



What Rowan County Does to Make Voting Accessible to Voters

Rowan County Voters have three options for voting: absentee by mail, in person during early voting period or on Election Day.

- A. Absentee by Mail – Any registered voter may vote absentee by mail. Absentee by mail voting occurs when a voter completes a request form for an absentee ballot, then mails it to their county board of elections. Voters who submit a valid request will receive a ballot from their county board of elections. The ballot materials will include detail instructions on how to complete and return the ballot, including information on who can serve as a witness. **In a General Election at this time Absentee by Mail last for 60 days.**
- B. In Person during Early Voting – NC State has mandated dates and times for voting in person before election day. In the past election Early Voting has been open for 15 days and 12 hours a day*. **Please check with Rowan County BOE office for current dates, times and locations. *subject to change**
- C. Election Day voting is mandated to be the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November. Election Day hours are 6:30am-7:30pm. **Please check with Rowan County BOE office for exact date in November.**





Voter Aid and Accessibility

North Carolina law allows for any voter to receive assistance in entering or exiting a voting booth as well as preparing a ballot, as long as the person providing assistance is a member of the voter's immediate family. N.C. law defines an immediate family member as one of the following: spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, child, grandchild, mother- or father-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, stepparent or stepchild.

The law further stipulates that some voters can receive aid from a wider range of helpers. If a voter satisfies any of the conditions below, they are eligible to receive help from any person of their choice, with the exception of the voter's employer or union representative, or an agent thereof. Those are:

- a voter who, on account of physical disability, is unable to enter the voting booth without assistance
- a voter who, on account of physical disability, is unable to mark a ballot without assistance
- a voter who, on account of illiteracy, is unable to mark a ballot without assistance
- a voter who, on account of blindness, is unable to enter the voting booth or mark a ballot without assistance

Any voter who qualifies for an requests assistance while voting at a One-Stop (early) voting site is entitled to the same assistance as voters who vote on Election Day.



Curbside Voting

In any election, if any voter is able to travel to the voting place, but because of age or physical disability and physical barriers encountered at the voting place is unable to enter the voting enclosure to vote in person without physical assistance, that voter will be allowed to vote in the vehicle conveying that voter.

Curbside voting is available at all Rowan County voting sites during the one-stop voting period and on election day. Early Voting sites will have a curbside alert system and all Election Day sites will have signage indicating curbside voting. An election official will come to the vehicle to obtain the voter's name and address. Before a ballot is issued to a curbside voter, the voter must swear an oath affirming his or her qualification to use curbside voting.



Multipartisan Assistance Teams MAT

In Rowan County, any registered voter can vote by mail-in absentee ballot. Some voters find it necessary to vote by mail-in absentee ballot because they are elderly, limited in their mobility, or have a disability. This group of voters includes persons living at facilities such as nursing homes. The first preference, according to the law, is for the voter to receive assistance from a near relative or legal guardian. But some voters, particularly voters who live in facilities, may not have a near relative or guardian available to provide that assistance.

A Multipartisan Assistance Team, or “MAT”, is a group of persons appointed by Rowan County BOE to provide assistance with mail-in absentee voting to voters living at facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, or rest homes. The makeup of the Team includes, at minimum, two people who have different party affiliations (or, in the alternative, persons who were unanimously appointed by a bipartisan county board of elections). So, if you request help from a MAT, you should receive impartial, professional assistance, their job is to help you vote, but your voting choices will remain confidential.

A request for help from a MAT is usually made from the facilities activity coordinator or management. The Rowan County BOE can schedule a MAT visit to help several voters in one visit. **Employees of hospitals, clinics, nursing homes or rest homes are prohibited by law from providing assistance with absentee voting.**

DUE TO COVID-19 Rowan County BOE will be following State/Local/CDC guidelines.



Accessible Voting Equipment

Both federal law and state requirements mandate that voting systems be equipped for voters with disabilities, which allows such voters to have the same opportunity for access and participation as any other voter. It is required that every precinct have at least one accessible voting machine available for use by voters with special needs. This includes all one-stop absentee (early voting) sites.

Counties that utilize paper ballots will have AutoMARK marking devices on hand that will aid the voter in marking his/her ballot. The AutoMark has a feature that will greatly magnify the ballot for voters that have limited visual impairment. It is also capable of offering audio instructions and ballot narration. It also produces an oral report to the voter as the choices selected prior to the voter finishing marking the ballot. At the end of the process, the machine will eject out the voter's paper ballot that can then be cast.