ABSENTEE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

NORTH CAROLINA
CRAVEN COUNTY

CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Physical Address
406 CRAVEN STREET
NEW BERN, NC 28560

Mailing Address
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NEW BERN, NC 28560

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Your request for an absentee ballot for the **May 6, 2014 Statewide Primary** has been received and processed. Along with these *Absentee Voting Instructions*, this packet contains your blank Official Ballot and an *Absentee Application and Certificate* (on the back of the ballot container-return envelope). A list of *Unlawful Acts Related to Voter Registration and Voting* can be found on the back of these instructions. Please read all instructions carefully before marking and submitting your ballot. You should share these instructions with your absentee witnesses. Failure to complete a necessary step may result in your ballot not being counted.

Step 1 **GATHER WITNESSES** – Before voting your ballot, you must have two witnesses present who are at least 18 years old. As an alternative, you may have only one witness present, *if* the witness is a notary-public. The witnesses must respect the secrecy of the ballot and the privacy of the absentee voter at all times. The following persons may not serve as a witness to a voter in marking an absentee ballot:

- A person who is a candidate for nomination or election in the primary or election in which the voter is voting absentee, unless the voter is the candidate's near relative or legal guardian. (G.S. § 163-237(b1))
- An owner, manager, director, employee, or other person affiliated with a hospital, clinic, nursing home or rest home where the voter is a patient, *unless* the person is a near relative or legal guardian of the patient. (G.S. § 163-226.3(a)(4))

Near relatives* may serve as your absentee witnesses. **A "near relative" is a spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, stepchild or legal guardian.*

Step 2 **MARK BALLOT** – In the presence of your witnesses and using a black ballpoint pen, mark your ballot, or instruct a person in your presence to mark it according to your instructions.

Step 3 **PLACE MARKED BALLOT IN ENVELOPE** – In the presence of your witnesses, place the voted ballot in the container-return envelope provided and seal it securely. Do **not** place any other document or another person's ballot in the envelope.

Step 4 **COMPLETE THE APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATE** – In the presence of your witnesses, sign the *Voter's Certification* on the *Absentee Application and Certificate* that is on the back of the container-return envelope.

- If you were assisted in marking your ballot, the person assisting you should sign and complete the *Certification of Person Assisting Voter*.
- If using two witnesses, both witnesses must sign and complete the *Witnesses' Certification*.
- Alternatively, if using a notary-witness, only one witness signature is required. The notary-witness must sign and complete the *Alternative Notary-Witness Certification*. Remember, the notary-witness is not just certifying your signature, but must have witnessed you marking your ballot, sealing the ballot in the envelope, and signing the *Voter's Certification*.

Important: If the *Absentee Application and Certificate* is returned without all of the proper signatures, the ballot will not be counted.

Step 5 **OPTIONAL SIGNATURES** – When voting a ballot for a primary election or an election that will allow a runoff election, complete and sign the *Second Primary or Runoff Request* if you would like to receive a ballot for any second primary or runoff election, if one is called. Complete and sign the *Annual Request For Sickness/Physical Disability only* if you have a sickness or physical disability that is expected to last the remainder of the calendar year and you would like to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all elections in which you are eligible to participate during the calendar year in which your request is received.

Step 6 **RETURN THE BALLOT** – Mail your voted ballot in the signed container-return envelope with proper postage affixed. If you need to send the ballot using a service other than the United States Postal Service, our physical delivery address is noted above. You may choose to deliver your voted ballot in person to our office. Your voted ballot may be delivered only by you or a near relative. Once your voted ballot has been returned to our office, you have completed the act of voting. You may not later withdraw your ballot.

Deadline to Return Your Voted Ballot:

The county board of elections must receive your voted ballot by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day **(May 6, 2014)**. If mailed, your ballot will be timely only if the envelope is postmarked on or before **May 6, 2014** and received by **May 9, 2014**. If you are mailing your ballot on or near the deadline, you should ensure that your container-return envelope is postmarked by a postal official. If your ballot is not postmarked by Election Day and received by **May 9, 2014**, it will not be counted.

Election Day	May 6, 2014
Ballot Return Deadline	May 6, 2014 (5:00 p.m.)
Postage Required:	$X.XX

To check the status of your absentee ballot, call our office or visit www.NCSBE.gov.

◀ SEE OTHER SIDE ▶

§ 163-275. Certain acts declared felonies.

Any person who shall, in connection with any primary, general or special election held in this State, do any of the acts or things declared in this section to be unlawful, shall be guilty of a Class I felony. It shall be unlawful:

(1) For any person fraudulently to cause his name to be placed upon the registration books of more than one election precinct or fraudulently to cause or procure his name or that of any other person to be placed upon the registration books in any precinct when such registration in that precinct does not qualify such person to vote legally therein, or to impersonate falsely another registered voter for the purpose of voting in the stead of such other voter;

(2) For any person to give or promise or request or accept at any time, before or after any such primary or election, any money, property or other thing of value whatsoever in return for the vote of any elector;

(3) For any person who is an election officer, a member of an election board or other officer charged with any duty with respect to any primary or election, knowingly to make any false or fraudulent entry on any election book or any false or fraudulent returns, or knowingly to make or cause to be made any false statement on any ballot, or to do any fraudulent act or knowingly and fraudulently omit to do any act or make any report legally required of such person;

(4) For any person knowingly to swear falsely with respect to any matter pertaining to any primary or election;

(5) For any person convicted of a crime which excludes him from the right of suffrage, to vote at any primary or election without having been restored to the right of citizenship in due course and by the method provided by law;

(6) For any person to take corruptly the oath prescribed for voters;

(7) For any person with intent to commit a fraud to register or vote at more than one precinct or more than one time, or to induce another to do so, in the same primary or election, or to vote illegally at any primary or election;

(8) For any chief judge or any clerk or copyist to make any entry or copy with intent to commit a fraud;

(9) For any election official or other officer or person to make, certify, deliver or transmit any false returns of any primary or election, or to make any erasure, alteration, or conceal or destroy any election ballot, book, record, return or process with intent to commit a fraud;

(10) For any person to assault any chief judge, judge of election or other election officer while in the discharge of his duty in the registration of voters or in conducting any primary or election;

(11) For any person, by threats, menaces or in any other manner, to intimidate or attempt to intimidate any chief judge, judge of election or other election officer in the discharge of his duties in the registration of voters or in conducting any primary or election;

(12) For any chief judge, judge of election, member of a board of elections, assistant, marker, or other election official, directly or indirectly, to seek, receive or accept money or the promise of money, the promise of office, or other reward or compensation from a candidate in any primary or election or from any source other than such compensation as may be provided by law for his services;

(13) For any person falsely to make or present any certificate or other paper to qualify any person fraudulently as a voter, or to attempt thereby to secure to any person the privilege of voting, including declarations made under this Chapter, G.S. 20-37. 7(d)(5), 20-37.7(d)(6), 130A-93.1(c), and 161-10(a)(8);

(14) For any officer to register voters and any other individual to knowingly and willfully receive, complete, or sign an application to register from any voter contrary to the provisions of G.S. 163 82.4; or

(15) Reserved.

(16) For any person falsely to make the certificate provided by G.S. 163 229(b)(2) or G.S. 163 250(a).

(17) For any person, directly or indirectly, to misrepresent the law to the public through mass mailing or any other means of communication where the intent and the effect is to intimidate or discourage potential voters from exercising their lawful right to vote.

(18) For any person, knowing that a person is not a citizen of the United States, to instruct or coerce that person to register to vote or to vote.

§ 163-226.3. Certain acts declared felonies.

(a) Any person who shall, in connection with absentee voting in any election held in this State, do any of the acts or things declared in this section to be unlawful, shall be guilty of a Class I felony. It shall be unlawful:

(1) For any person except the voter's near relative or the voter's verifiable legal guardian to assist the voter to vote an absentee ballot when the voter is voting an absentee ballot other than under the procedure described in G.S. 163 227.2; provided that if there is not a near relative or legal guardian available to assist the voter, the voter may request some other person to give assistance;

(2) For any person to assist a voter to vote an absentee ballot under the absentee voting procedure authorized by G.S. 163 227.2 except as provided in that section;

(3) For a voter who votes an absentee ballot under the procedures authorized by G.S. 163 227.2 to vote that voter's absentee ballot outside of the voting booth or private room provided to the voter for that purpose in or adjacent to the office of the county board of elections or at the additional site provided by G.S. 163 227.2(f1), or to receive assistance except as provided in G.S. 163 227.2;

(4) For any owner, manager, director, employee, or other person, other than the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to (i) make a written request pursuant to G.S. 163-230.1 or (ii) an application or certificate as a witness, on behalf of a registered voter, who is a patient in any hospital, clinic, nursing home or rest home in this State or for any owner, manager, director, employee, or other person other than the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to mark the voter's absentee ballot or assist such a voter in marking an absentee ballot. This subdivision does not apply to members, employees, or volunteers of the county board of elections, if those members, employees, or volunteers are working as part of a multipartisan team trained and authorized by the county board of elections to assist voters with absentee ballots. Each county board of elections shall train and authorize such teams, pursuant to procedures which shall be adopted by the State Board of Elections. If neither the voter's near relative nor a verifiable legal guardian is available to assist the voter, and a multipartisan team is not available to assist the voter within seven calendar days of a telephonic request to the county board of elections, the voter may obtain such assistance from any person other than (i) an owner, manager, director, employee of the hospital, clinic, nursing home, or rest home in which the voter is a patient or resident; (ii) an individual who holds any elective office under the United States, this State, or any political subdivision of this State; (iii) an individual who is a candidate for nomination or election to such office; or (iv) an individual who holds any office in a State, congressional district, county, or precinct political party or organization, or who is a campaign manager or treasurer for any candidate or political party; provided that a delegate to a convention shall not be considered a party office. None of the persons listed in (i) through (iv) of this subdivision may sign the application or certificate as a witness for the patient.

(5) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 583, s. 8.

(6) For any person to take into that person's possession for delivery to a voter or for return to a county board of elections the absentee ballot of any voter, provided, however, that this prohibition shall not apply to a voter's near relative or the voter's verifiable legal guardian;

(7) Except as provided in subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this section, G.S. 163 231(a), G.S. 163 250(a), and G.S. 163 227.2(e), for any voter to permit another person to assist the voter in marking that voter's absentee ballot, to be in the voter's presence when a voter votes an absentee ballot, or to observe the voter mark that voter's absentee ballot.

(b) The State Board of Elections or a county board of elections, upon receipt of a sworn affidavit from any qualified voter of the State or the county, as the case may be, attesting to first person knowledge of any violation of subsection (a) of this section, shall transmit that affidavit to the appropriate district attorney, who shall investigate and prosecute any person violating subsection (a).