

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

**SESSION LAW 2005-428
HOUSE BILL 1115**

AN ACT TO ALLOW POLITICAL PARTIES TO USE "RUNNERS" TO PICK UP VOTER LISTS FROM POLLS; TO PROHIBIT A CANDIDATE FROM BEING AN OBSERVER OR RUNNER AT THE POLLS; TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PERMIT DIFFERENT VOTING SYSTEMS IN THE SAME PRECINCT; TO ALLOW THE CHANGING OF REGISTERED VOTERS BASED ON ADJUSTED COUNTY LINE; TO CHANGE THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A PROTEST FROM SIX O'CLOCK P.M. TO FIVE O'CLOCK P.M.; TO PERMIT THE SAME KIND OF VOTER ASSISTANCE IN ONE-STOP SITES AS AT VOTING PLACES ON ELECTION DAY; TO EXPRESSLY PROVIDE THAT PRECINCT TRANSFER VOTERS AT ONE-STOP SITES NEED NOT VOTE PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT THAT ONE-STOP VOTERS BE INSTRUCTED IN HOW TO VOTE MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS; TO FIX THE SALARY ON WHICH A FILING FEE FOR AN OFFICE IS BASED; TO REMOVE THE OUTDATED REFERENCE IN THE FILING FEE STATUTE TO OFFICES "COMPENSATED ENTIRELY BY FEES"; TO ALLOW FOR THE CANCELLATION OF A VOTER'S REGISTRATION IN A FORMER COUNTY WHEN THE VOTER REGISTERS IN A NEW COUNTY; TO UPDATE AND MAKE MORE TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL THE LANGUAGE IN THE STATUTE PROVIDING FOR ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRATION DATA; TO EXTEND FOR THREE DAYS THE COUNTY CANVASS AFTER A GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER OF AN EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR AND CHANGE OTHER RELATED DATES; TO EXPRESSLY ALLOW ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS; TO CLARIFY HOW WINNERS OF ELECTIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED; TO CLARIFY THAT A VOTER WHOSE NAME HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE REGISTRATION LIST MAY VOTE UPON AFFIRMING THAT THE VOTER HAS NOT MOVED FROM THE COUNTY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE CORRECTION OF AN OMISSION ON THE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM; TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE 2010 CENSUS REDISTRICTING DATA PROGRAM; AND TO AUTHORIZE BOARDS OF ELECTIONS TO ALLOW KNOWN VOTERS WHOSE VOTES WERE LOST TO RECAST THEIR BALLOTS DURING A TWO-WEEK PERIOD AFTER THE ELECTION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 163-45 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-45. Observers; appointment.

The ~~chairman~~-chair of each political party in the county shall have the right to designate two observers to attend each voting place at each primary and election and such observers may, at the option of the designating party ~~chairman~~, chair, be relieved during the day of the primary or election after serving no less than four hours and provided the list required by this section to be filed by each ~~chairman~~-chair contains the names of all persons authorized to represent such ~~chairman's~~chair's political party. Not more than two observers from the same political party shall be permitted in the voting enclosure at any time. This right shall not extend to the ~~chairman~~-chair of a political party during a primary unless that party is participating in the primary. In any election in which an unaffiliated candidate is named on the ballot, the candidate or the candidate's campaign manager shall have the right to appoint two observers for each voting place consistent with the provisions specified herein. Persons appointed as observers must be registered voters of the county for which appointed and must have good moral character. No person who is a candidate on the ballot in a primary or election may serve as an observer or runner in that primary or election. Observers shall take no oath of office.

Individuals authorized to appoint observers must submit in writing to the chief judge of each precinct a signed list of the observers appointed for that precinct. Individuals authorized to appoint observers must, prior to 10:00 A.M. on the fifth day prior to any primary or general election, submit in writing to the ~~chairman~~-chair of the county board of elections two signed copies of a list of observers appointed by them, designating the precinct for which each observer is appointed. Before the opening of the voting place on the day of a primary or general election, the ~~chairman~~-chair shall deliver one copy of the list to the chief judge for each affected precinct. ~~He~~-The chair shall retain the other copy. The ~~chairman~~, chair, or the chief judge and judges for each affected precinct, may for good cause reject any appointee and require that another be appointed. The names of any persons appointed in place of those persons rejected shall be furnished in writing to the chief judge of each affected precinct no later than the time for opening the voting place on the day of any primary or general election, either by the ~~chairman~~-chair of the county board of elections or the person making the substitute appointment.

An observer shall do no electioneering at the voting place, and ~~he~~ shall in no manner impede the voting process or interfere or communicate with or observe any voter in casting ~~his~~-a ballot, but, subject to these restrictions, the chief judge and judges of elections shall permit ~~him~~-the observer to make such observation and take such notes as ~~he~~-the observer may desire.

Whether or not the observer attends to the polls for the requisite time provided by this section, each observer shall be entitled to obtain at times specified by the State Board of Elections, but not less than three times during election day with the spacing not less than one hour apart, a list of the persons who have voted in the precinct so far in that election day. Counties that use an "authorization to vote document" instead of poll books may comply with the requirement in the previous sentence by permitting each observer to inspect election records so that the observer may create a list of persons who have voted in the precinct so far that election day; each observer shall be entitled to

make the inspection at times specified by the State Board of Elections, but not less than three times during election day with the spacing not less than one hour apart. Instead of having an observer receive the voting list, the county party chair may send a runner to do so. The runner may be the precinct party chair or any person named by the county party chair. That party chair must notify the chair of the county board of elections or the board chair's designee of the names of all runners to be used in each precinct before the runner goes to the precinct. The runner may receive a voter list from the precinct on the same schedule as an observer. Whether obtained by observer or runner, each party is entitled to only one voter list at each of the scheduled times. No runner may enter the voting enclosure except when necessary to announce that runner's presence and to receive the list. The runner must leave immediately after being provided with the list."

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 163-166.3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-166.3. Limited access to the voting enclosure.

During the time allowed for voting in the voting place, only the following persons may enter the voting enclosure:

- (1) An election official.
- (2) An observer appointed pursuant to G.S. 163-45.
- (2a) A runner appointed pursuant to G.S. 163-45, but only to the extent necessary to announce that runner's presence and to receive the voter list as provided in G.S. 163-45.
- (3) A person seeking to vote in that voting place on that day but only while in the process of voting or seeking to vote.
- (4) A voter in that precinct while entering or explaining a challenge pursuant to G.S. 163-87 or G.S. 163-88.
- (5) A person authorized under G.S. 163-166.8 to assist a voter but, except as provided in subdivision (6) of this section, only while assisting that voter.
- (6) Minor children of the voter under the age of 18, or minor children under the age of 18 in the care of the voter, but only while accompanying the voter and while under the control of the voter.
- (7) Persons conducting or participating in a simulated election within the voting place or voting enclosure, if that simulated election is approved by the county board of elections.
- (8) Any other person determined by election officials to have an urgent need to enter the voting enclosure but only to the extent necessary to address that need."

SECTION 2. G.S. 163-165.10 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-165.10. Adequacy of voting system for each precinct.

The county board of elections shall make available for each precinct voting place an adequate quantity of official ballots or ~~equipment so that all voters qualified to vote at the precinct may do so.~~ equipment. When the board of county commissioners has decided to adopt and purchase or lease a voting system for voting places under the provisions of G.S. 165-165.8, the board of county commissioners shall, as soon as practical, provide for each of those voting places sufficient equipment of the approved

voting system in complete working order. If it is impractical to furnish each voting place with the equipment of the approved voting system, that which has been obtained may be placed in voting places chosen by the county board of elections. In that case, the county board of elections shall choose the voting places and allocate the equipment in a way that as nearly as practicable provides equal access to the voting system for each voter. The county board of elections shall appoint as many voting system custodians as may be necessary for the proper preparation of the system for each election and for its maintenance, storage, and care. The Executive Director of the State Board of Elections may permit a county board of elections to provide more than one type of voting system in a precinct, but only upon a finding that doing so is necessary to comply with federal or State law."

SECTION 3.(a) Article 7A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 163-82.15A. Administrative change of registration when county line is adjusted.

When a boundary between counties is established by legislation or under G.S. 153A-18, the Executive Director shall direct the county boards of elections involved to administratively change the voter registration of any voter whose county of residence is altered by the establishment of the boundary. The voter shall not be required to submit a new application to register, and the provisions of G.S. 163-57 shall apply to the determination of residency. The Executive Director shall prescribe a method of notifying the voter of the change of county registration, the correct precinct, and other relevant information."

SECTION 3.(b) G.S. 163-57 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-57. Residence defined for registration and voting.

All election officials in determining the residence of a person offering to register or vote, shall be governed by the following rules, so far as they may apply:

(1) That place shall be considered the residence of a person in which that person's habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever that person is absent, has the intention of returning.

a. In the event that a person's habitation is divided by a State, county, municipal, precinct, ward, or other election district, then the location of the bedroom or usual sleeping area for that person with respect to the location of the boundary line at issue shall be controlling as the residency of that person.

b. If the person disputes the determination of residency, the person may request a hearing before the county board of elections making the determination of residency. The procedures for notice of hearing and the conduct of the hearing shall be as provided in G.S. 163-86. The presentation of an accurate and current determination of a person's residence and the boundary line at issue by map or other means available shall constitute prima facie evidence of the geographic location of the residence of that person.

- (2) A person shall not be considered to have lost that person's residence if that person leaves home and goes into another ~~state or county~~state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district of this State, for temporary purposes only, with the intention of returning.
- (3) A person shall not be considered to have gained a residence in any ~~county~~county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district of this State, into which that person comes for temporary purposes only, without the intention of making that ~~county~~county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district a permanent place of abode.
- (4) If a person removes to another ~~state or county~~state or county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district within this State, with the intention of making that ~~state or county~~state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district a permanent residence, that person shall be considered to have lost residence in the ~~state or county~~state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district from which that person has removed.
- (5) If a person removes to another ~~state or county~~state or county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district within this State, with the intention of remaining there an indefinite time and making that ~~state or county~~state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district that person's place of residence, that person shall be considered to have lost that person's place of residence in this ~~State or the county~~State, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district from which that person has removed, notwithstanding that person may entertain an intention to return at some future time.
- (6) If a person goes into another ~~state or county~~state, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district, or into the District of Columbia, and while there exercises the right of a citizen by voting in an election, that person shall be considered to have lost residence in ~~this State or county~~that State, county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district from which that person removed.
- (7) School teachers who remove to a ~~county~~county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district in this State for the purpose of teaching in the schools of that county temporarily and with the intention or expectation of returning during vacation periods to live ~~in the county in which~~where their parents or other relatives ~~reside~~reside in this State and who do not have the intention of becoming residents of the ~~county~~county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district to which they have moved to teach, for purposes of registration and voting shall be considered residents of the ~~county~~county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district in which their parents or other relatives reside.

- (8) If a person removes to the District of Columbia or other federal territory to engage in the government service, that person shall not be considered to have lost residence in this State during the period of such service unless that person votes in the place to which the person removed, and the place at which that person resided at the time of that person's removal shall be considered and held to be the place of residence.
- (9) If a person removes to a ~~county~~county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district to engage in the service of the State government, that person shall not be considered to have lost residence in the ~~county~~county, municipality, precinct, ward, or other election district from which that person removed, unless that person votes in the place to which the person removed, and the place at which that person resided at the time of that person's removal shall be considered and held to be the place of residence.
- (9a) The establishment of a secondary residence by an elected official outside the district of the elected official shall not constitute prima facie evidence of a change of residence.
- (10) For the purpose of voting a spouse shall be eligible to establish a separate domicile.
- (11) So long as a student intends to make the student's home in the community where the student is physically present for the purpose of attending school while the student is attending school and has no intent to return to the student's former home after graduation, the student may claim the college community as the student's domicile. The student need not also intend to stay in the college community beyond graduation in order to establish domicile there. This subdivision is intended to codify the case law."

SECTION 4. G.S. 163-182.9(b)(4) reads as rewritten:

- "(4) The timing for filing a protest shall be as follows:
 - a. If the protest concerns the manner in which votes were counted or results tabulated, the protest shall be filed before the beginning of the county board of election's canvass meeting.
 - b. If the protest concerns the manner in which votes were counted or results tabulated and the protest states good cause for delay in filing, the protest may be filed until ~~6:00~~5:00 P.M. on the second business day after the county board of elections has completed its canvass and declared the results.
 - c. If the protest concerns an irregularity other than vote counting or result tabulation, the protest shall be filed no later than ~~6:00~~5:00 P.M. on the second business day after the county board has completed its canvass and declared the results.
 - d. If the protest concerns an irregularity on a matter other than vote counting or result tabulation and the protest is filed before

election day, the protest proceedings shall be stayed, unless a party defending against the protest moves otherwise, until after election day if any one of the following conditions exists:

1. The ballot has been printed.
2. The voter registration deadline for that election has passed.
3. Any of the proceedings will occur within 30 days before election day."

SECTION 5.(a) G.S. 163-227.2(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) The voter shall vote that voter's absentee ballot in a voting booth in the office of the county board of elections, and the county board of elections shall provide a voting booth for that purpose, provided however, that the county board of elections may in the alternative provide a private room for the voter adjacent to the office of the board, in which case the voter shall vote that voter's absentee ballot in that room. ~~If the voter needs assistance in getting to and from the voting booth and in preparing and marking that voter's ballots or if the voter is a blind voter, only a member of the county board of elections, the director of elections, an employee of the board of elections authorized by the board, a near relative of the voter or the voter's verifiable legal guardian shall be entitled to assist the voter.~~ A voter at a one-stop site shall be entitled to the same assistance as a voter at a voting place on election day under G.S. 163-166.8. The State Board of Elections shall, where appropriate, adapt the rules it adopts under G.S. 163-166.8 to one-stop voting."

SECTION 5.(b) G.S. 163-226.3(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Any person who shall, in connection with absentee voting in any election held in this State, do any of the acts or things declared in this section to be unlawful, shall be guilty of a Class I felony. It shall be unlawful:

- (1) For any person except the voter's near relative or the voter's verifiable legal guardian to assist the voter to vote an absentee ballot when the voter is voting an absentee ballot other than under the procedure described in G.S. 163-227.2; provided that if there is not a near relative or legal guardian available to assist the voter, the voter may request some other person to give assistance;
- (2) For any person to assist a voter to vote an absentee ballot under the absentee voting procedure authorized by G.S. 163-227.2 ~~except a member of the county board of elections, the director of elections, an employee of the board authorized by the board, the voter's near relative or the voter's verifiable legal guardian;~~ as provided in that section;
- (3) For a voter who votes an absentee ballot under the procedures authorized by G.S. 163-227.2 to vote that voter's absentee ballot outside of the voting booth or private room provided to the voter for that purpose in or adjacent to the office of the county board of elections or at the additional site provided by G.S. 163-227.2(f1), or to receive assistance ~~in getting to and from the voting booth or private room and in preparing and marking that voter's ballots from any~~

~~person other than a member of the county board of elections, the director of elections, an employee of the board of elections authorized by the board, a near relative of the voter or the voter's verifiable legal guardian; except as provided in G.S. 163-227.2;~~

- (4) For any owner, manager, director, employee, or other person, other than the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to make a written request pursuant to G.S. 163-230.1 or an application on behalf of a registered voter who is a patient in any hospital, clinic, nursing home or rest home in this State or for any owner, manager, director, employee, or other person other than the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to mark the voter's absentee ballot or assist such a voter in marking an absentee ballot;
- (5) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 583, s. 8.
- (6) For any person to take into that person's possession for delivery to a voter or for return to a county board of elections the absentee ballot of any voter, provided, however, that this prohibition shall not apply to a voter's near relative or the voter's verifiable legal guardian;
- (7) Except as provided in subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this section, G.S. 163-231(a), G.S. 163-250(a), and G.S. 163-227.2(e), for any voter to permit another person to assist the voter in marking that voter's absentee ballot, to be in the voter's presence when a voter votes an absentee ballot, or to observe the voter mark that voter's absentee ballot."

SECTION 6.(a) G.S. 163-227.2 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e2) A voter who has moved within the county more than 30 days before election day but has not reported the move to the board of elections shall not be required on that account to vote a provisional ballot at the one-stop site, as long as the one-stop site has available all the information necessary to determine whether a voter is registered to vote in the county and which ballot the voter is eligible to vote based on the voter's proper residence address. The voter with that kind of unreported move shall be allowed to vote the same kind of absentee ballot as other one-stop voters."

SECTION 6.(b) G.S. 163-166.11 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

- "(2a) A voter who has moved within the county more than 30 days before election day but has not reported the move to the board of elections shall not be required on that account to vote a provisional ballot at the one-stop site, as long as the one-stop site has available all the information necessary to determine whether a voter is registered to vote in the county and which ballot the voter is eligible to vote based on the voter's proper residence address. The voter with that kind of unreported move shall be allowed to vote the same kind of absentee ballot as other one-stop voters as provided in G.S. 163-227.2(e2)."

SECTION 7. G.S. 163-227.2(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) If the application is properly filled out, the authorized member or employee shall enter the voter's name in the register of absentee requests, applications, and ballots issued; ~~shall furnish the voter with the instruction sheets called for by G.S. 163-229(c); and issued and~~ shall furnish the voter with the ballots to which the application for absentee ballots applies. The voter thereupon shall vote in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

All actions required by this subsection shall be performed in the office of the board of elections, except that the voting may take place in an adjacent room as provided by subsection (e) of this section. The application under this subsection shall be signed in the presence of the ~~chairman~~ chair, member, director of elections of the board, or full-time employee, authorized by the board who shall sign the application and certificate as the witness and indicate the official title held by him or her. Notwithstanding G.S. 163-231(a), in the case of this subsection, only one witness shall be required on the certificate."

SECTION 8. G.S. 163-107(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Fee Schedule. – At the time of filing a notice of candidacy, each candidate shall pay to the board of elections with which he files under the provisions of G.S. 163-106 a filing fee for the office he seeks in the amount specified in the following tabulation:

Office Sought	Amount of Filing Fee
Governor	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
Lieutenant Governor	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
All State executive offices	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
All District Attorneys of the General Court of Justice	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
United States Senator	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
Members of the United States House of Representatives	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
State Senator	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
Member of the State House of Representatives	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
All county offices not compensated by fees	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
County commissioners, if compensated entirely by fees	Ten dollars (\$10.00)
Members of county board of education, if compensated entirely by fees	Five dollars (\$5.00)

Sheriff, if compensated entirely by fees	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one percent (1%) of the income of the office above four thousand dollars (\$4,000)
Clerk of superior court, if compensated entirely by fees	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one percent (1%) of the income of the office above four thousand dollars (\$4,000)
Register of deeds, if compensated entirely by fees	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one percent (1%) of the income of the office above four thousand dollars (\$4,000)
Any other county office, if compensated entirely by fees	Twenty dollars (\$20.00), plus one percent (1%) of the income of the office above two thousand dollars (\$2,000)
All county offices compensated partly by salary and partly by fees	One percent (1%) of the first annual salary to be received (exclusive of fees)

The salary of any office that is the basis for calculating the filing fee is the starting salary for the office, rather than the salary received by the incumbent, if different. If no starting salary can be determined for the office, then the salary used for calculation is the salary of the incumbent, as of January 1 of the election year."

SECTION 9. G.S. 163-82.9 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-82.9. Cancellation of prior registration.

If an applicant indicates on an application form described in G.S. 163-82.3 a current registration to vote in any other county, municipality, or state, the county board of elections, upon registering the person to vote, shall send a notice to the appropriate officials in the other county, municipality, or state and shall ask them to cancel the person's voter registration there. If an applicant completes an application form described in G.S. 163-82.3 except that the applicant neglects to complete the portion of the form that authorizes cancellation of previous registration in another county, the State Board of Elections shall notify the county board of elections in the previous county of the new registration, and the board in the previous county shall cancel the registration. The State Board of Elections shall adopt rules to prevent disenfranchisement in the implementation of this section. Those rules shall include adequate notice to the person whose previous registration is to be cancelled."

SECTION 10.(a) G.S. 163-82.10(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Access to Registration Records. – Upon request by that person, the county board of elections shall provide to any person a list of the registered voters of the county or of any precinct or precincts in the county. The county board may furnish selective lists according to party affiliation, gender, race, date of registration, precinct name, precinct identification code, congressional district, senate district, representative district, and, where applicable, county commissioner district, city governing board district, fire district, soil and water conservation district, and voter history including primary, general, and special districts, or any other reasonable category. No list produced under this section shall contain a voter's date of birth. However, lists may be produced

according to voters' ages. ~~The~~ Both the following shall apply if a county maintains or has its voter registration list maintained on a computer to all counties:

- (1) ~~In addition to the typed, mimeographed, photocopied, computer printout or label lists, the~~ The county board of elections shall make the voter registration information available to the public on electronic or magnetic medium. Magnetic medium for the purpose of this section shall consist of nine track tape or 3.5 inch diskettes and 5.25 inch diskettes readily accessible using MS DOS or Microsoft Windows operating systems or both such systems; and For purposes of this section, "electronic or magnetic medium" means any of the media in use by the State Board of Elections at the time of the request.
- (2) Information requested on electronic or magnetic medium shall contain the following: voter name, county voter identification number, residential address, mailing address, sex, race, age but not date of birth, party affiliation, precinct name, precinct identification code, congressional district, senate district, representative district, and, where applicable, county commissioner district, city governing board district, fire district, soil and water conservation district, and any other district information available, and voter history including primary, general, and special districts, or any other reasonable ~~category,~~ category.

~~provided that this subsection shall not require a county to computerize its lists, but if a county does computerize it shall comply with subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection. The county board shall require each person to whom a list is furnished to reimburse the board for the actual cost incurred in preparing it, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section. Actual cost for the purpose of this section shall not include the cost of any equipment or any imputed overhead expenses. It may include the actual cost of paper, labels, and magnetic medium. The purchaser at its discretion may provide the magnetic medium. When furnishing information under this subsection to a purchaser on a magnetic medium provided by the county board or the purchaser, the county board may impose a service charge of up to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)."~~

SECTION 10.(b) G.S. 163-82.10(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Free Lists. ~~Free lists of all registered voters in the county shall be provided in the following cases:~~

- (1) A county board ~~that maintains voter records on computer~~ shall provide, upon written request, one free list ~~to~~ of all the registered voters in the county to
 - a. ~~The~~ the State chair of each political party; ~~party~~ party and
 - b. ~~The~~ to the county chair of each political party once in every odd-numbered year, once during the first six calendar months of every even-numbered year, and once during the latter six calendar months of every even-numbered year.

- (2) ~~A county board that does not maintain voter records on computer shall provide one free paper list every two years to the county chair of each political party.~~

Each free list shall include the name, address, gender, age but not date of birth, race, political affiliation, voting history, precinct, precinct name, precinct identification code, congressional district, senate district, representative district, and, where applicable, county commissioner district, city governing board district, fire district, soil and water conservation district, and voter history including primary, general, and special districts of each registered voter. ~~The free paper list to the county party chairs shall group voters by precinct.~~ All free lists shall be provided as soon as practicable on one of any electronic or magnetic media, but no later than 30 days after written request. Each State party chair shall provide ~~the discs or tapes~~ the information on the media received from the county boards or a copy of the media containing the data itself to candidates of that party who request the ~~discs or tapes~~ data in writing. ~~Each State party chair shall return discs and tapes to the county boards within 30 days after receiving them.~~ As used in this section, "political party" means a political party as defined in G.S. 163-96."

SECTION 11.(a) G.S. 163-182.5(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Canvassing by County Board of Elections. – The county board of elections shall meet at 11:00 A.M. on the ~~seventh-tenth~~ day after every election held on the same day as a general election in November of the even-numbered year, and at 11:00 A.M. on the seventh day after every other election, to complete the canvass of votes cast and to authenticate the count in every ballot item in the county by determining that the votes have been counted and tabulated correctly. If, despite due diligence by election officials, the initial counting of all the votes has not been completed by that time, the county board may hold the canvass meeting a reasonable time thereafter. The canvass meeting shall be at the county board of elections office, unless the county board, by unanimous vote of all its members, designates another site within the county. The county board shall examine the returns from precincts, from absentee official ballots, and from provisional official ballots and shall conduct the canvass."

SECTION 11.(b) G.S. 163-182.7 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-182.7. Ordering recounts.

(a) Discretionary Recounts. – The county board of elections or the State Board of Elections may order a recount when necessary to complete the canvass in an election. The county board may not order a recount where the State Board of Elections has already denied a recount to the petitioner.

(b) Mandatory Recounts for Ballot Items Within the Jurisdiction of the County Board of Elections. – In a ballot item within the jurisdiction of the county board of elections, a candidate shall have the right to demand a recount of the votes if the difference between the votes for that candidate and the votes for a prevailing candidate is not more than one percent (1%) of the total votes cast in the ballot item, or in the case of a multiseat ballot item not more than one percent (1%) of the votes cast for those two candidates. The demand for a recount must be made in writing and must be received by the county board of elections by 5:00 P.M. on the first business day after the canvass. The recount shall be conducted under the supervision of the county board of elections.

(c) Mandatory Recounts for Ballot Items Within the Jurisdiction of the State Board of Elections. – In a ballot item within the jurisdiction of the State Board of Elections, a candidate shall have the right to demand a recount of the votes if the difference between the votes for that candidate and the votes for a prevailing candidate are not more than the following:

- (1) For a nonstatewide ballot item, one percent (1%) of the total votes cast in the ballot item, or in the case of a multiseat ballot item, one percent (1%) of the votes cast for those two candidates.
- (2) For a statewide ballot item, one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the votes cast in the ballot item, or in the case of a multiseat ballot item, one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the votes cast for those two candidates, or 10,000 votes, whichever is less.

The demand for a recount must be in writing and must be received by the State Board of Elections by noon on the second ~~Thursday after the election.~~ business day after the county canvass. ~~If on that Thursday at that time~~ the available returns show a candidate not entitled to a mandatory recount, but the Executive Director determines subsequently that the margin is within the threshold set out in this subsection, the Executive Director shall notify the eligible candidate immediately and that candidate shall be entitled to a recount if that candidate so demands within 48 hours of notice. The recount shall be conducted under the supervision of the State Board of Elections.

(d) Rules for Conducting Recounts. – The State Board of Elections shall promulgate rules for conducting recounts. Those rules shall be subject to the following guidelines:

- (1) The rules shall specify, with respect to each type of voting system, when and to what extent the recount shall consist of machine recounts and hand-to-eye recounts.
- (2) The rules shall provide guidance in interpretation of the voter's choice.
- (3) The rules shall specify how the goals of multipartisan participation, opportunity for public observation, and good order shall be balanced."

SECTION 12. G.S. 163-166.7(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate rules for the process of voting. Those rules shall emphasize the appearance as well as the reality of dignity, good order, impartiality, and the convenience and privacy of the voter. Those rules, at a minimum, shall include procedures to ensure that all the following occur:

- (1) The voting system remains secure throughout the period voting is being conducted.
- (2) Only properly voted official ballots are introduced into the voting system.
- (3) Except as provided by G.S. 163-166.9, no official ballots leave the voting enclosure during the time voting is being conducted there.
- (4) All improperly voted official ballots are returned to the precinct officials and marked as spoiled.
- (5) Voters leave the voting place promptly after voting.

- (6) Voters not clearly eligible to vote in the precinct but who seek to vote there are given proper assistance in voting a provisional official ballot or guidance to another voting place where they are eligible to vote.
- (7) Information gleaned through the voting process that would be helpful to the accurate maintenance of the voter registration records is recorded and delivered to the county board of elections.
- (8) The registration records are kept secure. The State Board of Elections shall permit the use of electronic registration records in the voting place in lieu of or in addition to a paper pollbook or other registration record.
- (9) Party observers are given access as provided by G.S. 163-45 to current information about which voters have voted.
- (10) The voter, before voting, shall sign that voter's name on the pollbook, other voting record, or voter authorization document. If the voter is unable to sign, a precinct official shall enter the person's name on the same document before the voter votes."

SECTION 13. G.S. 163-182.15 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

"(d) Determining Results. – In a primary for party nomination, the results shall be determined in accordance with G.S. 163-111. In a general election, the individuals having the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected to the office, and the certificate shall be issued accordingly. In a referendum, the ballot proposal receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared to have prevailed, and the certificate shall be issued accordingly."

SECTION 14. G.S. 163-82.14(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Change of Address. – A county board of elections shall conduct a systematic program to remove from its list of registered voters those who have moved out of the county, and to update the registration records of persons who have moved within the county. The county board shall remove a person from its list if the registrant:

- (1) Gives confirmation in writing of a change of address for voting purposes out of the county. "Confirmation in writing" for purposes of this subdivision shall include:
 - a. A report to the county board from the Department of Transportation or from a voter registration agency listed in G.S. 163-82.20 that the voter has reported a change of address for voting purposes outside the county;
 - b. A notice of cancellation received under G.S. 163-82.9; or
 - c. A notice of cancellation received from an election jurisdiction outside the State.
- (2) Fails to respond to a confirmation mailing sent by the county board in accordance with this subdivision and does not vote or appear to vote in an election beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for the United States House of Representatives that occurs after the date of the notice. A

county board sends a confirmation notice in accordance with this subdivision if the notice:

- a. Is a postage prepaid and preaddressed return card, sent by forwardable mail, on which the registrant may state current address;
- b. Contains or is accompanied by a notice to the effect that if the registrant did not change residence but remained in the county, the registrant should return the card not later than the deadline for registration by mail in G.S. 163-82.6(c)(1); and
- c. Contains or is accompanied by information as to how the registrant may continue to be eligible to vote if the registrant has moved outside the county.

A county board shall send a confirmation mailing in accordance with this subdivision to every registrant after every congressional election if the county board has not confirmed the registrant's address by another means.

- (3) Any registrant who is removed from the list of registered voters pursuant to this subsection shall be reinstated if the voter appears to vote and gives oral or written affirmation that the voter has not moved out of the county but has maintained residence continuously within the county. That person shall be allowed to vote as provided in G.S. 163-82.15(f)."

SECTION 15. G.S. 163-82.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-82.4. Contents of application form.

(a) Information Requested of Applicant. – The form required by G.S. 163-82.3(a) shall request the applicant's:

- (1) Name,
- (2) Date of birth,
- (3) Residence address,
- (4) County of residence,
- (5) Date of application,
- (6) Gender,
- (7) Race,
- (7a) Ethnicity,
- (8) Political party affiliation, if any, in accordance with subsection (c) of this section,
- (9) Telephone number (to assist the county board of elections in contacting the voter if needed in processing the application),
- (10) Drivers license number or, if the applicant does not have a drivers license number, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number,

and any other information the State Board finds is necessary to enable officials of the county where the person resides to satisfactorily process the application. The form shall require the applicant to state whether currently registered to vote anywhere, and at what

address, so that any prior registration can be cancelled. The portions of the form concerning race and ethnicity shall include as a choice any category shown by the most recent decennial federal census to compose at least one percent (1%) of the total population of North Carolina. The county board shall make a diligent effort to complete for the registration records any information requested on the form that the applicant does not complete, but no application shall be denied because an applicant does not state race, ethnicity, gender, or telephone number. The application shall conspicuously state that provision of the applicant's telephone number is optional. If the county board maintains voter records on computer, the free list provided under this subsection shall include telephone numbers if the county board enters the telephone number into its computer records of voters.

(a1) No Drivers License or Social Security Number Issued. – The State Board shall assign a unique identifier number to an applicant for voter registration if the applicant has not been issued either a current and valid drivers license or a social security number. That unique identifier number shall serve to identify that applicant for voter registration purposes.

(b) Notice of Requirements, Attestation, Notice of Penalty, and Notice of Confidentiality. – The form required by G.S. 163-82.3(a) shall contain, in uniform type, the following:

- (1) A statement that specifies each eligibility requirement (including citizenship) and an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, with a requirement for the signature of the applicant, under penalty of a Class I felony under G.S. 163-275(13).
- (2) A statement that, if the applicant declines to register to vote, the fact that the applicant has declined to register will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.
- (3) A statement that, if the applicant does register to vote, the office at which the applicant submits a voter registration application will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.

(c) Party Affiliation or Unaffiliated Status. – The application form described in G.S. 163-82.3(a) shall provide a place for the applicant to state a preference to be affiliated with one of the political parties in G.S. 163-96, or a preference to be an "unaffiliated" voter. Every person who applies to register shall state his preference. If the applicant fails to declare a preference for a party or for unaffiliated status, that person shall be listed as "unaffiliated", except that if the person is already registered to vote in the county and that person's registration already contains a party affiliation, the county board shall not change the registrant's status to "unaffiliated" unless the registrant clearly indicates a desire in accordance with G.S. 163-82.17 for such a change. An unaffiliated registrant shall not be eligible to vote in any political party primary, except as provided in G.S. 163-119, but may vote in any other primary or general election. The application form shall so state.

(d) Citizenship and Age Questions. – Voter registration application forms shall include all of the following:

- (1) The question "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a citizen of the United States.
- (2) The question "Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant will be 18 years of age or older on election day.
- (3) The statement "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form."

(e) Correcting Registration Forms. – If the voter fails to answer the question set out in subdivision (1) of ~~this subsection (d) of this section~~, the ~~person filling out the registration~~voter shall be notified of the omission and given the opportunity to complete the form ~~in a timely manner in order to be registered for the next election at any time before casting a vote in the election on election day.~~ If the voter corrects that omission within that time, the voter may vote in the election."

SECTION 16. G.S. 163-132.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-132.1. Participation in ~~2000~~2010 Census Redistricting Data Program of the United States Bureau of the Census.

(a) Purpose. – The State of North Carolina shall participate in the ~~2000~~2010 Census Redistricting Data Program, conducted pursuant to P.L. 94-171, of the United States Bureau of the Census, ~~including Phase I (Block Boundary Suggestion Program) and Phase II (concerning the designation of precincts on 2000 Census maps or databases)~~, so that the State will receive ~~2000~~2010 Census data by voting precinct and be able to revise districts at all levels without splitting precincts and in compliance with the United States and North Carolina Constitutions and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

~~(b) Phase I (Block Boundary Suggestion Program). The State shall participate in the Block Boundary Suggestion Program of the United States Bureau of the Census so that the maps the Census Bureau will use in the 2000 Census will contain adequate features to permit reporting of Census data by precinct for use in the 2001 redistricting efforts. The Legislative Services Office shall send preliminary maps produced by the Census Bureau in preparation for the 2000 Census, as soon as practical after the maps are available, to the county boards of elections to determine which of their precincts have boundaries that are not coterminous with a physical feature, a current township boundary, or a current municipal boundary, as shown on those preliminary 2000 Census maps. The Legislative Services Office shall:~~

- ~~(1) Assist county boards of elections in identifying the precincts with boundaries not shown on the preliminary Census maps and in identifying physical features the county boards may wish to have available for future precinct boundaries;~~
- ~~(2) Place those boundaries and features on maps deemed appropriate by the State Board;~~
- ~~(3) Request the U.S. Census Bureau to hold for census block identification in the 2000 U.S. Census all physical features the county boards have identified as current or potential precinct boundaries; and~~

- (4) ~~Request the U.S. Census Bureau to hold for census block identification in the 2000 U.S. Census all other physical features already on 1990 Census maps.~~

(e) ~~Phase II. — The State shall participate in Phase II of the 2000 Census Redistricting Data Program so that, to the extent practical, the precinct boundaries of all North Carolina counties will appear on the 2000 Census maps or database. The State's effort shall be conducted as follows:~~

- (1) ~~By January 1, 1998, or as soon thereafter as they become available, the Legislative Services Office shall provide the county boards of elections with access, on paper or electronically, to the Census Bureau's maps for Phase II of the Census Redistricting Data Program.~~
- (2) ~~After receiving the maps, the county boards of elections shall designate their precinct lines along the lines the Census Bureau indicates on the maps it will hold as block boundaries for the 2000 Census. Where necessary, the county boards of elections shall alter precincts, including any precincts approved under the provisions of G.S. 163-132.1A, 163-132.2, or 163-132.3 or designated by local act, to conform to lines the Census Bureau indicates it will hold as Census block boundaries as shown on the official block maps to be used for the 2000 Census and to consist only of contiguous territory. The county boards of elections, at a time deemed necessary by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections, shall file with the Legislative Services Office the maps on which they have designated their precincts pursuant to this subsection.~~
- (3) ~~After examining the maps, the Legislative Services Office shall submit to the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections its opinion as to whether the county board of elections has complied with the provisions of this subsection, with notations as to where those boundaries do not comply with these standards.~~
- (4) ~~If the Executive Director determines that the county board of elections has complied, he shall approve the precinct boundaries as filed and those precincts shall be the official precincts.~~
- (5) ~~If the Executive Director determines that the county board of elections has not complied, he shall not approve those precinct boundaries but shall alter the precinct boundaries so that each precinct consists solely of contiguous territory and that each precinct's boundaries are coterminous with 2000 Census block boundaries nearest to the precinct boundaries shown by the county boards on the maps. These altered precincts shall then be the official precincts.~~
- (6) ~~Upon the adoption of a resolution by a county board of elections and instead of altering precinct lines as required by G.S. 163-132.1(c)(5), the Executive Director may combine for Census reporting purposes only two or more adjacent precincts of the county into a Combined Reporting Unit, if the Executive Director finds that:~~

- a. ~~The boundaries of the Combined Reporting Unit conform with the Census block boundaries as shown on the official block maps to be used in the 2000 Census;~~
- b. ~~The Combined Reporting Unit consists only of contiguous territory;~~
- e. ~~The precincts of which the Combined Reporting Unit consists were bounded as of January 1, 1996, by ridgelines, as certified on official county maps by the county manager of the relevant county, or if there is no county manager the chair of the board of commissioners, and the boundaries failed to comply with subdivision (2) of this subsection only because those ridgelines were unrecognized as Census block boundaries in the 2000 official Census maps;~~
- d. ~~The Combined Reporting Unit does not contain a majority of the territory of more than one township; and~~
- e. ~~To alter those precinct boundaries would result in significant voter dislocation.~~

~~If the Executive Director recognizes a Combined Reporting Unit for specific precincts, the official boundaries of those individual precincts forming the Combined Reporting Unit shall be those which the Legislative Services Office submitted to the Executive Director under subdivision (3) of this subsection.~~

- (7) ~~The Executive Director shall file the completed maps with the Census Bureau and request that the Census Bureau provide summaries of 2000 Census data by precinct and Combined Reporting Units.~~

(d) ~~Freezing of Precincts:~~

- (1) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 163-132.3, after the Executive Director approves the precincts in accordance with subsection (c) of this section and before January 2, 2002, no county board of elections may establish, alter, discontinue, or create any precinct except by division of one precinct into two or more precincts using lines that the Census Bureau has indicated it will use as 2000 Census block boundaries for that division. Provided that, whenever an annexation ordinance adopted under Parts 1, 2, or 3 of Article 4A of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, or a local act of the General Assembly annexing property to a municipality, becomes effective during the period beginning with the date of the annexation as reported through the U.S. Census Bureau's 1998 Boundary and Annexation Survey or a subsequent edition of that survey and ending January 2, 2002, and any part of the boundary of the area being annexed which is actually contiguous to the city is also a precinct boundary for elections administered by the county board of elections then the county board of elections may exercise one of the following options:~~

- a. ~~Direct by resolution that the annexed area is automatically moved into the "city precinct", provided that if the annexed area is adjacent to more than one city precinct, the board of elections shall place the area in any one or more of the adjacent city precincts.~~
 - b. ~~Adopt a resolution moving the precinct boundary to a line that the Census Bureau has indicated it will use as a 2000 block boundary.~~
- (2) ~~The Executive Director of the State Board of Elections may permit during the freeze a correction to a county's precincts as they were approved pursuant to subsection (c) of this section where one of the following sets of conditions is present:~~
- a. ~~A precinct was designated pursuant to subsection (c) inaccurately, and the United States Bureau of the Census agrees to include the corrected precinct on its database for the 2000 Census.~~
 - b. ~~The boundary of a precinct designated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section was subsequently removed by the United States Bureau of the Census as an acceptable feature for a precinct line based upon a determination by the Bureau that the feature did not exist as shown, and the county board of elections agrees by resolution to an alternative boundary for the precinct on a feature the Bureau does find acceptable.~~
- (3) ~~The county board of elections may move a precinct line from a township line to another line the Census Bureau has indicated will be a 2000 block boundary if a Boundary and Annexation Survey issued during the freeze shows that the township line has moved to a location the county board of elections considers unsuitable. This subdivision does not apply if local legislation enacted by the General Assembly governs the relationship between a county's township lines and precinct lines.~~
- (4) ~~The county board of elections shall submit any proposed change made during the freeze under this subsection to the Legislative Services Office, which shall review the proposal and write a letter advising the Executive Director of its opinion as to the legal compliance of the proposal. If the proposal complies with the law, the Executive Director shall approve the proposal. No newly created or altered precinct boundary is effective until approved by the Executive Director as being in compliance with the provisions of this subsection.~~

~~(d1) Right to Postpone Effective Date Until January 1, 2000.—A county board of elections may postpone the effective date of the precincts designated in Phase II until January 1, 2000.~~

~~(d2) Special Permission to Postpone Effective Date Until January 1, 2001.—The Executive Director may permit a county board of elections to postpone the effective~~

~~date of precinct lines designated under Phase II until January 1, 2001, upon written application by the county board of elections, if the Executive Director finds both of the following:~~

- ~~(1) That the Phase II-designated lines would create a split precinct in 2000 for county commissioner, board of education, judicial, State legislative, or congressional district elections and that a split could be avoided by using the pre Phase II precinct.~~
- ~~(2) That the county can provide reasonably reliable voter registration data for April and October of 2000 by the Phase II designated precincts.~~

~~In granting an exception under this subsection, the Executive Director shall allow an exception only for the precincts that would result in splits and for any adjacent precincts for which pre-Phase II precincts must be used to avoid geographic overlap or discontinuity. Every county board of elections granted an exception under this subsection shall provide to the State Board of Elections voter registration data for April and October of 2000 by the Phase II designated precincts.~~

~~(e) Municipal and Township Boundaries. — Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the county boards of elections may designate precinct boundaries on municipal or township boundaries that are not designated on the 2000 official Census block maps, according to directives promulgated by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections and adopted to insure that all precincts shall be included on the 2000 Census database.~~

~~(f) Additional Rules. – In addition to the directives promulgated by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections under G.S. 163-132.4, the Legislative Services Commission may promulgate rules to implement this section."~~

SECTION 17. G.S. 163-182.12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-182.12. Authority of State Board of Elections over protests.

The State Board of Elections may consider protests that were not filed in compliance with G.S. 163-182.9, may initiate and consider complaints on its own motion, may intervene and take jurisdiction over protests pending before a county board, and may take any other action necessary to assure that an election is determined without taint of fraud or ~~corruption~~. corruption and without irregularities that may have changed the result of an election. Where a known group of voters cast votes that were lost beyond retrieval, the State Board of Elections may authorize a county board of elections to allow those voters to recast their ballots during a period of two weeks after the election. If the State Board approves a recasting of votes under this section, any procedures the county board uses to contact those voters and allow them to recast their votes shall be subject to approval by the State Board. Those recast votes shall be added to the returns and included in the canvass. The recasting of those votes shall not be deemed a new election for purposes of G.S. 163-182.13."

SECTION 18. Sections 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of this act are effective when this act becomes law and apply to all primaries and elections held on or after that date. The remainder of this act becomes effective January 1, 2006, and applies to all primaries and elections held on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 23rd day of August, 2005.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

s/ James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved 2:01 p.m. this 22nd day of September, 2005