BRUNSWICK COUNTY

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS** 

# ELECTION EDUCATION eries

# INTRODUCTION TO ELECTIONS



# WELCOME!

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Today's seminar topic will cover:

- State and County Board of Elections
- Brunswick County Board of Elections Staff
- Political Parties in North Carolina
- Types of Elections
- Brunswick County Municipalities and Districts
- Voter Eligibility
- How to Access Voter Information
- Ways to Vote in Brunswick County
- Upcoming Events



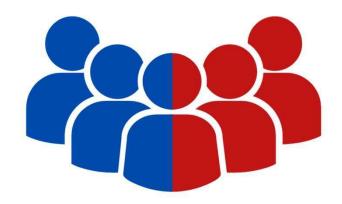
# STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

We are governed by the State Board of Elections

- 5-member bi-partisan board
- Appointed by the Governor
  - Recommendations from parties
    - 4 nominees
    - 4 year term
- Majority is the same party as Governor





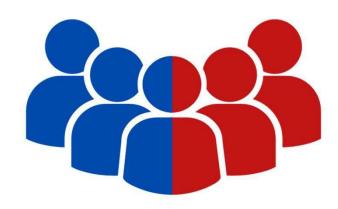
### COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### 100 counties in North Carolina

- 5-member bi-partisan board
- Appointed by the State Board of Elections
  - Recommendations from parties
    - Nominate up to 3 registered voters
  - 2 members of each party chosen
- Chair is appointed by the Governor
  - Majority is the same party as Governor





### COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS



Our county board is appointed to two-year terms in odd-numbered years

### Current Board:

- Boyd Williamson (DEM) Chair
- Stuart Smith (REP) Secretary
- Paula Clarity (DEM) Member
- Edward E. Lewis (DEM) Member
- Randy Pelton (REP) Member



July 2021 Swearing in of County Board





Each county has an Elections Director and various staff

- Elections Director is appointed by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections
  - Based on nomination from County Board of Elections
- Staff size is determined by individual county needs
  - Brunswick County has 6 Full-time staff
  - Various part-time and temporary staff members



BRUNSWICK COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Sara Lavere, Elections Director

- 17 years with Brunswick County Board of Elections
  - Administers elections in Brunswick County
  - Oversees staff and operations
  - Public information officer
  - Keeps county board informed
  - Ensures compliance with state laws and legislation







### Melissa Monroe, Deputy Director

- 9 years with Brunswick County Board of Elections
  - In-person voting specialist
  - Ensures polling locations follow procedures
  - Resource for general public
  - Handles inquiries when Executive Director is unavailable
  - Oversees Poll Worker training program





BRUNSWICK COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Adrianne Rushton, Assistant Deputy Director

- 8 years with Brunswick County Board of Elections
  - Absentee by mail specialist
  - Candidate filing
  - Campaign finance
    - County level committees
  - Oversees MAT program





BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Butch Johnson, Elections Computer Technician

- 7 years with Brunswick County Board of Elections
  - Oversees all voting systems
    - Tabulator, ADA machines, ballots
  - Logic and Accuracy testing
  - Manages poll books
  - Geo-coding







Ryan Childress, Election Logistics Specialist

- 3 years with Brunswick County Board of Elections
  - Manages warehouse and retention of election supplies
  - Polling locations
    - Space, parking, curbside, buffer zones
  - Distribution of precinct supplies
  - Oversees A/V





BRUNSWICK COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Cathy Newland, Registration Clerk

- 2 years with Brunswick County Board of Elections
  - First point of contact
  - Oversees voter rolls
  - Manages all aspects of voterregistration
  - List maintenance
    - Removing deceased and relocated voters



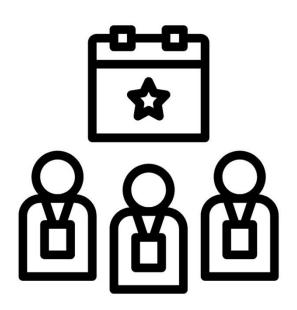


BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Part-time and Temporary Staff Members

- Regular part-time staff
  - Absentee by mail specialists
  - Poll worker training
  - Outreach
- Seasonal temporary staff
  - Office coverage
  - Poll Workers





# NC POLITICAL PARTIES

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

There are four political parties recognized in North Carolina:

**DEMOCRATIC** 

GREEN

LIBERTARIAN

REPUBLICAN









- Voters are not required to choose a party affiliation
  - In NC: Unaffiliated
- Political affiliation determines ballot received in a Primary only
  - In General elections, voters can vote for any candidate regardless of party
  - In Brunswick County, Municipals are non-partisan



# TYPES OF ELECTIONS

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

There are two main types of elections: Statewide and Municipal

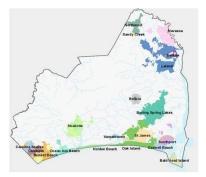
### Statewide Elections

- Occur in even numbered years, every two years
- Include a Primary and General election
- National, state and county offices

### Municipal Elections

- Occur every two years
  - Brunswick County odd years
- To elect governing officials of cities, towns, villages and specialjurisdictions







# PRIMARY ELECTION

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A Primary Election is an election to select the candidates from each party that will run for public office – no one is elected to office in a Primary election

- In NC, the Primary Election occurs on the Tuesday following the first Monday in March
- Process by which voters indicate their preference for their party's candidate
- North Carolina: Partially Closed Primary State
  - Voters affiliated with a party are required to vote party of record ballot
  - Unaffiliated voters can choose which party ballot to vote on (Dem, Lib or Rep)
  - Green party has not opened its primaries to unaffiliated voters
- All registered voters are eligible to vote if their party has a primary
  - Provided voters meet state residency and registration requirements



# **GENERAL ELECTION**

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A General Election is held to select candidates for various federal, state and county offices

- Election occurs on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November
- Voters are selecting candidates for the offices that are up for election on the ballot
  - Voters will see all eligible candidates
  - Voters may vote for any candidate on the ballot
- All registered voters are eligible to vote
  - Provided voters meet state residency and registration requirements



### MUNICIPAL ELECTION

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Municipal Elections are held to elect governing officials of cities, towns, villages and special jurisdictions

- In Brunswick County, Election occurs on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November
  - This year is a Municipal year. Election Date: Tuesday, November 7th
- Only residents of the municipality may vote in the election
  - Must have lived in the municipality for at least 30 days prior to the election
- Voters in unincorporated areas are not eligible to vote
  - Part of a jurisdiction that has a ballot item
  - Use voter look up to see jurisdiction and sample ballots
- Brunswick County Municipals are non-partisan



### **BRUNSWICK COUNTY DISTRICTS**

BRUNSWICK COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

On a county level, we conduct elections for 19 municipalities, 2 sanitary districts, and a hospital district

- Municipalities
  - Bald Head Island, Belville, BSL, Bolivia, Calabash, Carolina Shores, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Leland, Navassa, Northwest, Oak Island, OIB, Sandy Creek, Shallotte, Southport, St. James, Sunset Beach and Varnamtown
- Sanitary districts
  - H2Go Brunswick Regional Water and Sewer, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District
- Hospital district
  - Dosher Hospital Board of Trustees
- We have 27 precincts in our county
  - Assigned polling locations not all precincts are open in Municipal elections



### **BRUNSWICK COUNTY DISTRICTS**

BRUNSWICK COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

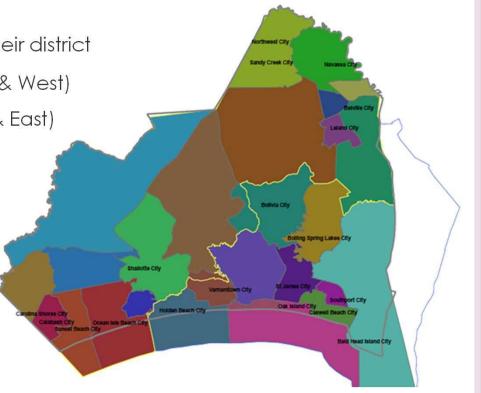
On a state level, Brunswick County has 2 districts, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> that elect our North Carolina House of Representatives

Voters can only vote for the representative in heir district

17th district is above the yellow line (Nort 1 & West)

19th district is below the yellow line (South & East)

- Two precincts split between the districts
  - Bolivia
  - Secession 1





### **VOTER ELIGIBILITY**

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

To vote in North Carolina, you must be a US citizen, turn 18 on or before Election Day and meet residency and registration requirements

- Brunswick County
  - Reside at least 30 days prior to the election
    - Can only register in one place
  - Registration deadline of 25 days prior to the election
    - Voters who miss this deadline can do Same Day Registration during Early Voting
  - Youth options for Pre-registration
    - As young as 16 years old
    - Receive a confirmation of pre-registration letter
    - Receive a registration card once eligible to vote
    - 17-year-olds can vote in a Primary if they will be 18 by General Election day



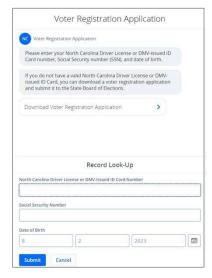
### MACCESSING VOTER INFORMATION

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Both the NC State Board of Elections and your Brunswick County Board of Elections provide detailed websites with voter specific information

- State: <a href="https://www.ncsbe.gov/">https://www.ncsbe.gov/</a>
- County: <u>h ttps://brunswickncvotes.gov/</u>
- New Voters
  - Can register through the DMV: on-site or online
  - Can download, print and mail in an application
  - Can come in person to county BOE
  - Social Service Agencies: DSS, Veterans and Disability Services



Indicate whether you are qualified	d to vote or preregister to vote b	used on U.S. citize	nship and age.		
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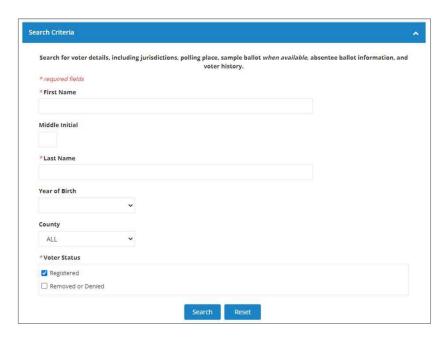


### ACCESSING VOTER INFORMATION



Registered voters have options to make updates, locate polling location, check jurisdiction and find sample ballots

- Check registration: <a href="https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/">https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/</a>
  - Provides residential address
  - Shows jurisdictions
  - Polling location
  - Sample ballot
  - Voter history
- Address, party or name changes
  - On voter registration card
  - Application by mail or in-person
  - Online through DMV: address and party only





# WAYS TO VOTE



Registered voters have three options to cast their vote in Brunswick County

Absentee by mail



One-stop early voting



In-person on Election Day



- Voters with disabilities or those who need/want assistance
  - Curbside voting
  - Verity Touch
  - MAT Multipartisan Assistance Team
  - Voter assistance



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

We will be hosting several other educational seminars in the future as well as our first Election Expo!

Upcoming Election Education Seminars:

Wed 4/26 Voter Registration

Thur 6/15 Accessible Voting

Wed 7/12 Absentee by Mail Voting

Wed 8/16 Voting Equipment

Thur 9/21 Prepare to Vote

Thur 12/7 Certifying an Election

1st Annual ELECTION EXPO: Thursday, May 18th Open House from 1 – 3pm and 5:30 – 7:30pm















# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Poll Workers are essential to ensuring the success of elections

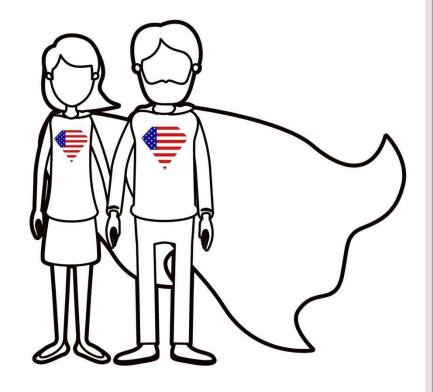
### Poll Worker Orientations:

Wed, April 19<sup>th</sup> 10 AM Thu, May 25<sup>th</sup> 2 PM Wed, June 28<sup>th</sup> 10 AM Wed, July 26<sup>th</sup> 2 PM Thu, August 24<sup>th</sup> 10 AM

### Orientations are in-person:

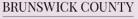
Commissioners' Chambers

David Sandifer Administration Building
30 Government Center Drive, Bolivia





# QUESTIONS?



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thank you for joining us!

**Brunswick County Board of Elections** 

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Phone: 910-253-2620

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Website: BrunswickNCVotes.com

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