



NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**SPECIAL ELECTION IN
DISTRICT 3
PAGE 1 OF 2**

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Who is a District 3 Voter?

Voters in Congressional District 3 reside in the following counties: Beaufort, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Greene, Hyde, Lenoir, Jones, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, part of Pitt (Pitt is split between District 3 and District 1) and Tyrrell.

- If you are a resident of Pitt County but unsure whether you are in District 1 or 3, you may [use this link](#) to look up your registration information, which will provide the number of your congressional district.
- For an explanation of the status of districts and redistricting efforts in North Carolina, please see [this link](#) to the North Carolina General Assembly's website page "[Redistricting](#)."

Why is there a Special Election in District 3?

The United States Representative for North Carolina's Third District, Congressman Walter B. Jones, passed away on February 10, 2019. The death of Congressman Jones created a vacancy in the congressional seat he held. By law, such a vacancy that occurs more than ten days prior to the end of the 2020 election filing period must be filled by the Governor through a "writ of election" ("When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies." [US. Const., art. I, § 2](#); Filling vacancy in United States House of Representatives [prev. § 163-13] text currently available online under [§ 163A-721](#)). By issuing a [writ of election](#), Governor Cooper set the dates for a primary, a second primary (if required) and the general election.

When is the Special Election in District 3?

Primary: **April 30**

Second Primary:* **July 9**

General Election:

- If no Second Primary: **July 9**
- In case of Second Primary: **September 10**
- *The candidate who receives the second highest number of votes may demand a second primary if no candidate receives more than 30 percent of the votes. The top two vote-getters would be on the ballot for the second primary.
- The greater the number of candidates of the same party in a primary, the more likely a second primary will be required.
- Determination of primary results; second primaries: [prev. § 163-111] currently available online under [§ 163A-984](#).



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Who is Running in the District 3 Primary?

Six Democratic candidates, seventeen Republican candidates, one Constitution Party candidate, and two Libertarian candidates filed to seek their respective parties' nominations to appear on the general ballot for U.S. House Seat 3. (See [this link](#) to view the candidate list)

A primary is only required when more than one candidate from a given party seeks to be the party's nominee for that office. Since only one Constitution Party candidate filed, there will be no primary for that party; the Constitution Party candidate will be placed on the ballot for the General Election. (*Candidates declared nominees without primary* [prev. § 163-110] text currently available online under [§ 163A-983](#)).

Since more than one candidate from the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties filed, there will be primaries for each of those parties according to the schedule above.

Who is Eligible to Vote in the District 3 Primary?

North Carolina has a semi-closed primary system. Under this system, persons who are affiliated with a political party are not permitted to "cross parties" by voting in the primary of another party.* However, unaffiliated voters may choose to participate in any one party's primary. For this contest, unaffiliated voters may choose to participate either in the Republican, or the Democratic, or the Libertarian primary.

- *By law the political party must have provided permission for the unaffiliated voter to participate in its primary no later than the first day of December preceding a primary. Voting by unaffiliated voter in party primary [prev. [§ 163-119](#)] text currently available online under
- *Right to participate or vote in a party primary* [prev. § 163-283] text currently available online under [§ 163A-1587](#).