

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION CATAWBA COUNTY, NC

A general election for all qualified voters of Catawba County, NC will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020 in Catawba County to vote in the following contests: US President, US House of Representatives Districts 5 and 10, NC Governor, NC Lieutenant Governor, NC Auditor, NC Commissioner of Agriculture, NC Commissioner of Insurance, NC Commissioner of Labor, NC Secretary of State, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction, NC Treasurer, NC Supreme Court Chief Justice (Seat 1), NC Supreme Court Associate Justice (Seats 2 and 4), NC Court of Appeals (Seats 4, 5, 6, 7, and 13), NC State Senate District 42, NC House of Representatives Districts 89 and 96, NC District Court Judge District 25 (Seats 8, 9 and 10), Catawba County Board of Commissioners, Catawba County Register of Deeds. Two nonpartisan races include Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, and Catawba County Schools Board of Education.

In January 2020, the Catawba County Board of Elections Office moved to a new facility at 145 Government Drive, in Newton. The building is located south of the Justice Center below the parking deck.

In March 2020, precinct lines were redrawn affecting voters in three precincts. Sixteen-hundred one (1,601) voters in precinct 33 Springs now vote in Precinct 29 St. Stephens 2. Four hundred eighty-three (483) voters in Precinct 34 Startown and fifty-eight (58) voters in Precinct 40 West Newton now vote in Precinct 35 Sweetwater. Changes were also made to the lines for precincts 13 Greenmont and 17 Long View North; but, no voters were impacted by the changes. All affected voters were sent new voter registration cards in April. For a detailed list of the 2020 precinct changes, visit the Catawba County Board of Elections website: www.catawbacountync.gov/elections.

Absentee voting by mail is available. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made via the Absentee Request Portal on the State Board website (ncsbe.gov), or on an Absentee Request form (available on the Board of Elections website and at the county board of elections office). Requests must be received in the Catawba County Board of Elections office by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, October 27. Absentee voting by mail requires completion of an application on the ballot return envelope that must be witnessed by one qualified person. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Board of Elections by 5:00 PM on Election Day (ballots received by mail after this time will be timely if received within three business days and postmarked as of Election Day). Voters may receive assistance in voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice. If the voter lives in a facility such as a nursing home, and the voter's near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter or the facility can arrange to have the County Board of Elections schedule a visit by a Multipartisan Assistance Team to provide assistance and serve as witness.

One-Stop early voting opens 8:00 AM Thursday, October 15, concluding 3:00 PM Saturday, October 31. Hours of operation: Weekdays 8am-7:30pm, Saturdays 8am-3pm, Sundays 1pm-5pm. Catawba County voters may vote at any of the five one-stop locations:

- Newton Main Library (in lieu of office) – 115 West 'C' St, Newton
- Conover Station – 403 Conover Station SE, Conover
- Highland Recreation Center – 1451 8th St Dr NE, Hickory
- Southwest Library (Mountain View) – 2944 S NC 127 Hwy, Hickory
- Sherrills Ford Branch Library – 9154 Sherrills Ford Rd, Sherrills Ford

On the day of the election, Tuesday, November 3, polls will open at all 40 precincts from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. NC Law requires in-person voters to vote only at their assigned precinct's polling location on election day. Each one-stop site and election-day polling location will have a marked 50-foot buffer zone concerning electioneering. Social distancing will be observed at all One-Stop and election-day polling locations.

Commencing on September 29th (the fifth Tuesday before the election), the county board of elections will hold public meetings each Tuesday at 8:15 AM for the purpose of approving applications for absentee ballots.

Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by 5pm Friday, October 19, to be eligible to vote on election day. Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline may register and vote during one stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation showing proof of residency. Voters who fail to timely make a change in name or address in the county must update the information when presenting to vote, and may be required to vote a provisional ballot.

Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Registration and voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available at all polling locations for voters who are not physically able to enter voting sites.

A sample audit count of the results will be held Thursday, November 5th, 9:00 AM at the Catawba County Board of Elections Office. Canvass will be held at the elections office at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 13.

Anyone with questions about registration, polling places, early voting, absentee ballots, Multipartisan Assistance Team visits to facilities, or other election matters may call the Catawba County Board of Elections Office at **828-464-2424**. www.catawbacountync.gov/elections

Barry Cheney, Chairman
Catawba County Board of Elections
