

1 NOVEMBER OF AN EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR; AND TO EXPRESSLY
2 ALLOW ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 163-45 reads as rewritten:

5 "**§ 163-45. Observers; appointment.**

6 The ~~chairman~~chair of each political party in the county shall have the right to
7 designate two observers to attend each voting place at each primary and election and
8 such observers may, at the option of the designating party ~~chairman~~chair, be relieved
9 during the day of the primary or election after serving no less than four hours and
10 provided the list required by this section to be filed by each ~~chairman~~chair contains the
11 names of all persons authorized to represent such ~~chairman's~~chair's political party. Not
12 more than two observers from the same political party shall be permitted in the voting
13 enclosure at any time. This right shall not extend to the ~~chairman~~chair of a political
14 party during a primary unless that party is participating in the primary. In any election in
15 which an unaffiliated candidate is named on the ballot, the candidate or the candidate's
16 campaign manager shall have the right to appoint two observers for each voting place
17 consistent with the provisions specified herein. Persons appointed as observers must be
18 registered voters of the county for which appointed and must have good moral
19 character. No person who is a candidate on the ballot in a primary or election may serve
20 as an observer or runner in that primary or election. Observers shall take no oath of
21 office.

22 Individuals authorized to appoint observers must submit in writing to the chief judge
23 of each precinct a signed list of the observers appointed for that precinct. Individuals
24 authorized to appoint observers must, prior to 10:00 A.M. on the fifth day prior to any
25 primary or general election, submit in writing to the ~~chairman~~chair of the county board
26 of elections two signed copies of a list of observers appointed by them, designating the
27 precinct for which each observer is appointed. Before the opening of the voting place on
28 the day of a primary or general election, the ~~chairman~~chair shall deliver one copy of the
29 list to the chief judge for each affected precinct. ~~He~~The chair shall retain the other
30 copy. The ~~chairman~~chair, or the chief judge and judges for each affected precinct, may
31 for good cause reject any appointee and require that another be appointed. The names of
32 any persons appointed in place of those persons rejected shall be furnished in writing to
33 the chief judge of each affected precinct no later than the time for opening the voting
34 place on the day of any primary or general election, either by the ~~chairman~~chair of the
35 county board of elections or the person making the substitute appointment.

36 An observer shall do no electioneering at the voting place, and ~~he~~ shall in no manner
37 impede the voting process or interfere or communicate with or observe any voter in
38 casting ~~his~~a ballot, but, subject to these restrictions, the chief judge and judges of
39 elections shall permit ~~him~~the observer to make such observation and take such notes as
40 ~~he~~the observer may desire.

41 Whether or not the observer attends to the polls for the requisite time provided by
42 this section, each observer shall be entitled to obtain at times specified by the State
43 Board of Elections, but not less than three times during election day with the spacing
44 not less than one hour apart, a list of the persons who have voted in the precinct so far in

1 that election day. Counties that use an "authorization to vote document" instead of poll
2 books may comply with the requirement in the previous sentence by permitting each
3 observer to inspect election records so that the observer may create a list of persons who
4 have voted in the precinct so far that election day; each observer shall be entitled to
5 make the inspection at times specified by the State Board of Elections, but not less than
6 three times during election day with the spacing not less than one hour apart. Instead of
7 having an observer receive the voting list, the county party chair may send a runner to
8 do so. The runner may be any person named by the county party chair. That party chair
9 must notify the chair of the county board of elections or the board chair's designee of
10 the names of all runners to be used in each precinct before the runner goes to the
11 precinct. The runner may receive a voter list from the precinct on the same schedule as
12 an observer. Whether obtained by observer or runner, each party is entitled to only one
13 voter list at each of the scheduled times. No runner may enter the voting enclosure
14 except when necessary to announce that runner's presence. The runner must leave
15 immediately after being provided with the list."

16 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 163-166.3 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 163-166.3. Limited access to the voting enclosure.**

18 During the time allowed for voting in the voting place, only the following persons
19 may enter the voting enclosure:

- 20 (1) An election official.
- 21 (2) An observer appointed pursuant to G.S. 163-45.
- 22 (2a) A runner appointed pursuant to G.S. 163-45, but only to the extent
23 necessary to announce that runner's presence and to receive the voter
24 list as provided in G.S. 163-45.
- 25 (3) A person seeking to vote in that voting place on that day but only
26 while in the process of voting or seeking to vote.
- 27 (4) A voter in that precinct while entering or explaining a challenge
28 pursuant to G.S. 163-87 or G.S. 163-88.
- 29 (5) A person authorized under G.S. 163-166.8 to assist a voter but, except
30 as provided in subdivision (6) of this section, only while assisting that
31 voter.
- 32 (6) Minor children of the voter under the age of 18, or minor children
33 under the age of 18 in the care of the voter, but only while
34 accompanying the voter and while under the control of the voter.
- 35 (7) Persons conducting or participating in a simulated election within the
36 voting place or voting enclosure, if that simulated election is approved
37 by the county board of elections.
- 38 (8) Any other person determined by election officials to have an urgent
39 need to enter the voting enclosure but only to the extent necessary to
40 address that need."

41 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 163-165.10 reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 163-165.10. Adequacy of voting system for each precinct.**

43 The county board of elections shall make available for each precinct voting place an
44 adequate quantity of official ballots or ~~equipment so that all voters qualified to vote at~~

1 ~~the precinct may do so.~~ equipment. When the board of county commissioners has
2 decided to adopt and purchase or lease a voting system for voting places under the
3 provisions of G.S. 165-165.8, the board of county commissioners shall, as soon as
4 practical, provide for each of those voting places sufficient equipment of the approved
5 voting system in complete working order. If it is impractical to furnish each voting
6 place with the equipment of the approved voting system, that which has been obtained
7 may be placed in voting places chosen by the county board of elections. In that case, the
8 county board of elections shall choose the voting places and allocate the equipment in a
9 way that as nearly as practicable provides equal access to the voting system for each
10 voter. The county board of elections shall appoint as many voting system custodians as
11 may be necessary for the proper preparation of the system for each election and for its
12 maintenance, storage, and care. The Executive Director of the State Board of Elections
13 may permit a county board of elections to provide more than one type of voting system
14 in a precinct, but only upon a finding that doing so is necessary to comply with federal
15 or State law."

16 **SECTION 3.** Article 7A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended
17 by adding a new section to read:

18 **"§ 163-82.15A. Administrative change of registration when county line is adjusted.**

19 When a boundary between counties is changed by legislation, or adjusted by the
20 counties pursuant to G.S. 153A-18, the Executive Director of the State Board of
21 Elections shall direct the county boards of elections involved to administratively change
22 the voter registration of any voter whose residence the change or adjustment places in a
23 different county. The voter shall not be required to submit a new application to register.
24 The Executive Director shall prescribe a method of notifying the voter of the change of
25 county registration, the correct precinct, and other relevant information."

26 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 163-182.9(b)(4) reads as rewritten:

27 "(4) The timing for filing a protest shall be as follows:

- 28 a. If the protest concerns the manner in which votes were counted
29 or results tabulated, the protest shall be filed before the
30 beginning of the county board of election's canvass meeting.
- 31 b. If the protest concerns the manner in which votes were counted
32 or results tabulated and the protest states good cause for delay
33 in filing, the protest may be filed until ~~6:00~~ 5:00 P.M. on the
34 second day after the county board of elections has completed its
35 canvass and declared the results.
- 36 c. If the protest concerns an irregularity other than vote counting
37 or result tabulation, the protest shall be filed no later than ~~6:00~~
38 5:00 P.M. on the second day after the county board has
39 completed its canvass and declared the results.
- 40 d. If the protest concerns an irregularity on a matter other than
41 vote counting or result tabulation and the protest is filed before
42 election day, the protest proceedings shall be stayed, unless a
43 party defending against the protest moves otherwise, until after
44 election day if any one of the following conditions exists:

- 1 1. The ballot has been printed.
- 2 2. The voter registration deadline for that election has
- 3 passed.
- 4 3. Any of the proceedings will occur within 30 days before
- 5 election day."

6 **SECTION 5.(a)** G.S. 163-227.2(e) reads as rewritten:

7 "(e) The voter shall vote that voter's absentee ballot in a voting booth in the office
8 of the county board of elections, and the county board of elections shall provide a voting
9 booth for that purpose, provided however, that the county board of elections may in the
10 alternative provide a private room for the voter adjacent to the office of the board, in
11 which case the voter shall vote that voter's absentee ballot in that room. ~~If the voter~~
12 ~~needs assistance in getting to and from the voting booth and in preparing and marking~~
13 ~~that voter's ballots or if the voter is a blind voter, only a member of the county board of~~
14 ~~elections, the director of elections, an employee of the board of elections authorized by~~
15 ~~the board, a near relative of the voter or the voter's verifiable legal guardian shall be~~
16 ~~entitled to assist the voter. A voter at a one-stop site shall be entitled to the same~~
17 assistance as a voter at a voting place on election day under G.S. 163-166.8. The State
18 Board of Elections shall, where appropriate, adapt the rules it adopts under
19 G.S. 163-166.8 to one-stop voting."

20 **SECTION 5.(b)** G.S. 163-226.3(a) reads as rewritten:

21 "(a) Any person who shall, in connection with absentee voting in any election
22 held in this State, do any of the acts or things declared in this section to be unlawful,
23 shall be guilty of a Class I felony. It shall be unlawful:

- 24 (1) For any person except the voter's near relative or the voter's verifiable
25 legal guardian to assist the voter to vote an absentee ballot when the
26 voter is voting an absentee ballot other than under the procedure
27 described in G.S. 163-227.2; provided that if there is not a near relative
28 or legal guardian available to assist the voter, the voter may request
29 some other person to give assistance;
- 30 (2) For any person to assist a voter to vote an absentee ballot under the
31 absentee voting procedure authorized by G.S. 163-227.2 ~~except a~~
32 ~~member of the county board of elections, the director of elections, an~~
33 ~~employee of the board authorized by the board, the voter's near relative~~
34 ~~or the voter's verifiable legal guardian; as provided in that section;~~
- 35 (3) For a voter who votes an absentee ballot under the procedures
36 authorized by G.S. 163-227.2 to vote that voter's absentee ballot
37 outside of the voting booth or private room provided to the voter for
38 that purpose in or adjacent to the office of the county board of
39 elections or at the additional site provided by G.S. 163-227.2(f1), or to
40 receive assistance ~~in getting to and from the voting booth or private~~
41 ~~room and in preparing and marking that voter's ballots from any~~
42 ~~person other than a member of the county board of elections, the~~
43 ~~director of elections, an employee of the board of elections authorized~~

1 by the board, a near relative of the voter or the voter's verifiable legal
 2 guardian; except as provided in G.S. 163-227.2;

- 3 (4) For any owner, manager, director, employee, or other person, other
 4 than the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, to make a
 5 written request pursuant to G.S. 163-230.1 or an application on behalf
 6 of a registered voter who is a patient in any hospital, clinic, nursing
 7 home or rest home in this State or for any owner, manager, director,
 8 employee, or other person other than the voter's near relative or
 9 verifiable legal guardian, to mark the voter's absentee ballot or assist
 10 such a voter in marking an absentee ballot;
- 11 (5) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 583, s. 8.
- 12 (6) For any person to take into that person's possession for delivery to a
 13 voter or for return to a county board of elections the absentee ballot of
 14 any voter, provided, however, that this prohibition shall not apply to a
 15 voter's near relative or the voter's verifiable legal guardian;
- 16 (7) Except as provided in subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this section,
 17 G.S. 163-231(a), G.S. 163-250(a), and G.S. 163-227.2(e), for any voter
 18 to permit another person to assist the voter in marking that voter's
 19 absentee ballot, to be in the voter's presence when a voter votes an
 20 absentee ballot, or to observe the voter mark that voter's absentee
 21 ballot."

22 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 163-122(a) reads as rewritten:

23 "(a) Procedure for Having Name Printed on Ballot as Unaffiliated Candidate. –
 24 Any qualified voter who seeks to have ~~his~~that voter's name printed on the general
 25 election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate shall:

- 26 (1) If the office is a statewide office, file written petitions with the State
 27 Board of Elections supporting ~~his~~ candidacy for a specified office.
 28 These petitions must be filed with the State Board of Elections on or
 29 before 12:00 noon on the last Friday in June preceding the general
 30 election and must be signed by qualified voters of the State equal in
 31 number to two percent (2%) of the total number of ~~registered voters in~~
 32 ~~the State as reflected by the most recent statistical report issued by the~~
 33 ~~State Board of Elections.~~ voters who voted in the most recent general
 34 election for Governor. Also the petition must be signed by at least 200
 35 registered voters in each of four congressional districts in North
 36 Carolina. No later than 5:00 p.m. on the fifteenth day preceding the
 37 date the petitions are due to be filed with the State Board of Elections,
 38 each petition shall be presented to the ~~chairman~~chair of the board of
 39 elections of the county in which the signatures were obtained.
 40 Provided the petitions are timely submitted, the ~~chairman~~chair shall
 41 examine the names on the petition and place a check mark on the
 42 petition by the name of each signer who is qualified and registered to
 43 vote in ~~his~~that county and shall attach to the petition ~~his~~the
 44 petitioner's signed certificate. Said certificates shall state that the

1 signatures on the petition have been checked against the registration
2 records and shall indicate the number of signers to be qualified and
3 registered to vote in ~~his~~that county. The ~~chairman~~chair shall return
4 each petition, together with the certificate required in this section, to
5 the person who presented it ~~to him~~ for checking. Verification by the
6 ~~chairman~~chair of the county board of elections shall be completed
7 within two weeks from the date such petitions are presented."

8 **SECTION 7.(a)** Article 7A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is
9 amended by adding a new section to read:

10 **"§ 163-82.25A. Piece payment in voter registration drives prohibited.**

11 No person who employs or contracts with another person to register voters or assist
12 or encourage voters to fill out voter registration forms shall pay that person per voter
13 registration application completed. No person shall accept payment per voter
14 registration application. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor."

15 **SECTION 7.(b)** G.S. 163-274 is amended by adding a new subdivision to
16 read:

17 "(14) For any person to pay or accept payment per voter registration
18 application completed in violation of G.S. 163-82.25A."

19 **SECTION 8.(a)** G.S. 163-227.2 is amended by adding a new subsection to
20 read:

21 "(e2) A voter who has moved within the county more than 30 days before election
22 day but has not reported the move to the board of elections shall not be required on that
23 account to vote a provisional ballot at the one-stop site, as long as the one-stop site has
24 available all the information necessary to determine whether a voter is registered to vote
25 in the county and which ballot the voter is eligible to vote based on the voter's proper
26 residence address. The voter with that kind of unreported move shall be allowed to vote
27 the same kind of absentee ballot as other one-stop voters."

28 **SECTION 8.(b)** G.S. 163-166.11 is amended by adding a new subdivision
29 to read:

30 "(2a) A voter who has moved within the county more than 30 days before
31 election day but has not reported the move to the board of elections
32 shall not be required on that account to vote a provisional ballot at the
33 one-stop site, as long as the one-stop site has available all the
34 information necessary to determine whether a voter is registered to
35 vote in the county and which ballot the voter is eligible to vote based
36 on the voter's proper residence address. The voter with that kind of
37 unreported move shall be allowed to vote the same kind of absentee
38 ballot as other one-stop voters as provided in G.S. 163-227.2(e2)."

39 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 163-227.2(c) reads as rewritten:

40 "(c) If the application is properly filled out, the authorized member or employee
41 shall enter the voter's name in the register of absentee requests, applications, and ballots
42 issued; ~~shall furnish the voter with the instruction sheets called for by G.S. 163-229(c);~~
43 ~~and issued and~~ shall furnish the voter with the ballots to which the application for

absentee ballots applies. The voter thereupon shall vote in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

All actions required by this subsection shall be performed in the office of the board of elections, except that the voting may take place in an adjacent room as provided by subsection (e) of this section. The application under this subsection shall be signed in the presence of the ~~chairman~~ chair, member, director of elections of the board, or full-time employee, authorized by the board who shall sign the application and certificate as the witness and indicate the official title held by him or her. Notwithstanding G.S. 163-231(a), in the case of this subsection, only one witness shall be required on the certificate."

SECTION 10. G.S. 163-107(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Fee Schedule. – At the time of filing a notice of candidacy, each candidate shall pay to the board of elections with which he files under the provisions of G.S. 163-106 a filing fee for the office he seeks in the amount specified in the following tabulation:

Office Sought	Amount of Filing Fee
Governor	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
Lieutenant Governor	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
All State executive offices	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
All District Attorneys of the General Court of Justice	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
United States Senator	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
Members of the United States House of Representatives	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
State Senator	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
Member of the State House of Representatives	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
All county offices not compensated by fees	One percent (1%) of the annual salary of the office sought
County commissioners, if compensated entirely by fees	Ten dollars (\$10.00)
Members of county board of education, if compensated entirely by fees	Five dollars (\$5.00)
Sheriff, if compensated entirely by fees	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one percent (1%) of the income of the office above four thousand dollars (\$4,000)
Clerk of superior court, if compensated	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one percent

1	entirely by fees	(1%) of the income of the office above
2		four thousand dollars (\$4,000)
3	Register of deeds, if compensated	Forty dollars (\$40.00), plus one percent
4	entirely by fees	(1%) of the income of the office above
5		four thousand dollars (\$4,000)
6	Any other county office, if compensated	Twenty dollars (\$20.00), plus one percent
7	entirely by fees	(1%) of the income of the office above
8		two thousand dollars (\$2,000)
9	All county offices compensated partly	One percent (1%) of the first annual
10	by salary and partly by fees	salary to be received (exclusive of
11		fees)

12 The salary of any office that is the basis for calculating the filing fee is the starting
 13 salary for the office, rather than the salary received by the incumbent, if different. If no
 14 starting salary can be determined for the office, then the salary used for calculation is
 15 the salary of the incumbent, as of January 1 of the election year."

16 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 163-82.9 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 163-82.9. Cancellation of prior registration.**

18 If an applicant indicates on an application form described in G.S. 163-82.3 a current
 19 registration to vote in any other county, municipality, or state, the county board of
 20 elections, upon registering the person to vote, shall send a notice to the appropriate
 21 officials in the other county, municipality, or state and shall ask them to cancel the
 22 person's voter registration there. If an applicant completes an application form described
 23 in G.S. 163-82.3 except that the applicant neglects to complete the portion of the form
 24 that authorizes cancellation of previous registration in another county, the State Board
 25 of Elections shall notify the county board of elections in the previous county of the new
 26 registration, and the board in the previous county shall cancel the registration. The State
 27 Board of Elections shall adopt rules to prevent disenfranchisement in the
 28 implementation of this section. Those rules shall include adequate notice to the person
 29 whose previous registration is to be cancelled."

30 **SECTION 12.(a)** G.S. 163-82.10(b) reads as rewritten:

31 "(b) Access to Registration Records. – Upon request by that person, the county
 32 board of elections shall provide to any person a list of the registered voters of the county
 33 or of any precinct or precincts in the county. The county board may furnish selective
 34 lists according to party affiliation, gender, race, date of registration, precinct name,
 35 precinct identification code, congressional district, senate district, representative district,
 36 and, where applicable, county commissioner district, city governing board district, fire
 37 district, soil and water conservation district, and voter history including primary,
 38 general, and special districts, or any other reasonable category. No list produced under
 39 this section shall contain a voter's date of birth. However, lists may be produced
 40 according to voters' ages. ~~The Both the following shall apply if a county maintains or~~
 41 ~~has its voter registration list maintained on a computer: to all counties:~~

- 42 (1) ~~In addition to the typed, mimeographed, photocopied, computer~~
 43 ~~printout or label lists, the~~ The county board of elections shall make the
 44 voter registration information available to the public on electronic or

1 magnetic medium. ~~Magnetic medium for the purpose of this section~~
2 ~~shall consist of nine track tape or 3.5 inch diskettes and 5.25 inch~~
3 ~~diskettes readily accessible using MS DOS or Microsoft Windows~~
4 ~~operating systems or both such systems; and For purposes of this~~
5 ~~section, "electronic or magnetic medium" means any of the media in~~
6 ~~use by the State Board of Elections at the time of the request.~~

- 7 (2) Information requested on electronic or magnetic medium shall contain
8 the following: voter name, county voter identification number,
9 residential address, mailing address, sex, race, age but not date of
10 birth, party affiliation, precinct name, precinct identification code,
11 congressional district, senate district, representative district, and,
12 where applicable, county commissioner district, city governing board
13 district, fire district, soil and water conservation district, and any other
14 district information available, and voter history including primary,
15 general, and special districts, or any other reasonable
16 category, category.

17 ~~provided that this subsection shall not require a county to computerize its lists, but if a~~
18 ~~county does computerize it shall comply with subdivisions (1) and (2) of this~~
19 ~~subsection. The county board shall require each person to whom a list is furnished to~~
20 ~~reimburse the board for the actual cost incurred in preparing it, except as provided in~~
21 ~~subsection (c) of this section. Actual cost for the purpose of this section shall not~~
22 ~~include the cost of any equipment or any imputed overhead expenses. It may include the~~
23 ~~actual cost of paper, labels, and magnetic medium. The purchaser at its discretion may~~
24 ~~provide the magnetic medium. When furnishing information under this subsection to a~~
25 ~~purchaser on a magnetic medium provided by the county board or the purchaser, the~~
26 ~~county board may impose a service charge of up to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)."~~

27 **SECTION 12.(b)** G.S. 163-82.10(c) reads as rewritten:

28 "(c) Free Lists. ~~Free lists of all registered voters in the county shall be provided~~
29 ~~in the following cases:~~

- 30 (1) A county board ~~that maintains voter records on computer~~ shall
31 provide, upon written request, one free list ~~to~~ of all the registered
32 voters in the county to
33 a. ~~The~~ the State chair of each political party; party and
34 b. ~~The~~ to the county chair of each political party once in every
35 odd-numbered year, once during the first six calendar months of
36 every even-numbered year, and once during the latter six
37 calendar months of every even-numbered year.

- 38 (2) A county board ~~that does not maintain voter records on computer~~ shall
39 ~~provide one free paper list every two years to the county chair of each~~
40 ~~political party.~~

41 Each free list shall include the name, address, gender, age but not date of birth, race,
42 political affiliation, voting history, precinct, precinct name, precinct identification code,
43 congressional district, senate district, representative district, and, where applicable,
44 county commissioner district, city governing board district, fire district, soil and water

1 conservation district, and voter history including primary, general, and special districts
2 of each registered voter. ~~The free paper list to the county party chairs shall group voters~~
3 ~~by precinct.~~ All free lists shall be provided as soon as practicable on one of any
4 electronic or magnetic media, but no later than 30 days after written request. Each State
5 party chair shall provide ~~the discs or tapes~~ the information on the media received from
6 the county boards or a copy of the media containing the data itself to candidates of that
7 party who request the ~~discs or tapes~~ data in writing. ~~Each State party chair shall return~~
8 ~~discs and tapes to the county boards within 30 days after receiving them.~~ As used in this
9 section, "political party" means a political party as defined in G.S. 163-96."

10 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 163-182.5(b) reads as rewritten:

11 "(b) Canvassing by County Board of Elections. – The county board of elections
12 shall meet at 11:00 A.M. on the ~~seventh-tenth~~ day after every election held on the same
13 day as a general election in November of the even-numbered year, and at 11:00 A.M. on
14 the seventh day after every other election, to complete the canvass of votes cast and to
15 authenticate the count in every ballot item in the county by determining that the votes
16 have been counted and tabulated correctly. If, despite due diligence by election officials,
17 the initial counting of all the votes has not been completed by that time, the county
18 board may hold the canvass meeting a reasonable time thereafter. The canvass meeting
19 shall be at the county board of elections office, unless the county board, by unanimous
20 vote of all its members, designates another site within the county. The county board
21 shall examine the returns from precincts, from absentee official ballots, and from
22 provisional official ballots and shall conduct the canvass."

23 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 163-166.7(c) reads as rewritten:

24 "(c) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate rules for the process of voting.
25 Those rules shall emphasize the appearance as well as the reality of dignity, good order,
26 impartiality, and the convenience and privacy of the voter. Those rules, at a minimum,
27 shall include procedures to ensure that all the following occur:

- 28 (1) The voting system remains secure throughout the period voting is
29 being conducted.
- 30 (2) Only properly voted official ballots are introduced into the voting
31 system.
- 32 (3) Except as provided by G.S. 163-166.9, no official ballots leave the
33 voting enclosure during the time voting is being conducted there.
- 34 (4) All improperly voted official ballots are returned to the precinct
35 officials and marked as spoiled.
- 36 (5) Voters leave the voting place promptly after voting.
- 37 (6) Voters not clearly eligible to vote in the precinct but who seek to vote
38 there are given proper assistance in voting a provisional official ballot
39 or guidance to another voting place where they are eligible to vote.
- 40 (7) Information gleaned through the voting process that would be helpful
41 to the accurate maintenance of the voter registration records is
42 recorded and delivered to the county board of elections.
- 43 (8) The registration records are kept secure. The State Board of Elections
44 shall permit the use of electronic registration records in the voting

1 place in lieu of or in addition to a paper pollbook or other registration
2 record.

3 (9) Party observers are given access as provided by G.S. 163-45 to current
4 information about which voters have voted.

5 (10) The voter, before voting, shall sign that voter's name on the pollbook,
6 other voting record, or voter authorization document. If the voter is
7 unable to sign, a precinct official shall enter the person's name on the
8 same document before the voter votes."

9 **SECTION 15.** Sections 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14 of this act are effective
10 when this act becomes law and apply to all primaries and elections held on or after that
11 date. The remainder of this act becomes effective January 1, 2006, and applies to all
12 primaries and elections held on or after that date.