and/or signs.
- ▶ On trees or other natural features.
- ▶ On underpass columns or supports.
- ▶ In traffic control boxes.
- ▶ On vacant lots without the owner's written permission and/or without proper permits (if required).