

SBOE Policy Regarding Access to Public Records

The North Carolina State Board of Elections release of public records policy is to be as open as possible while protecting legal privacy and ensuring confidentiality, when required by law.

Voter Registration Records

Voter registration records, with limited exception, are public records in North Carolina. See [G.S. §132-1\(a\)](#) and [§163-82.10](#). The following voter registration data (as set out in [§163-82.10](#)) is collected by the county boards of elections and retained in the statewide database of registered voters and may be provided to any person upon request: voter's name, residence address within the county, mailing address, date of registration, party affiliation, voting history, voting districts, polling place assignment, voter identification number, race, ethnicity, gender, and other non-essential fields. Although dates of birth are also collected in the statewide voter registration database, a voter's date of birth is generally confidential and is not subject to public disclosure; however, voters' age is public record. Note that the only data required in order to register to vote are name, address, date of birth, the citizenship and age checkboxes, and the signature of the applicant attesting to his/her qualifications; thus, some optional fields may not be in a voter's record (e.g., telephone number). [In regards to the Statewide voter registration files, these are available on our FTP site at no cost. Contact Jacque Blaeske at \(919\) 715-4520 for more information on data on the FTP site.](#)

Normal Course of Business Documents

By State law, most documents prepared by the State Board of Elections and county boards of elections employees while performing work-related duties are, with some exceptions, public records. It is the intention of the State Board of Elections to be responsive to legal and legitimate public requests for information. If in response to a request, confidential data is commingled with producible data, there will be no costs charged to the requestor for the review of the data. The response to the data request may be delayed while a review to identify and redact confidential data is performed by the agency.

Statistics and Reports

Those documents that are routinely published, such as voter registration statistics, candidate and committee lists and election results, may be obtained from the [State Board of Elections website](#).

Records that require a formal request are:

- **Specialized reports** -- Any reports produced by the State Board of Elections office that are not routinely published (i.e., a list of white, female, voters over the age of 65 who voted in the November 2000 General Election) or otherwise made public can be obtained through a formal public information request. The State Board of Elections office shall provide this information as soon as practicable. Actual cost shall be charged for the cost of specialized reports.
- **Statewide voter registration files** -- Anyone can view basic voter records (excluding voter history) from the State Board of Elections website. The statewide database can be purchased on CD-ROM for \$25. Photocopies of specific documents from these files can be obtained at actual cost. County-specific reports must be requested from the county board of elections. Statewide or multi-county district reports can be obtained from the State Board of Elections.