



NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Elections

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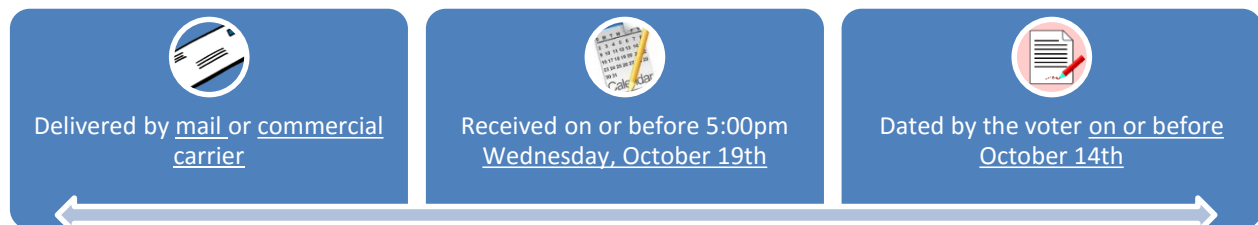
KIM WESTBROOK STRACH
Executive Director

NUMBERED MEMO 2016-19

TO: County Boards of Elections
FROM: Kim Strach, Executive Director
RE: Hurricane Matthew Response
DATE: October 12, 2016

The State Board of Elections Office has monitored closely the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, communicating closely with emergency response authorities, county directors, agencies covered under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). We understand that all affected offices are working to ensure that elections operations continue without interruption, especially as the voter registration deadline approaches (October 14). You should process as timely any voter registration form that is hand-delivered to your office by close of business (which can be no earlier than 5pm) on Friday, October 14. If voter registration forms are hand-delivered to NVRA agencies or public libraries, the receipt date is when the agency or library received the form.

With respect to applications you receive by mail, the U.S. Postal Service has informed our agency that certain of their offices are temporarily closed, resulting in interrupted pick-up and delivery in those areas. Among other temporary changes, USPS has rerouted certain mail for processing, which may result in a delay in postmarking. In response to known delays with the mail, county boards are hereby instructed to accept and process for the 2016 general election all voter registration forms that are:



Under these criteria, forms must be accepted, regardless of the postmark. As you know, all applications received by mail that bear a postmark of October 14 must be accepted and processed, regardless of the receipt date. G.S. § 163-82.6(c). Because certain voters may have difficulty accessing county elections offices, directors should contact the NVRA partners within their respective counties to ensure that all applications dropped off at those offices are promptly delivered and processed.

Certain counties are still assessing the full impact Hurricane Matthew may have on early voting sites and Election Day precincts. County boards should stay in contact with this office regarding any changes arising out of this emergency, and are instructed to provide such notice to voters, political parties, and the media as is practicable. We are proud of your vigilance in the face of this challenge.