NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

www.ncsbe.gov

2026 GENERAL ELECTION CANVASS

North Carolina State Board of Elections
November 24, 2026

ELECTION OVERVIEW

Key Stats

- Absentee Voting period: September 4 to November 3*
- Early Voting period: October 15 to October 31
- Election Day: November 3
- Total Registered Voters: 7.9 million
- Ballots Cast: Over 4.2 million (turnout of about 53.8%)

*Timely mailed UOCAVA ballots could be received through November 9

ELECTION OVERVIEW

The State Board and county boards of elections work throughout the post - election canvass period to timely complete the canvass and certify the election.

Post-Election Processes

- Reconciliation
- Provisional review
- Ballot challenges
- Internal audit and reviews
- State Board audits

ELECTION OVERVIEW

The canvass is the entire process of determining that the votes have been counted and tabulated correctly, culminating in the authentication of the official election results

Canvass

- The State Board canvasses contests under the State Board's jurisdiction: national offices, statewide offices, multicounty district offices (including General Assembly seats), judicial offices, district attorneys, and multicounty referenda
- The State Board authenticates the vote counts in all contests
- Certificates of Election are issued 6 days after canvass, unless there is a recount or protest pending, or if a candidate has failed to file their campaign finance statements

THREE AUDIT REPORTS

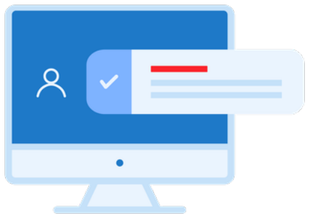
The State Board, in coordination with the county boards of elections, conducts three different audits of the election. Each audit serves a different purpose.



The VOTER HISTORY AUDIT compares the number of persons who completed an ATV/application with the number of physical ballots cast



The HAND COUNT SAMPLE AUDIT checks the accuracy of the voting equipment across the state by comparing hand-count results to the machine counts



The VOTER ELIGIBILITY AUDIT identifies early or absentee ballots that are potentially ineligible because the voter died, was serving a felony sentence, voted more than once, or had their registration removed or denied

AUDIT REPORTS

This audit is designed to identify significant discrepancies, which could be a sign of election fraud, such as ballot stuffing, fraudulent manual entries, or tampering with media cards. It can also identify certain ballot coding errors.

Voter History Audit

- This process involves assigning voter history to voters who cast ballots and reconciling that number with physical ballots cast, with explanations required for any discrepancies.
- 33 counties’ voter histories and ballots cast matched exactly.
- 46 counties had minor differences of 3 ballots or fewer.
- 21 counties had 4 or more differences, with 5 of them having a difference of 10 or more ballots.
- The absolute combined value of all variances for all counties is 358 ballots or, on average, less than 4 ballots per county .

AUDIT REPORTS

This audit checks the accuracy of the voting equipment by comparing the hand-count results to the machine counts.

Hand Count Sample Audit

- This process involves state elections officials randomly selecting a statistically significant number of precincts or absentee/early voting groupings for each county board of elections to conduct hand-to-eye counts of one contest on all ballots in those precincts or groupings.
- Of the 200 samples audited, 18 had differences between machine counts and human hand-eye counts, with 16 having differences of 3 votes or fewer, mostly caused by human error.
- In 182 of 200 samples, the hand and machine counts were the same.

AUDIT REPORTS

This audit identifies early voting or absentee ballots cast by potentially ineligible voters, which may then be removed from the count at the county canvass if the challenge to the ballot is upheld.

Voter Eligibility Audit

- This process involves identifying voters with pending voter history who are flagged as potentially ineligible because the voter died, was serving a felony sentence, voted more than once, or had their registration removed or denied based on the voter registration records in the state and records and information from official government sources.
- The data showed a possible 447 ineligible early voting or absentee ballots.
- 274 voters were challenged and their ballot removed
- 173 voters were not challenged because they were still eligible or the records did not match, with a small number not challenged due to administrative error.