North Carolina 2026 Election Calendar

Protect Democracy

- Voting Period
- Counting & Certification
- Recounts & Post-Certification

OCT 9 — Voter Registration Deadline
Online, by mail, and in-person

OCT 15 — Early Voting Begins

OCT 20 — Mail Ballot Request Deadline

OCT 31 — Early Voting Ends

NOV 3 — ★ Election Day ★
Mail ballots must be received by 7:30pm

NOV 13 — County Canvass Deadline
All counties must complete and validate ballot counting

If not complete, County Board of Elections can postpone canvass meeting[1]

NOV 17 — Deadline to Initiate Recount
Margin must be less than threshold specified for each office[2]

No automatic recounts

NOV 24 — Certification
State Board of Elections meets to complete the canvass[3]

A pending election protest could delay the issue of a Certificate of Election.[4]

NOV 30 — Certificate of Election Issued
Unless a protest is pending, **State Board of Elections** issues a Certificate of Election[5]

JAN 3 — 120th Congress Convenes
Newly-elected members are officially sworn in

Election Code Statutes

1. § 163-182.5(b)
2. § 163-182.7(c)
3. § 163-182.5(c)
4. § 163-182.15(b)
5. § 163-182.15(b)