



NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Elections

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KIM WESTBROOK STRACH
Executive Director

TO: Interested parties

RE: Proposed Rule on signage at early voting sites notifying voters of the option to request an absentee ballot by mail

DATE: Oct. 15, 2015

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Voter Information Verification Act (S.L. 2013-381), which requires photo identification for in-person voting starting in 2016. This year, the General Assembly passed S.L. 2015-103, which requires notice and signage to ensure that voters who appear at early voting sites are aware of the option to request a mail-in ballot when that option is still available, and that mail-in absentee voting is not subject to the same photo identification requirements applicable to in-person voting.

The State Board of Elections proposes the attached proposed Rule, 08 NCAC 17 .0106, and invites comment from interested parties.

Written comments may be submitted until Monday, December 14, 2015. Comments can be e-mailed to rules@ncsbe.gov or mailed to P.O. Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611-7255 to the attention of Rule-making Coordinator George McCue.

A public comment hearing on the proposed Rule will be held at the State Board of Elections Board Room, 441 North Harrington Avenue, Raleigh, NC, on Thursday, November 5, 2015, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Representatives from the Voter Outreach Team of the State Board of Elections will be available with materials to help educate voters about new requirements and to help any voter who needs assistance with obtaining photo ID.

This notice is posted on the North Carolina State Board of Elections website, www.ncsbe.gov.

1 08 NCAC 17 .0106 is proposed for adoption as follows:

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3 **08 NCAC 17 .0106 SIGNAGE NOTIFYING ONE-STOP VOTERS OF THE OPTION TO REQUEST AN**
4 **ABSENTEE BALLOT**

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6 (a) At every location offering one-stop voting for an election pursuant to G.S. 163-227.2(b) and (g), the county
7 board of elections shall ensure signage is displayed as specified in this Rule, until the deadline for submission of
8 requests for absentee ballots provided in G.S. 163-230.1.

9 (b) The County Board of Elections shall provide signage, either designed and authorized by the State Board of
10 Elections, or designed by the County Board of Elections according to the following requirements:

11 (1) The signage shall include the following language:

12 (A) The following language in type no smaller than 28-point sans serif type: “NOTICE TO
13 VOTERS: Photo identification is not required to vote a mail-in absentee ballot.* A mail-
14 in absentee ballot can be requested here. For a mail-in absentee ballot request form, or for
15 more information and the deadline to request a mail-in absentee ballot, please ask an
16 election official.”

17 (B) The following language in type no smaller than 14-point sans serif type: “*Although
18 photo identification is not required for mail-in absentee voting generally, some recently-
19 registered voters may be required to provide a copy of document showing proof of
20 residence, or a photo identification, in order to complete verification processes. If such
21 documentation is required, it would be requested in the instructions accompanying the
22 absentee ballot. For more information, please ask an election official.”

23 (2) The dimensions of the signage shall be at least 8.5 inches wide by 11 inches tall.

24 (c) The signage shall be displayed at each entrance to the voting site and in a location viewable to voters at the time
25 the voter is at or approaching each check-in table of the voting site.

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27 *Authority G.S. 163-166.12(b), (b2), 163-227.2(b1), (j), 163-230.1*