



## FACT SHEET

# Write-in Candidates 2017 Municipal Elections

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**1) When are write-in choices allowed on ballots?** ([NCGS §§ 163-165.6\(f\), 163-165.5\(5\), 163-182.1\(a\)\(6\)](#))

Write-in choices are allowed on ballots for general elections, nonpartisan or municipal elections; they are not permitted during primary elections or in voting for referenda.

There is no petition process to qualify as a write-in candidate for a nonpartisan election or a municipal election, whether partisan or nonpartisan. The option to write in a candidate is automatically included on the ballot for municipal contests.

If there is a write-in space on the ballot, voters may write in whatever name they wish. However, in contests requiring a person to qualify via petition, write in votes are counted only for qualified write-in candidates.

A qualified write-in candidate's name will be listed in the official, final abstract of the election results, which is kept by the state for official and historical purposes.

**2) How does a person become qualified as a write-in candidate?**

([NCGS § 163-282](#)) (NC Constitution Art. VI § 8)

- A person must be a resident of the NC County and municipality of the office sought no less than 30 days before an election.
- A person must be registered by the voter registration deadline (25 days before an election) or by the close of the One-Stop Early Voting Same Day registration period (usually 1 pm the Saturday before an election).
- No person shall be entitled to reside in more than one city or town at the same time.

**3) Is there a filing fee to run as a write-in candidate?**

No.

**4) When is the election?** ([NCGS § 163-279](#))

*City of New Bern*

For the City of New Bern which conducts elections on a nonpartisan and runoff election method the election shall be held on the fourth Tuesday before the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and the runoff election, if required, shall be held on Tuesday after

the first Monday in November.

City of New Bern election is Tuesday, October 10, 2017 and if there is a runoff required, the runoff election will be Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

***Town of Bridgeton, Town of Cove City, Town of Dover, City of Havelock, Town of River Bend, Town of Trent Woods, Town of Vanceboro, and First Craven Sanitary District***

All other municipalities, except City of New Bern, conduct elections on a nonpartisan plurality method the elections shall be the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 2017, the municipal elections (except Town of Cove City and Town of Vanceboro) will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

**5) What are the campaign reporting requirements? ([NCGS §163-278.9](#))**

The Campaign Reporting Act requires financial disclosure of all political activities. Reports are filed with the appropriate board of elections. The time of filing of these reports, and the types of reports will vary by the type of campaign. Every candidate is responsible for compliance with campaign reporting laws. The most recent Candidate Campaign Finance Manual is available online on the [State Board of Elections' website](#) and clicking "Campaign Finance."

The law requires that the treasurer of every campaign committee receives training in handling campaign finance reports and law. This can be accomplished online or in-person at numerous training sessions offered by the State Board of Elections.

**IMPORTANT: An organizational report must be filed with the appropriate elections office within ten days of becoming a candidate.** The term "candidate" means any individual who, with respect to any public office, "has taken positive action for the purpose of bringing about that individual's nomination, retention, or election to public office." G.S. § 163-278.6(4). Examples of positive action include, but are not limited to filing a notice of candidacy, filing a notice to be retained, or a petition requesting to be a candidate; being certified as a nominee of a political party for a vacancy; otherwise qualifying as a candidate in a manner authorized by law; making a public announcement of a definite intent to run for public office in a particular election; or receiving funds or making payments or giving the consent for anyone else to receive funds or transfer anything of value for the purpose of bringing about that individual's nomination or election to office. Blank reporting forms are available [here](#). The office of the State Board of Elections and your local County Board of Elections are also available to help.