

Constitution and Elections

See full summary documents for additional detail

Various Criminal and Election Law Changes.

SL 2024-16 (H237)

Section 5 of S.L. 2024-16, effective June 27, 2024, and applicable to contributions made or received on or after that date, restructures the reporting requirements for contributions made to candidate campaign committees and political committees in North Carolina by federal political committees and other political organizations. This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 21, 2024, and the veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 27, 2024.

Constitutional Amendment/Citizens-Only Voting.

SL 2024-18 (H1074)

S.L. 2024-18 places a proposed amendment to the North Carolina Constitution revising the language regarding citizenship and the eligibility to vote on the November 5, 2024, ballot. If approved by the voters in that election, the amendment to the North Carolina Constitution will become effective upon certification of the results of the referendum.

SHALOM (Standing Up to Hate and Leading with Our Moral Principles) Act.

SL 2024-27 (H942)

S.L. 2024-27 adopts a definition of antisemitism as a tool and guide for recognizing, combating, tracking, and reporting antisemitic incidents in North Carolina, and informing related training and education.

This act became effective July 1, 2024.

Residency Districts for Certain Sanitary Boards – Various General Local Laws.

SL 2024-38 (H593), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2024-38 requires certain sanitary districts to establish residency districts for use in their board elections. This section became effective July 8, 2024, and applies to elections held in 2025 and thereafter.

Allow Mixed Beverage Permittees to Purchase Spirituous Liquor from Any Designated ABC Store in the Same County and Modify Eligibility for Small Towns to Hold Alcohol Elections – ABC Omnibus 2023-24.

SL 2024-41 (S527), Sec. 6

Section 6 of S.L. 2024-41 does all of the following:

- Allows a mixed beverage permittee to purchase spirituous liquor from any ABC board operating in the same county as the permittee. The purchase still must be made at an ABC store the board has designated to serve mixed beverages permittees.
- Allows a city to hold a malt beverage or unfortified wine election if it has a population of at least 400 according to the most recent census.
- Allows a city to hold a mixed beverage election if it has at least 200 registered voters.

This section is retroactively effective November 1, 2022, and applies to elections conducted on or after that date.

Election Modifications – The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024.

SL 2024-51 (H149), Secs. 9.1 and 9.2

Effective October 10, 2024, for the 2024 election only, S.L. 2024-51 modified certain election administration laws as follows:

- Only in the specified counties impacted by the disaster caused by Hurricane Helene and its aftermath, Section 9.1 authorized flexibility in appointing election officials, establishing voting places, appointing poll observers, the return of voted absentee ballots, and the functions of bipartisan assistance teams.
- Statewide, Section 9.2 imposed certain requirements on the State Board of Elections, including establishing a uniform process for transmitting certain voted absentee ballots to the appropriate county board of elections and establishing a uniform process for bipartisan assistance teams providing assistance to voters.
- The State Board of Elections is required to report to the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee as to efforts made to implement these provisions no later than April 15, 2025.

Section 6.1(a) of S.L. 2024-51 appropriated \$5 million to the State Board of Elections to carry out the purposes of Sections 9.1 and 9.2 of S.L. 2024-51.

Repeal Various Superior Court Districts – Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes.

SL 2024-57 (S382), Section 2D.5

Section 2D.5 of S.L. 2024-57 repeals Superior Court District 10E in Wake County and Superior Court District 31D in Forsyth County.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on November 26, 2024, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on December 11, 2024. This section becomes effective on January 1, 2029.

Transfer of State Board of Elections to State Auditor – Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes.

SL 2024-57 (S382), Sec. 3A.1-3A.3

Sections 3A.1 through 3A.3 of S.L. 2024-57, effective July 1, 2025, administratively transfer the State Board of Elections to the Department of the State Auditor, with the State Auditor having appointment authority beginning in 2025 for all members of the State Board of Elections and the chair of each of the county boards of elections.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on November 26, 2024, and the veto was overridden by the General Assembly on December 11, 2024.

Various Election Changes – Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes.

SL 2024-57 (S382), Sec. 3A.4-3A.5

Sections 3A.4 and 3A.5 of S.L. 2024-57, effective January 1, 2025, do the following:

- Change the request deadline for absentee ballots.
- Specify a standard deadline for cure documentation for absentee ballots and provisional ballots and for the counting of such ballots properly cured.
- Require the meeting of county boards of elections on Election Day to be continuous until all absentee ballots received through the close of polls on Election Day have been counted.
- Authorize a political party headquarters building fund to use contributions for any legal action and allow political parties to use that fund to make unlimited donations to any existing legal defense fund.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on November 26, 2024, and the veto was overridden by the General Assembly on December 11, 2024.

Constitutional Amendment/Require Photo ID For All Voters.

SL 2024-58 (S921)

S.L. 2024-58 places a proposed amendment to the North Carolina Constitution on the November 3, 2026, ballot to revise the language regarding the requirement to present photo identification prior to voting. If approved by the voters in the November 2026 election, the amendment to the North Carolina Constitution will become effective upon certification of the results of the referendum.