

**Summary of information from the presentation given to St Peter Catholic Church members by Mr. Michael Dickerson, Director of Mecklenburg County Board of Elections.**

Voters have a choice of how to vote – Early voting, Absentee Ballot, or In Person on Election Day. The following is a message to North Carolina voters from Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections: It is illegal to vote twice in an election.

**Absentee Ballots:**

- So far this cycle, Meck BOE has processed 72,000 absentee requests, and is working on 10,000 more.
- In 2018, at this point, they had received 26,000.
- They are expecting 150,000 to vote by mail in the county
- When they send out ballots on Sept. 4, they are expecting to send 80,000 to 100,000
- **The NC state BOE portal to request a ballot on line is at <https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov/app/home> You can download a request for an absentee ballot on the local BOE web site: [www.mecknc.gov/boe](http://www.mecknc.gov/boe)**
- BOE asks people to request ballots and send them in AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- **Your absentee ballot can be returned to the BOE or at any Early Voting site.**
- Witnesses to absentee ballots can be anybody: spouse, non-citizen, anyone
- Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Election Day but will be counted up to Nov. 6
- Allow 7 to 10 days when mailing it in. Mr. Dickerson says if there are any problems with a ballot, he is committed to contacting the voter and giving him/her a chance to fix it
- There will be some sort of barcode you can use to track your ballot and make sure it is received and counted.
- BOE will begin to meet on September 29<sup>th</sup> and then at various times throughout October to start approving ballots. Once ballots are verified they will be counted and the results placed on a thumb drive and locked in a vault. At 2:00 pm on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, those results will be the first returns loaded into the BOE software.

**Early Voting:**

- Early Voting: Oct 15, 2020 - Oct 31, 2020  
There will be 33 early voter sites, up from 22, in order to lessen lines.  
Find the One-Stop Sites in your County: [One-stop Site Lookup](#)  
**RELATED: [Bank of America Stadium will host early voters for 2020 election](#)**
- They are using several high school gymnasiums (possibly including Myers Park), Bank of America Stadium, Spectrum Center and Bojangles Coliseum to allow for lots of distance.
- At polling places, masks will be encouraged, there will be sneeze guards, and rubber gloves for poll workers, and one company has donated enough hand sanitizer for all sites. Each voter will receive a pen instead of an "I Voted" sticker, to use to sign his/her name. It will have a stylus on the end that can be used to make selections in the voting machine.
- People who are not registered can register during early voting.
- If you are in line when the polls are due to close, you will be able to vote.

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**Election Day Voting:**

- If you are in line at the time the polls are to close, you will be able to vote. If the polls are to close at 7:30 pm, you cannot join the line at 7:31 pm and expect to vote. The line is monitored by a poll worker about 10-15 minutes prior to the closing of the polls.
- Meck County BOE is prepared for voter intimidation and electioneering at the polls, and will call the police if necessary.

In 2016, 284,054 voted early  
166,342 voted on Election Day  
25,254 voted by mail

- There are 762,920 registered voters in Mecklenburg County, which has 10% of the state's population
- They are 54% white and 32% black
- Unaffiliated voters have been growing as a category
- As of August 20 more than 60,000 new voters have registered for this election cycle
- Another statistic you may find interesting is 44% of Mecklenburg County registered voters are Democrats; 34% are Unaffiliated; 22% are Republicans.