

March Primary Early Voting and Registration

By Phyllis Makuck

Voter Rights Coalition of Carteret County

A NonPartisan Organization

unregistered voters who otherwise qualify to vote in the county will be able to register and vote on the same day unless a court ruling makes a change.

Why voters can register during Early Voting for the March 2016 Primary. North Carolina's 2013 Voting Law eliminated registration during Early Voting; however, this part of the law has been challenged in the courts. In 2014, a lower court ruled against the restriction, and the matter is in now in Federal District Court.

Early Voting schedule and locations. Carteret County will have a shorter Early Voting schedule for the 2016 Primary than for previous statewide elections. The following sites will be open Monday through Friday for Early Voting: Carteret County Board of Elections (BOE) in Beaufort, Western Park Community Center in Cedar Point, Fort Benjamin Park Recreation Center in Newport, Morehead

The nonpartisan Voter Rights Coalition of Carteret County is continuing its series of educational talks, events and articles on new North Carolina voting laws. Here's what you need to know about changes affecting voter registration and early voting.

For the March 15 Primary Election, Early Voting, sometimes referred to as One-Stop Absentee Voting, starts March 3 and ends March 12. During this Early Voting period,

Parks and Recreation Department in Morehead City, and Davis Volunteer Fire Department in Davis. The Beaufort Board of Elections, Western Park, Fort Benjamin Park, and Morehead City Parks and Recreation sites will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Davis site will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All sites will be open for Early Voting on two Saturdays—March 5, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and March 12, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Unlike on Election Day when you have a designated polling site, you may go to any one of these sites for early voting. It may be wise to register before Early Voting.

Voter registration qualifications. You must be a U.S. citizen, residing in the county where you are registering for at least 30 days prior to Primary Election Day and not be serving a felony sentence, or have fully completed your sentence, including probation or parole. You must also be 18 years old or older. If you are 17 and will be 18 on or before the November 8 General Election, you may register on or after January 15 and be eligible to vote in the March 2016 Primary Election. Note that, based on current law, 16-year-olds can no longer preregister and have that registration take effect when they turn 18.

Voter registration application forms. The Board of Elections provides voter registration application forms to public schools and other state agencies/public offices in North Carolina. You may, of course, register at the Board of Elections or download a voter registration application form from the BOE website (ncsbe.gov) and return it in person or by regular mail at the Carteret County Board of Elections (1702 Live Oak Street, Suite 200, Beaufort, NC 28516). Voter registration application forms allow you to register, update your current registration (e.g., change your name or address) and, if applicable, cancel your registration in another county or state. It is important to note that if you are registering for the first time in a county and/or changing your party affiliation, you must provide the county BOE with an original "wet-ink" signed application. However, if you are already registered in the county where you currently reside and just need to update your name and/or address, you may fax (728-8571) or email (boemail@carteretcountync.gov) a scanned image of the signed application.

Deadline for voter registration. If there is a court ruling eliminating registration during Early Voting, the deadline for submitting a registration application in person is February 19 by 5:00 p.m. By mail, the registration application must be postmarked by February 19 at 5:00 p.m. However, if there is not a court ruling to the contrary, one may register and vote until the end of Early Voting, which in Carteret County is March 12.

Are you registered? After submitting a voter registration application form, you should receive a voter registration card, which also indicates your correct polling place. If you do not, call the Carteret County BOE at 728-8460. You can also check to be sure your voter registration is current by going to ncsbe.gov and selecting "Voter Lookup" under "Voter Tools." To do an accurate search, you must enter your name and birthdate as they appear on your last voter registration. After completing the search, if you click on your name under "Full Name," you will get voter details and see your polling place.

TOWN OF

Pine Knoll Shores

100 Municipal Circle • Main – 247-4353 • Fax – 247-4355 • Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Ken Jones – 247-4353, ext. 17 – Two-year term – elected in 2015
mayorjones@townofpks.com

COMMISSIONERS

Four-year terms

John Brodman – 726-7643 – elected in 2013 – admin@townofpks.com
Larry Corsello – 247-0262 – elected in 2013 – admin@townofpks.com
Clark Edwards – 726-7429 – (Mayor pro tempore) elected in 2015 – admin@townofpks.com
Fred Fulcher – 808-2569 – elected in 2013 – admin@townofpks.com
Ted Goetzinger – 422-9879 – elected in 2015 – admin@townofpks.com

TOWN OFFICIALS

TOWN MANAGER: Brian Kramer – 247-4353, ext. 16 – manager@townofpks.com
TOWN CLERK: Scott Sherrill – 247-4353, ext. 11 – admin@townofpks.com
FIN & ADMIN: Julie Anderson – 247-4353, ext. 14 – janderson@townofpks.com
PLANNING & INSPECTIONS: Jim Taylor – 247-4353, ext. 18 – biceo@townofpks.com
PUBLIC SERVICES: Sonny Cunningham (Interim Director)
247-4353, ext. 27 – psd@townofpks.com

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – 314 Salter Path Road – 247-2268; Fax – 247-2897
POLICE: Chief Ryan Thompson – 247-2474 – rthompson@townofpks.com
FIRE & EMS: Fire Chief Jason Baker – 247-2268 – jbaker@townofpks.com

Emergency: Call 911

Emergency Communications Center (ECC) – 726-1911; Public Safety – 247-2474

Pine Knoll Shores

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our *vision* is to provide a quality environment in which all residents and visitors are safe and secure, where individual talents flourish and everyone enjoys the natural resources of our area.

It is the *mission* of the town of Pine Knoll Shores to provide for the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors in an efficient and well-organized manner; develop and implement plans for the continuous improvement of the town, its services and its beach; and encourage the participation of residents in service to the town and community.