

1 08 NCAC 17 .0101 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **08 NCAC 17 .0101 VERIFICATION OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION DURING IN-PERSON**
4 **VOTING**

5 (a) When a person presenting to vote checks in at a voting site, an election official shall ask the voter to show photo
6 identification in accordance with G.S. 163-166.16 and this Rule. The election official shall examine any photo
7 identification provided by the person presenting to vote and shall determine the following:

8 (1) The photo identification is of the type acceptable for voting purposes pursuant to G.S. 163-
9 166.16(a). A valid United States passport book or passport card is acceptable pursuant to G.S.
10 163-166.16(a)(1)c.

11 (2) The photograph appearing on the photo identification bears a reasonable resemblance to the
12 person presenting to vote. A reasonable resemblance is a similarity in appearance such that an
13 ordinary person would conclude that the photograph on the identification is more likely than not
14 the person presenting to vote. The election official shall make this determination based on the
15 totality of the circumstances, bearing in mind that there are many reasons that a person's
16 appearance could change (such as, for illustrative purposes only, changes in hair, facial hair, or
17 weight; or the effects of medical conditions, aging, or medical treatment). The election official
18 shall also be guided by the purpose of the photo identification requirement, which is to confirm the
19 person presenting to vote is the registered voter on the voter registration records.

20 (3) The name appearing on the photo identification is the same as or substantially equivalent to the
21 name contained in the voter's voter registration record. The election official shall make this
22 determination based on the totality of the circumstances, construing all evidence, along with any
23 explanation or documentation voluntarily offered by the person presenting to vote, in the light
24 most favorable to that person. The election official shall consider the name appearing on the photo
25 identification to be substantially equivalent to the name contained in the registration record if
26 differences are attributable to a reasonable explanation, which shall include but is not limited to
27 one or more of the following reasons:

28 (A) Omission or inclusion of one or more parts of the name (such as, for illustrative purposes
29 only, Mary Beth Smith versus Beth Smith, or Patrick Todd Jackson, Jr. versus Patrick
30 Todd Jackson, or Maria Guzman-Santana versus Maria Guzman);

31 (B) Use of a variation or nickname rather than a formal name (such as, for illustrative
32 purposes only, Bill versus William, or Sue versus Susanne);

33 (C) Use of an initial in place of one or more parts of a given name (such as, for illustrative
34 purposes only, A.B. Sanchez versus Aaron B. Sanchez);

35 (D) Use of a former name, including maiden names (such as, for illustrative purposes only,
36 Emily Jones versus Emily Gibson), or a variation that includes or omits a hyphenation or
37 hyphen (such as, for illustrative purposes only, Chantell D. Jacobson-Smith versus

1 Chantell D. Jacobson or Chantell D. Jacobson Smith), an accent (such as, for illustrative
2 purposes only, José Muñoz versus Jose Munoz), or an apostrophe (such as, for illustrative
3 purposes only, Andrea D'Antonio versus Andrea Dantonio);

4 (E) Ordering of names (such as, for illustrative purposes only, Maria Eva Garcia Lopez
5 versus Maria E. Lopez-Garcia); or

6 (F) Variation in spelling or typographical errors (such as, for illustrative purposes only,
7 Dennis McCarthy versus Denis McCarthy, or Aarav Robertson versus Aarav
8 Robertsson).

9 If a voter is casting a provisional ballot because the voter's record does not appear in the poll book,
10 the election official shall instead compare the name on the photo identification with the name
11 provided by the voter on the provisional ballot application.

12 (b) The election official checking in the person presenting to vote, when examining the photo identification of that
13 person, shall not require the voter to provide any evidence regarding the identification apart from the identification
14 itself. If the face of the person presenting to vote is covered to such an extent that the election official cannot
15 determine reasonable resemblance under Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule, then the election official shall inform the
16 voter that the face covering is preventing the official from determining that the photo on the identification is that of
17 the voter and shall offer the voter the option to briefly remove the face covering. If the voter chooses not to remove
18 the covering, then the election official shall enter a challenge in accordance with Subparagraph (d)(3) of this Rule.

19 (c) Differences between the address appearing on the photo identification of a person presenting to vote and the
20 address contained in the registration record of that person shall not be considered as evidence that the photographic
21 identification fails to meet the requirements of G.S. 163-166.16 or this Rule.

22 (d) After examining the photo identification according to Paragraphs (a) through (c) of this Rule, the election
23 official shall proceed as follows:

24 (1) If the election official determines that the photo identification meets all the requirements of
25 Paragraph (a) of this Rule, then the election official shall allow the person to vote pursuant to G.S.
26 163-166.7.

27 (2) If the election official determines that the photo identification is not an acceptable type of photo
28 identification under Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, the election official shall inform the person
29 presenting to vote of the reasons for that determination (such as, for illustrative purposes only, that
30 the photo identification is not on the list of student identifications approved by the State Board of
31 Elections) and shall invite the person to provide any other photo identification that is acceptable
32 under Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule that the person may have. If the person presenting to vote
33 does not produce photo identification that meets all the requirements of Subparagraph (a)(1) of
34 this Rule, then the election official shall inform the person presenting to vote of both options to
35 vote by provisional ballot in accordance with Paragraph (e) of this Rule.

36 (3) If the election official determines that the photo or name on the photo identification do not satisfy
37 Subparagraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this Rule, the election official shall inform the person

1 presenting to vote of the reasons for that determination and shall invite the person to provide any
2 other photo identification that the person may have that is acceptable under Subparagraph (a)(1)
3 and satisfies Subparagraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this Rule. If the person presenting to vote does not
4 produce photo identification that meets all the requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, then the
5 election official shall enter a challenge pursuant to G.S. 163-87 and immediately notify the voting
6 site's judges of election of the challenge. The judges of election shall then conduct a challenge
7 hearing, in accordance with the applicable procedures in G.S. 163-88. At the conclusion of the
8 hearing, the judges of election shall vote on whether the photo appearing on the photo
9 identification of the person presenting to vote bears a reasonable resemblance to that person or
10 whether the name appearing on the photo identification is the same as or substantially equivalent
11 to the name contained in the voter's voter registration record, applying the same standards as the
12 election official initially reviewing the identification under Subparagraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3). Each
13 judge shall record the judge's findings in writing. Only if the judges of election unanimously find
14 that the photo appearing on the photo identification does not bear a reasonable resemblance to the
15 person presenting to vote, or that the name appearing on the photo identification is not the same as
16 or substantially equivalent to the name contained in the voter's voter registration record, the voter
17 shall be offered both options to vote by provisional ballot in accordance with Paragraph (e) of this
18 Rule. Absent such a unanimous finding, the person shall vote with a regular ballot pursuant to
19 G.S. 163-166.7. When the judges of election conduct a challenge hearing under this Rule and the
20 challenge is to a curbside voter, to ensure the voting enclosure remains properly attended, the
21 judges may separately visit the curbside location to assess the voter's identification.

22 (e) A person presenting to vote who does not present acceptable photo identification in accordance with this Rule
23 shall be offered both of the following options:

24 ~~(1) To vote by provisional ballot with an affidavit claiming an exception to the identification~~
25 ~~requirement, pursuant to G.S. 163-166.16(d). If the voter has completed the affidavit as required in~~
26 ~~G.S. 163-166.16(d) and is otherwise eligible to vote, the county board shall count the provisional~~
27 ~~ballot unless the county board unanimously finds that the affidavit is false. The county board shall~~
28 ~~substantiate any finding of falsity with grounds recorded in a written decision, and those grounds~~
29 ~~shall be based only on facts and not speculation. Before disapproving a voter's provisional ballot~~
30 ~~because of a finding of falsity, the county board shall provide the voter advance notice and an~~
31 ~~opportunity to address the county board prior to completion of the canvass on any grounds that the~~
32 ~~county board is considering regarding the falsity of the affidavit. The notice shall identify the~~
33 ~~specific reasons the county board is considering the affidavit to be potentially false and inform the~~
34 ~~voter how the voter may address the reasons for potential falsity, which shall include the options~~
35 ~~to provide a written explanation or documentation or to address the board at a meeting in person.~~
36 ~~The county board shall send the notice via U.S. Mail within one business day of a county board's~~
37 ~~preliminary finding of falsity, provided that the opportunity to be heard is at least five days from~~

1 ~~the date of mailing. The notice shall be mailed for next day delivery if the opportunity to be heard~~
2 ~~is less than five days from the date of mailing. Notice shall also be provided within one business~~
3 ~~day of a county board's preliminary finding of falsity by any email address or phone number that~~
4 ~~the county board possesses for the voter. The notice and opportunity to address the county board~~
5 ~~provided for in this Subparagraph shall be offered only to those provisional voters for whom a~~
6 ~~number of county board members equal to one less than all of the members of the county board, or~~
7 ~~more, have identified a specific reason, based only on facts and not speculation, to find that the~~
8 ~~affidavit claiming an exception to the identification requirement is false.~~

9 ~~(2)~~ (1) To vote by provisional ballot and then bring to the office of the county board identification
10 acceptable under G.S. 163-166.16 and this Rule before ~~5 p.m. on the business day before county~~
11 ~~cavass.~~ the deadline for doing so in G.S. 163-166.16(c). If the voter brings photo identification to
12 the office of a county board in a timely manner, a county board staff member shall examine the
13 photo identification in accordance with Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this Rule. After examining
14 the photo identification, the staff member shall proceed as follows:

15 (A) If the photo identification meets all the requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the
16 staff member shall recommend approval of the provisional ballot to the county board.

17 (B) If the photo identification is not an acceptable type of photo identification under
18 Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, then the staff member shall inform the voter of the
19 reasons for that determination, while the voter is at the county board office, and invite the
20 voter to provide an acceptable photo identification in accordance with Subparagraph
21 (d)(2) of this Rule. If the voter does not provide acceptable identification by ~~5:00 p.m. on~~
22 ~~the business day prior to the cavass,~~ the deadline for doing so in G.S. 163-166.16(c),
23 then county board staff shall recommend disapproval of the provisional ballot to the
24 county board.

25 (C) If the photo or name on the photo identification do not satisfy Subparagraphs (a)(2) and
26 (a)(3) of this Rule, then the staff member shall inform the voter of the reasons for that
27 determination and shall invite the voter to provide any other photo identification that
28 meets the requirement of Paragraph (a) of this Rule. If the voter does not produce photo
29 identification that meets the requirement of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, then the staff
30 member shall recommend disapproval of the provisional ballot to the county board.
31 While the voter is at the county board office, the staff member shall inform the voter of
32 the recommendation and provide notice to the voter of the county board meeting at which
33 the voter's provisional ballot will be reviewed and considered by the county board. If the
34 voter appears at that meeting and desires to address the county board on whether their
35 photo identification meets the requirement of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the county board
36 members are subject to the requirements of this Rule in the same manner as a staff
37 member initially examining a voter's photo identification.

1 If the voter brings photo identification that is an acceptable type of photo identification under
2 Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule to the county board office before ~~5 p.m. on the business day prior~~
3 ~~to the canvass~~, the deadline for doing so in G.S. 163-166.16(c), the county board shall count the
4 provisional ballot unless the county board unanimously decides the photo identification presented
5 does not satisfy Subparagraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this Rule, in which case the county board shall
6 record in writing the grounds for its decision.

7 (2) To vote by provisional ballot with an affidavit claiming an exception to the identification
8 requirement, pursuant to G.S. 163-166.16(d). If the voter has completed the affidavit as required in
9 G.S. 163-166.16(d) and is otherwise eligible to vote, the county board shall count the provisional
10 ballot unless the county board finds by majority vote that the affidavit is false. The county board
11 shall substantiate any finding of falsity with grounds recorded in a written decision, and those
12 grounds shall be based only on facts and not speculation. Before disapproving a voter's provisional
13 ballot because of a finding of falsity, the county board shall provide the voter advance notice and
14 an opportunity to address the county board on any grounds that the county board is considering
15 regarding the falsity of the affidavit at the meeting at which the voter's provisional ballot will be
16 reviewed and considered by the county board. The notice shall identify the specific reasons the
17 county board is considering the affidavit to be potentially false and inform the voter how the voter
18 may address the reasons for potential falsity, which shall include the options to provide a written
19 explanation or documentation or to address the board at a meeting in person. The county board
20 shall send the notice via U.S. Mail within one business day of a county board's preliminary finding
21 of falsity, provided that the opportunity to be heard is at least five days from the date of mailing.
22 The notice shall be mailed for next-day delivery if the opportunity to be heard is less than five
23 days from the date of mailing. Notice shall also be provided within one business day of a county
24 board's preliminary finding of falsity by email to any email address or by phone to any phone
25 number that the county board possesses for the voter. The notice and opportunity to address the
26 county board provided for in this Subparagraph shall be offered only to those provisional voters
27 for whom a majority of county board members, or more, have identified a specific reason, based
28 only on facts and not speculation, to find that the affidavit claiming an exception to the
29 identification requirement is false.

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31 *History Note: Authority G.S. 163-22; 163-166.7; 163-166.11; 163-166.16;*
32 *Eff. January 1, 2016;*
33 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 23, 2019;*
34 *Temporary Amendment Expired Eff. June 12, 2020;*
35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2023;*
36 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2024; 2024;*
37 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2026.*