

NEWSLETTER

Pender County Board of Elections



THE BOARD'S CORNER

BY: L. BRYAN SMITH, BOARD SECRETARY

If you ever wondered what the Pender County Board of Elections does, the job description is generally found in North Carolina General Statute Section 163-33, hereinafter cited as "N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33." This section of the General Statutes is entitled "powers and duties of county boards of elections." In this section, the legislature gives the county boards direction as to what our powers and duties are, but it also gives the boards direction as to what the board is prohibited from doing.

In the affirmative, the Pender County Board, made up of five members, is generally charged with doing the following:



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·“To make and issue such rules, regulations, and instructions, not inconsistent with law, with directives promulgated under the provisions of G.S. 163-132.4, or with the rules, orders, and directives established by the State Board of Elections, as it may deem necessary for the guidance of election officers and voters.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(1)

·“To appoint all chief judges, judges, assistants, and other officers of elections, and designate the precinct in which each shall serve.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(2).

·To remove any of these officials for cause. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(2)

·“To investigate irregularities, nonperformance of duties, and violations of laws by election officers and other persons, and to report violations to the State Board of Elections.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(3)

·“To establish, define, provide, rearrange, discontinue, and combine election precincts as it may deem expedient, and to fix and provide for places of registration and for holding primaries and elections” as provided by law. N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(4)

·“To review, examine, and certify the sufficiency and validity of petitions and nomination papers.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(5)

·“To advertise and contract for the printing of ballots and other supplies used in registration and elections; and to provide for the delivery of ballots, pollbooks, and other required papers and materials to the voting places.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(6)

·“To provide for the purchase, preservation, and maintenance” of voting equipment and supplies “... and to cause the voting places to be suitably provided with voting booths and other supplies required by law.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(7)

·“To provide for the issuance of all notices, advertisements, and publications concerning elections required by law.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(8)



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·“To receive the returns of primaries and elections, canvass the returns, make abstracts thereof, transmit such abstracts to the proper authorities, and to issue certificates of election to county officers and members of the General Assembly except those elected in districts composed of more than one county.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(9)

·“To appoint and remove the board's clerk, assistant clerks, and other employees.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(10)



·“To prepare and submit to the proper appropriating officers a budget estimating the cost of elections for the ensuing fiscal year.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(11)

·“To retain and preserve all voted ballots, election results tapes, and executed ballot applications for a period of 22 months after the corresponding election or as otherwise specified in federal law, whichever is greater.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(17)

There are other duties not mentioned above for which the board is responsible per section 163-33, in other sections of chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and per “...rules, orders, and directives of the State Board of Elections.” N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(12)



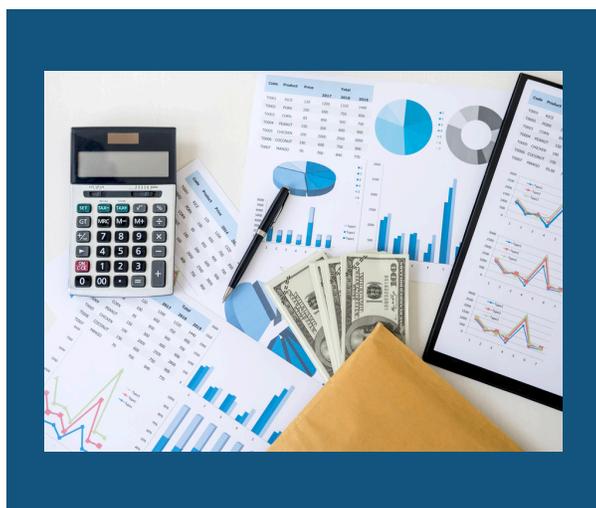
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North Carolina General Statute Section 163-33 is also clear that there are certain powers and duties that the county board of elections does not have. Although not set out herein, the reader is encouraged to read N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(15) and (16). However, there is a practical prohibition for the county board of elections worth mentioning in this brief article. The county board of elections is prohibited from accepting donations or in-kind contributions. In particular, the statute says that the county board of elections cannot "...accept private monetary donations or in-kind contributions, directly or indirectly, for conducting elections or employing individuals on a temporary basis."

Notwithstanding this prohibition, the following can be donated to the county board of elections for the purpose of facilitating an election: "Use of a voting site ... used for the purpose of conducting elections," "food or beverages" for use "at the voting place or county board of elections office," and "ink pens and personal protection equipment to be used in an election." N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33(18)

This has been a general overview of the powers and duties of the county board of elections. If there are any questions regarding this article, please contact the Pender County Board of Elections.



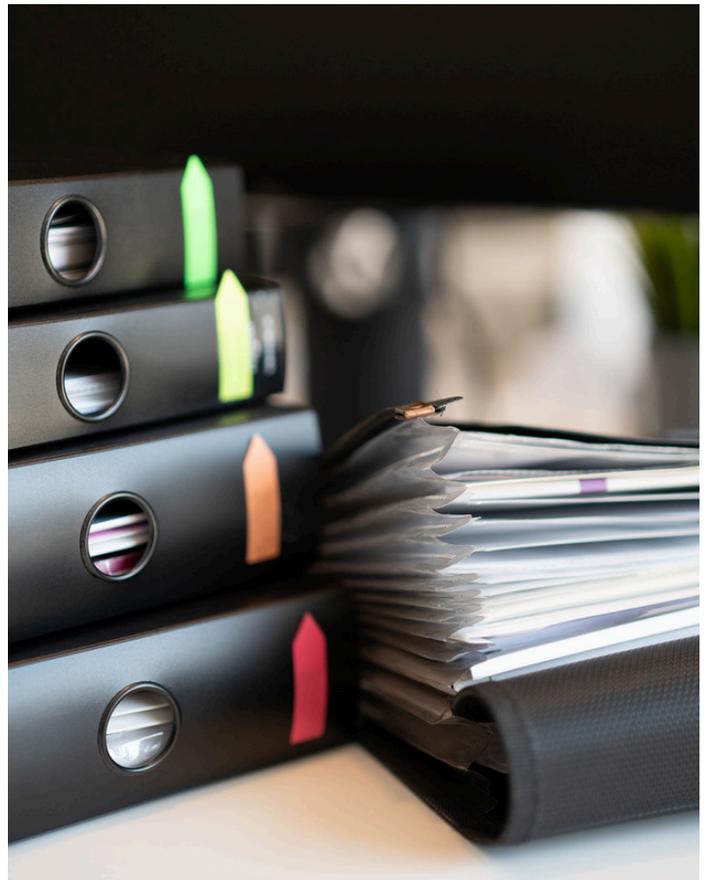
CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Candidates and Treasurers, Please note that all active candidate committees and political committees will be required to file a 2025 Mid-Year Semiannual Report on or before July 25, 2025.,



CANDIDATE FILING

Candidate filing for the 2025 Municipal Election will begin Monday July 7th at 8:00am and end at noon on July 13th. The positions that will be open for filing are Atkinson Town Mayor, Atkinson Town Commissioner, Town of Burgaw Mayor, Burgaw Town Commissioner, Village of St. Helena Mayor, Village of St. Helena Council Member, Surf City Council Member, Topsail Beach Mayor, Topsail Beach Commissioner, Town of Watha Mayor, Town of Watha Commissioner. The filing fee is 1% of the position salary or \$5. If you have questions about running please contact the BOE office.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7/7/2025-7/13/2025- Candidate Filing
- 10/3/2025- Start of Absentee-by-Mail voting for November Municipal Election
- 10/10/2025- Voter Registration Deadline for November Municipal Election
- 10/16/2025- Early Voting Begins for November Municipal Election
- 11/4/2025- Election Day for November Municipal Election



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