Early Vote Day Report

Day 1 of 17 · Data through Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026*

237,541
ballots cast so far, in person and by mail

+25%
more than at this point in 2022 (189,375)

3.0%
of registered voters have voted (2.6% in 2022)

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Every county and district, updated each morning

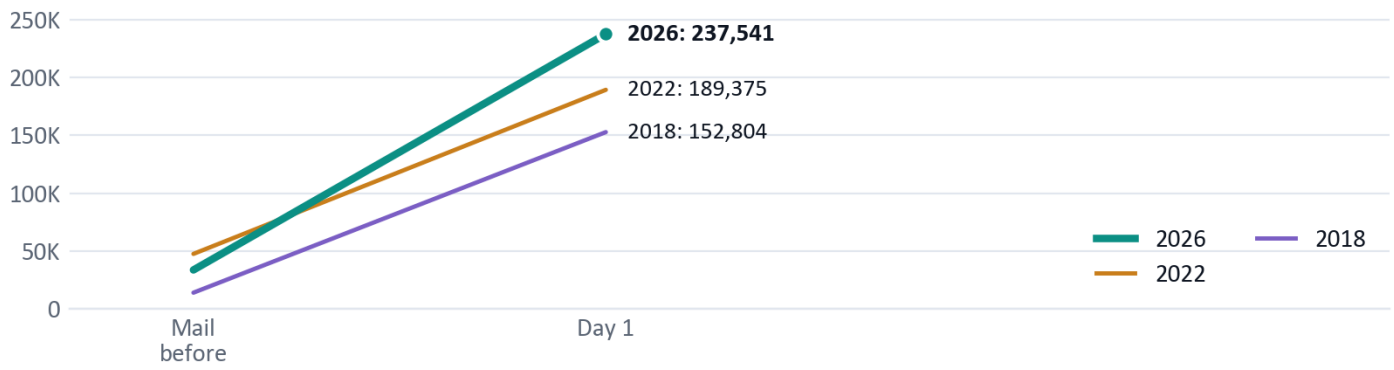
Snapshot

Through Thursday, the first day of early voting, North Carolinians have cast 237,541 ballots in person and by mail. That is 25% more than at the same point in 2022, and 3.0% of all registered voters. 201,609 voted in person on the first day, 47% more than on 2022's first day (137,387) and 48% more than on 2018's (136,454).

Top takeaways

- **Democrats were 47% of the first day's ballots, against 39% on 2022's first day.** The day's 203,914 ballots were 47.4% Democratic, 19.9% Republican and 32.5% unaffiliated. On 2022's first day they were 39.3% Democratic, 32.6% Republican and 28.0% unaffiliated.
- **Democrats opened a 2.8-point turnout edge.** 4.8% of registered Democrats voted by the end of the first day, against 2.0% of registered Republicans. After 2022's first day the gap was 0.7 points.
- **Black voters made up more of the first day's ballots than on 2022's first day.** 25.8% were Black, against 19.1% on 2022's first day; 58.4% were 65 or older, against 60.2%.
- **Among the seats to watch, the widest first-day turnout gaps were in HD-12 (4.5 points) and HD-74 (4.5).** The narrowest was HD-73 (1.4). Each gap is the share of a seat's registered Democrats who voted minus the share of its registered Republicans.

Ballots cast, day by day



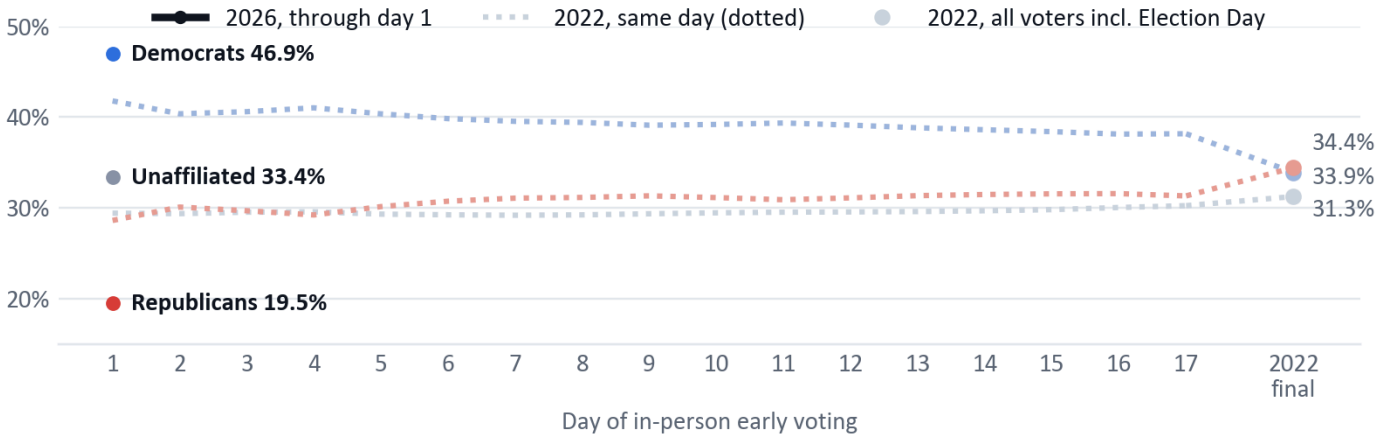
Day by day

	2026			2022, same day			2018, same day	
Day	Date	In person	All so far	Date	In person	All so far	Date	All so far
1	Thu. Oct. 15	201,609	**237,539**	Thu. Oct. 20	137,387	189,375	Wed. Oct. 17	152,804

All so far: every accepted ballot, in person and by mail (the headline adds 2 with stray dates).

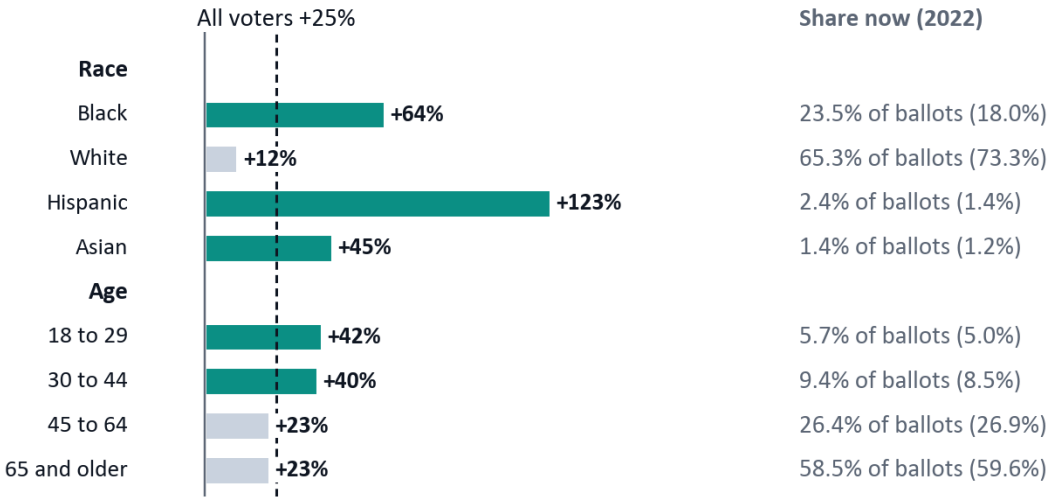
Who is voting: the party mix, day by day

Each party's share of all ballots cast so far, this year against the same day in 2022. The last point shows 2022's full electorate, after Election Day.



Who is growing fastest since 2022, by race and age

Change in ballots from the same point in 2022. Teal bars are growing faster than the electorate as a whole.



Race as registered with the State Board of Elections; Hispanic is any race.

Who is voting: party by how often they vote

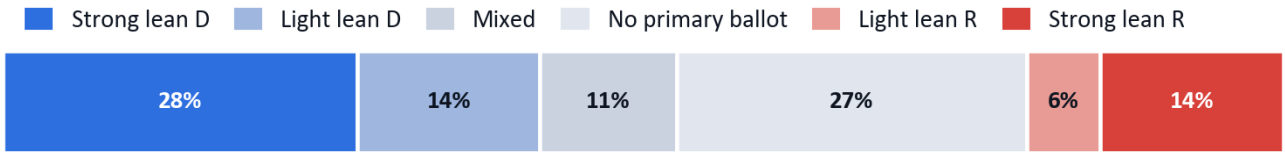
Voters so far by party of registration and by their record in the last two general elections. Base: voted in both 2022 and 2024. Sporadic: voted in one of the two. Unlikely: new to the rolls, or voted in neither. Under each count: the share of that group's registered voters who have voted, and the same share at this point in 2022.

	BASE	SPORADIC	UNLIKELY
DEMOCRAT	**Democrat Base** **96,326** 40.6% of all ballots +84,441 on Thursday **7.8%** of 1,237,884 registered 2022, same point: 4.7%	**Democrat Sporadic** **9,438** 4.0% of all ballots +7,623 on Thursday **1.8%** of 526,595 registered 2022, same point: 1.3%	**Democrat Unlikely** **5,720** 2.4% of all ballots +4,573 on Thursday **1.0%** of 569,413 registered 2022, same point: 0.9%
UNAFFILIATED	**Unaffiliated Base** **65,456** 27.6% of all ballots +55,510 on Thursday **4.6%** of 1,417,817 registered 2022, same point: 3.7%	**Unaffiliated Sporadic** **8,248** 3.5% of all ballots +6,454 on Thursday **1.3%** of 658,746 registered 2022, same point: 1.0%	**Unaffiliated Unlikely** **5,552** 2.3% of all ballots +4,348 on Thursday **0.5%** of 1,093,945 registered 2022, same point: 0.5%
REPUBLICAN	**Republican Base** **40,672** 17.1% of all ballots +36,253 on Thursday **3.0%** of 1,370,390 registered 2022, same point: 3.5%	**Republican Sporadic** **3,572** 1.5% of all ballots +2,724 on Thursday **0.7%** of 504,969 registered 2022, same point: 1.0%	**Republican Unlikely** **2,097** 0.9% of all ballots +1,621 on Thursday **0.5%** of 455,061 registered 2022, same point: 0.7%

Base also takes in a voter who voted in the only one of the two elections they were registered for. Registered: the current voter file (7,886,545 registered); 2022 sorts the 2022 rolls the same way by the 2018 and 2020 elections. +N on Thursday: ballots dated that day. Other parties (460 voters) are not shown.

The unaffiliated row, by the primary ballots they have taken

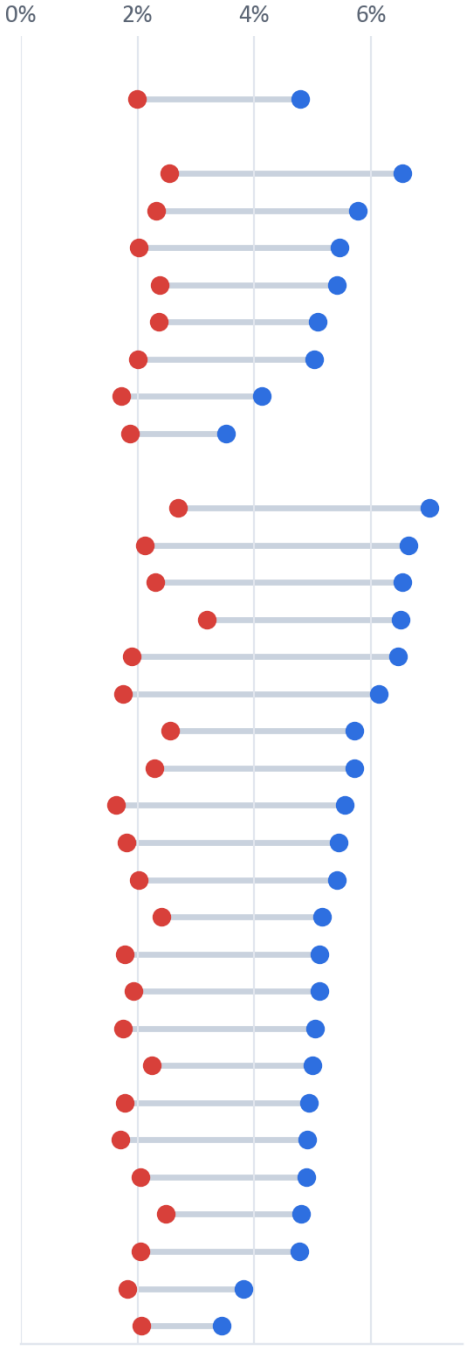
The 79,256 unaffiliated voters so far, sorted by which party's primary ballot they took in the five statewide primaries from 2018 to 2026.



Strong lean: at least two more of one party's primary ballots than the other's. Light lean: one primary ballot, one party. Mixed: both parties, no clear pattern. Tested on voters who later joined a party: strong lean named the right party 97% of the time, light lean about 92%.

Seats to watch: turnout by party

Every contested seat that leaned within 10 points either way in the 2024 statewide races. For each, the share of its registered Democrats (● blue) and registered Republicans (● red) who have voted so far. **This is turnout by party registration, not votes for a candidate and not a forecast.** Statewide, 4.8% of Democrats and 2.0% of Republicans have voted, 2.8 points apart; at this point in 2022 they were 0.7 points apart.

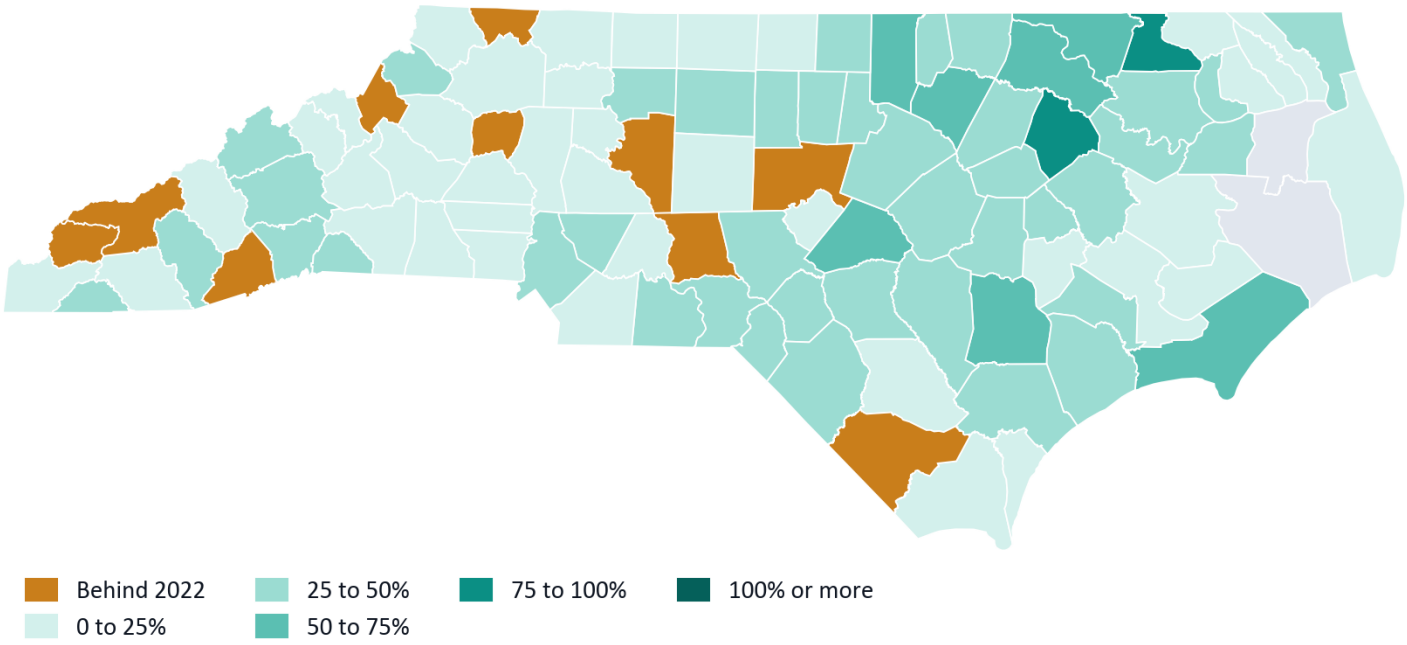


		2024 lean	Dem minus Rep	Same, 2022	Ballots	vs. 2022
Statewide			+2.8	+0.7	237,541	+25%
Senate						
SD-11	Barnes (R)	R+0.8	+4.0	+0.9	6,346	+48%
SD-18	Open seat	R+0.8	+3.4	+1.2	5,807	+35%
SD-4	Newton (R)	R+7.3	+3.4	+1.0	4,784	+37%
SD-13	Grafstein (D)	D+4.4	+3.0	+1.3	5,907	+23%
SD-7	Lee (R)	R+4.6	+2.7	+1.4	5,140	+18%
SD-42	Bradley (D)	D+3.3	+3.0	+1.0	5,383	+17%
SD-24	Britt (R)	R+8.8	+2.4	+1.0	3,520	+40%
SD-34	Open seat	R+6.8	+1.6	-0.0	3,794	+29%
House						
HD-7	Open seat	R+9.9	+4.3	+1.7	2,816	+61%
HD-74	Zenger (R)	R+8.1	+4.5	+1.6	2,533	+13%
HD-25	Chesser (R)	D+2.6	+4.2	+0.6	2,682	+38%
HD-32	Cohn (D)	D+3.1	+3.3	+0.8	2,727	+49%
HD-12	Humphrey (R)	R+7.6	+4.5	+1.1	2,073	+26%
HD-115	Prather (D)	R+0.5	+4.4	+2.2	2,535	+21%
HD-37	Paré (R)	R+2.4	+3.2	+1.1	2,913	+32%
HD-105	Cotham (R)	R+1.9	+3.4	+1.2	2,532	+22%
HD-9	Reeder (R)	R+7.0	+3.9	+0.7	2,047	+29%
HD-48	Pierce (D)	D+4.6	+3.6	+1.8	1,896	+35%
HD-35	Schietzelt (R)	R+3.3	+3.4	+1.3	2,396	+29%
HD-62	Blust (R)	R+6.3	+2.7	+0.3	2,478	+26%
HD-26	White (R)	R+10.0	+3.3	+1.0	2,177	+39%
HD-5	Ward (R)	R+4.8	+3.2	+1.4	1,845	+23%
HD-98	Helfrich (D)	D+0.9	+3.3	+1.4	2,086	+3%
HD-64	Riddell (R)	R+6.1	+2.7	+0.5	1,999	+27%
HD-24	Pittman (D)	D+1.7	+3.1	+0.9	1,855	+36%
HD-43	Wheatley (R)	R+9.7	+3.2	+0.5	1,732	+35%
HD-59	Branson (R)	R+8.0	+2.8	+0.6	2,278	+28%
HD-63	Open seat	R+6.1	+2.3	+0.5	1,955	+24%
HD-20	Open seat	R+9.6	+2.7	+1.4	2,201	+8%
HD-82	Echevarria (R)	R+7.5	+2.0	+0.5	1,704	+39%
HD-73	Almond (R)	R+5.0	+1.4	-0.2	1,597	+30%

Seats are listed by the share of Democrats who have voted, highest first. Beside each: its sitting member, or open if the member is not running. 2024 lean: how the district voted in the 2024 statewide races. Dem minus Rep: the blue dot minus the red dot, in points; Same, 2022: that gap at this point in 2022, on today's district lines. Ballots: all ballots cast in the district so far; vs. 2022: change from the same point in 2022. Full district pages: dashboard.majorityrisingnc.org/early-voting.

Counties: ballots against the same point in 2022

88 of 98 counties are ahead of their 2022 pace.



Fastest growth: Franklin +69%, Granville +52%, Carteret +51%, Harnett +51%, Robeson +45%, Durham +42%.

Behind 2022: Alexander -33%, Montgomery -27%, Columbus -18%, Alleghany -15%, Swain -9%, Davidson -5%, Avery -2%, Chatham -1%, Transylvania -1%, Graham -1%.

Counties with fewer than 100 ballots at this point in 2022 are left grey (Hyde and Tyrrell). Click a county name for its page on the dashboard.

See every county on the live dashboard →

Methodology

Ballots are every accepted ballot in the State Board of Elections' absentee file, posted each morning; our totals must match the State Board's own state and county count files for that morning. 2022 and 2018 come from the State Board's final files, each year lined up by its own first day of in-person early voting; a county counts as open on a day it has in-person ballots dated that day, and days with fewer than 100 counties open carry an asterisk. Party, race and age are as registered (party is registration, not a vote; Hispanic is any race), and turnout rates divide a group's ballots by its registered voters. Base, sporadic and unlikely come from the State Board's voter history: the last two general elections. 2022's final electorate is everyone in its voter history file, by party on the 2022 rolls. Districts are the ones printed on each ballot; 2022 ballots are placed on today's lines through precincts, and district lean is the 2024 statewide races. No percent change is shown when the earlier year had fewer than 100 ballots.