

NORTH CAROLINA VOTER REGISTRATION, TURNOUT, AND ELECTION LAW CHANGES, 1980-2012

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- 1980** 4,222,654 total voting age population
2,774,844 registered voters
1,855,833 vote
- Reagan vs. Carter for president
Hunt vs. Lake for governor
East vs. Morgan for US Senate*
- 43.9% of voting age population votes**
66.9% of registered voters vote
- 1982** **30.1% of voting age population votes**
49.7% of registered voters vote
- 1983** *Registration to vote at some driver license offices, public libraries*
- 1984** 4,585,788 estimated voting age population
3,270,933 registered voters
2,239,051 vote
- Reagan vs. Mondale for president
Martin vs. Edmisten for governor
Helms vs. Hunt for US Senate*
- 48.8% of voting age population votes**
68.5% of registered voters vote
- 1986** *Sanford vs. Broyhill for US Senate*
- 33.6% of voting age population votes**
51.6% of registered voters vote
- 1987** *Political parties allowed to open primaries to unaffiliated voters*
- 1988** 4,887,358 estimated voting age population
3,432,042 registered voters
2,134,370 vote
- Bush vs. Dukakis for president
Martin vs. Jordan for governor*
- 43.7% of voting age population votes**
62.2% of registered voters vote

- 1990** *Helms vs. Gantt for US Senate*
- 41.2% of voting age population votes**
61.8% of registered voters vote
- 1992** 5,217,688 estimated voting age population
3,817,380 registered voters
2,611,850 vote
- Clinton vs. Bush for president*
Hunt vs. Gardner for governor
Faircloth vs. Sanford for US Senate
- Voter registration open one week longer*
- 50.1% of voting age population votes**
68.4% of registered voters vote
- 1994** **28.2% of voting age population votes**
42.2% of registered voters vote
- 1995** *Registration by mail allowed*
All driver license examiners authorized to register voters
DMV forms include voter registration application
Registration at public assistance, unemployment offices
Purging of voter lists limited
- 1996** 5,662,866 estimated voting age population
4,318,008 registered voters
2,515,807 vote
- Clinton vs. Dole for president*
Hunt vs. Hayes for governor
Helms vs. Gantt for US Senate
- 44.4% of voting age population votes**
58.3% of registered voters vote
- 1998** *Edwards vs. Faircloth for US Senate*
- 34.1% of voting age population votes**
42.8% of registered voters vote
- 2000** 6,082,722 total voting age population
5,122,123 registered voters
3,015,964 vote
- Bush vs. Gore for president*
Easley vs. Vinroot for governor
- 49.6% of voting age population votes**
58.9% of registered voters vote
- 2001** *No-excuse one-stop absentee voting (“early voting”) allowed for all elections*
One-stop voting extended to Saturday before election

2002 *Dole vs. Bowles for US Senate*

37.4% of voting age population votes
46.6% of registered voters vote

2004 6,469,836 estimated voting age population
5,519,992 registered voters
3,551,675 vote

Bush vs. Kerry for president
Easley vs. Ballentine for governor
Burr vs. Bowles for US Senate

54.9% of voting age population votes
64.3% of registered voters vote

2005 *Electronic registration allowed*
Provisional voting extended to all voters
Statewide computerized registration list

2006 **30.4% of voting age population votes**
36.6% of registered voters vote

2007 *Registering to vote and voting allowed during one-stop voting period*

2008 6,917,720 estimated voting age population
5,995,514 registered voters
4,354,052 vote

Obama vs. McCain for president
Perdue vs. McCrory for governor
Hagan vs. Dole for US Senate

62.9% of voting age population votes
72.6% of registered voters vote

2010 *Burr vs. Marshall for US Senate*

37.9% of voting age population votes
43.6% of registered voters vote

2012 7,351,323 estimated voting age population
6,639,131 registered voters
4,542,488 vote

Obama vs. Romney for president
McCrory vs. Dalton for governor

61.8% of voting age population votes
68.4% of registered voters vote