# Early Vote Day Report

Day 3 of 17 · Data through Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026*

**501,321**

ballots cast so far, in person and by mail

**+38%**

more than at this point in 2022 (362,643)

**6.4%**

of registered voters have voted (4.9% in 2022)

Open the live dashboard →

Every county and district, updated each morning

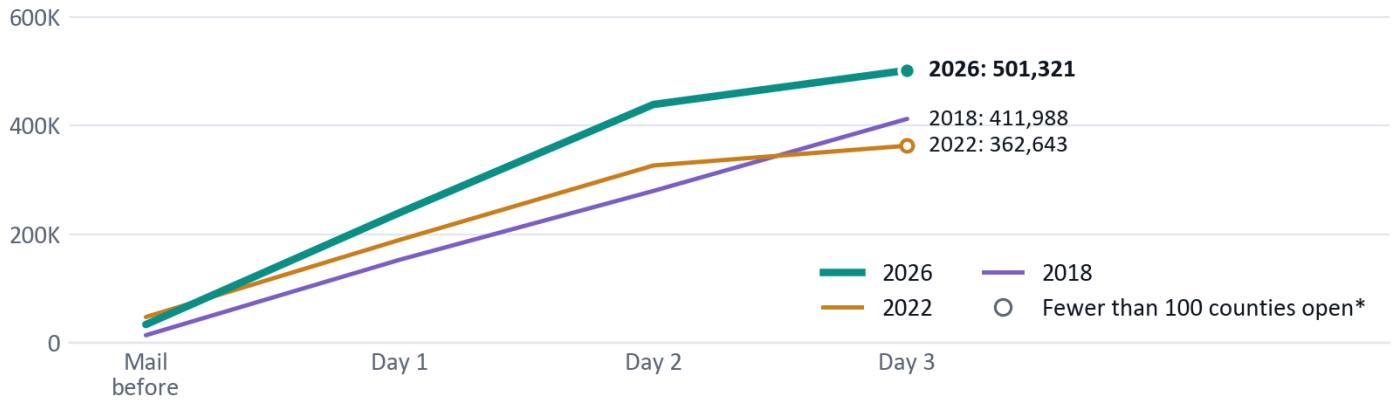
## Snapshot

Through Saturday, the third day of early voting, North Carolinians have cast 501,321 ballots in person and by mail. That is 38% more than at the same point in 2022, and 6.4% of all registered voters. Most counties kept their early voting sites closed on Saturday: 38 opened (38 on 2022's Saturday). Those counties took 61,353 ballots in person, against 35,027 on 2022's Saturday.

## Top takeaways

- **Saturday was Republicans' weakest day yet.** Saturday's 62,844 ballots from the 38 counties that opened were 45.2% Democratic, 16.2% Republican and 38.3% unaffiliated. Taken one day at a time, days 1 and 2 ran from 20% to 22% Republican and 44% to 47% Democratic. On 2022's Saturday, the split was 42.7% Democratic, 26.1% Republican and 31.0% unaffiliated.
- **The Democratic turnout edge widened to 5.4 points on Saturday.** 9.8% of registered Democrats have voted and 4.3% of registered Republicans; after Friday the gap was 4.7. On 2022's Saturday it moved +0.2 points, to 1.0.
- **Saturday's voters were younger than on the days before.** 30.1% were 65 or older, against 55.6% on the days before; 11.1% were under 30, against 6.2%. On 2022's Saturday: 32.3% and 8.4%.
- **Among the seats to watch, the Democratic turnout edge grew most on Saturday in HD-105 and HD-115.** Their gaps between the share of registered Democrats and Republicans who have voted grew +1.9 and +1.8 points, to 7.9 and 10.0. It held in SD-7, at 4.9.

## Ballots cast, day by day



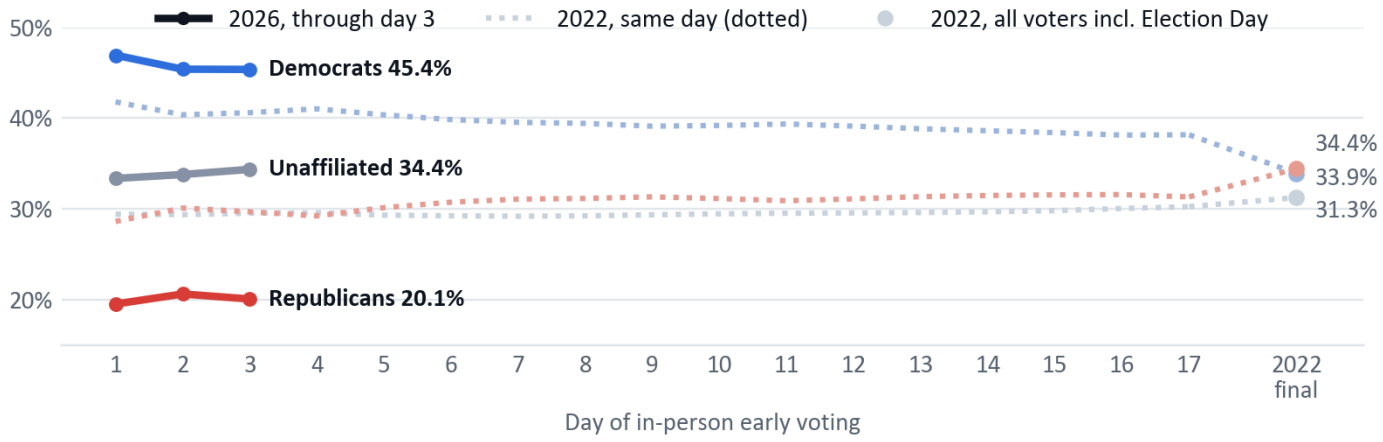
## Day by day

| | 2026 | | | 2022, same day | | | 2018, same day | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Day | Date | In person | All so far | Date | In person | All so far | Date | All so far |
| 3 | Sat. Oct. 17* | 61,353 | **501,317** | Sat. Oct. 22* | 35,027 | 362,643 | Fri. Oct. 19 | 411,988 |
| 2 | Fri. Oct. 16 | 196,539 | **438,473** | Fri. Oct. 21 | 132,506 | 326,248 | Thu. Oct. 18 | 279,423 |
| 1 | Thu. Oct. 15 | 203,155 | **239,467** | 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 4 with stray dates). *Fewer than 100 counties open: Sat. Oct. 17, 38 (2022: 38).

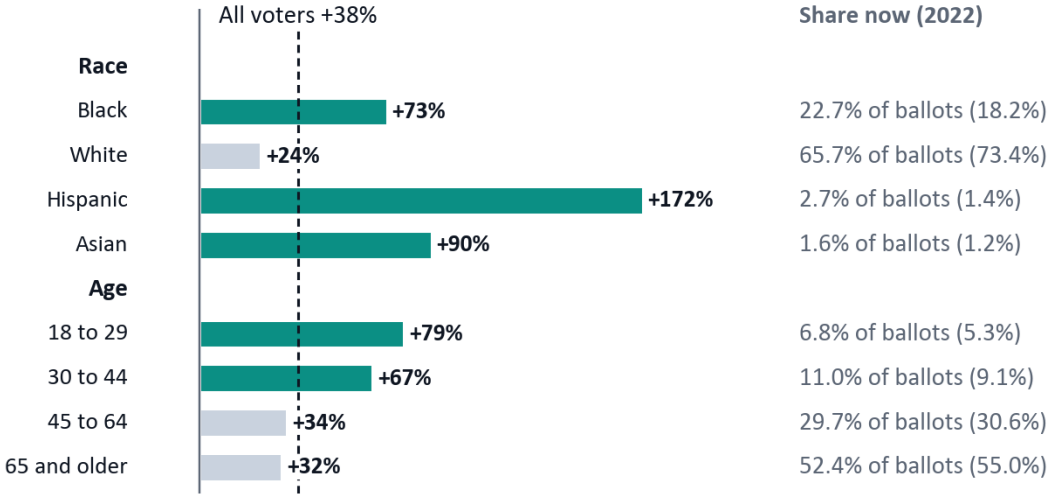
## Who is voting: the party mix, day by day

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

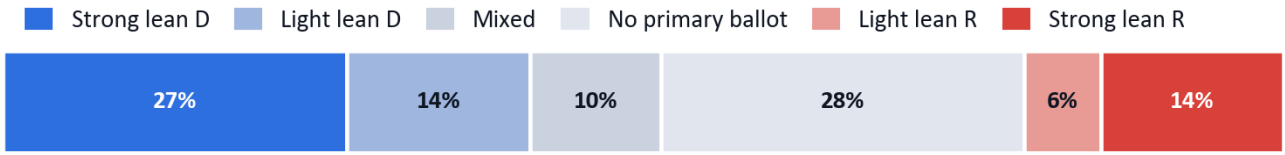
Voters so far by party of registration and by their record in the last two general elections. Base: voted in both 2022 and 2024. Sporadic: voted in one of the two. Unlikely: new to the rolls, or voted in neither. Under each count: the share of that group's registered voters who have voted, and the same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

| | BASE | SPORADIC | UNLIKELY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DEMOCRAT | **Democrat Base**<br>**194,594**<br>38.8% of all ballots<br>+23,592 on Saturday<br>**15.7%** of 1,237,884 registered<br>2022, same point: 8.8% | **Democrat Sporadic**<br>**19,787**<br>3.9% of all ballots<br>+2,748 on Saturday<br>**3.8%** of 526,595 registered<br>2022, same point: 2.1% | **Democrat Unlikely**<br>**13,007**<br>2.6% of all ballots<br>+2,059 on Saturday<br>**2.3%** of 569,413 registered<br>2022, same point: 1.6% |
| UNAFFILIATED | **Unaffiliated Base**<br>**141,135**<br>28.2% of all ballots<br>+19,070 on Saturday<br>**10.0%** of 1,417,817 registered<br>2022, same point: 7.1% | **Unaffiliated Sporadic**<br>**18,050**<br>3.6% of all ballots<br>+2,720 on Saturday<br>**2.7%** of 658,746 registered<br>2022, same point: 1.8% | **Unaffiliated Unlikely**<br>**13,049**<br>2.6% of all ballots<br>+2,301 on Saturday<br>**1.2%** of 1,093,945 registered<br>2022, same point: 0.9% |
| REPUBLICAN | **Republican Base**<br>**88,922**<br>17.7% of all ballots<br>+8,862 on Saturday<br>**6.5%** of 1,370,390 registered<br>2022, same point: 7.0% | **Republican Sporadic**<br>**7,380**<br>1.5% of all ballots<br>+816 on Saturday<br>**1.5%** of 504,969 registered<br>2022, same point: 1.9% | **Republican Unlikely**<br>**4,348**<br>0.9% of all ballots<br>+501 on Saturday<br>**1.0%** of 455,061 registered<br>2022, same point: 1.3% |

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 Saturday: ballots dated that day. Other parties (1,049 voters) are not shown.

## The unaffiliated row, by the primary ballots they have taken

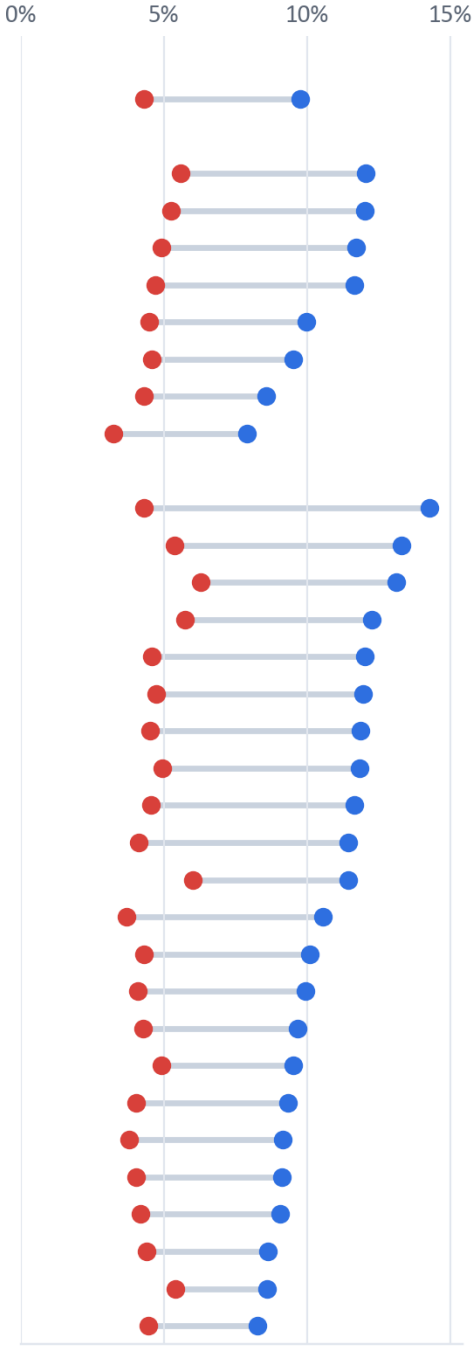
The 172,234 unaffiliated voters so far, sorted by which party's primary ballot they took in the five statewide primaries from 2018 to 2026.




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, 9.8% of Democrats and 4.3% of Republicans have voted, 5.4 points apart; at this point in 2022 they were 1.0 points apart.

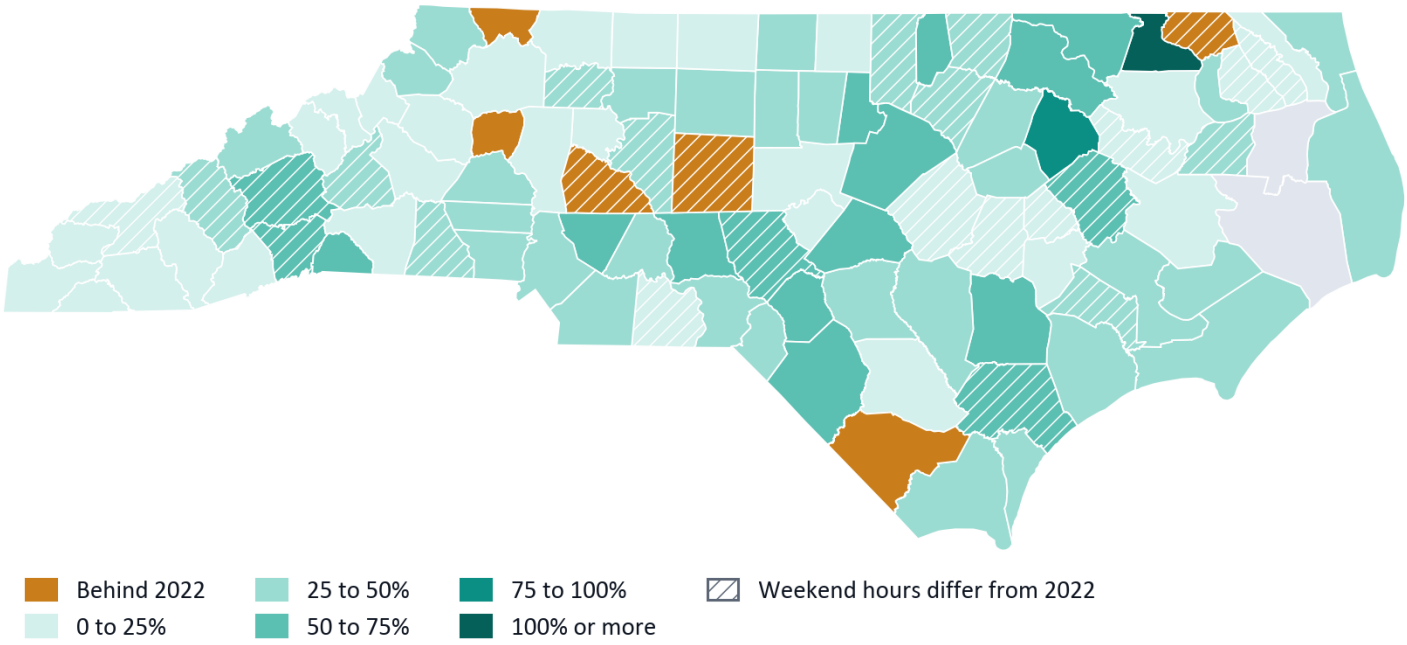



| | | 2024 lean | Dem minus Rep | Same, 2022 | Ballots | vs. 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Statewide | | | +5.4 | +1.0 | 501,321 | +38% |
| **Senate** | | | | | | |
| SD-11 | Barnes (R) | R+0.8 | +6.5 | +0.9 | 12,387 | +41% |
| SD-13 | Grafstein (D) | D+4.4 | +6.7 | +2.0 | 13,444 | +39% |
| SD-18 | Open seat | R+0.8 | +6.8 | +2.3 | 12,303 | +41% |
| SD-42 | Bradley (D) | D+3.3 | +6.9 | +1.5 | 12,524 | +33% |
| SD-4 | Newton (R) | R+7.3 | +5.5 | +1.2 | 9,292 | +25% |
| SD-7 | Lee (R) | R+4.6 | +4.9 | +1.8 | 9,822 | +28% |
| SD-34 | Open seat | R+6.8 | +4.3 | +0.3 | 9,236 | +58% |
| SD-24 | Britt (R) | R+8.8 | +4.7 | +1.6 | 6,822 | +48% |
| **House** | | | | | | |
| HD-115 | Prather (D) | R+0.5 | +10.0 | +3.3 | 5,969 | +57% |
| HD-105 | Cotham (R) | R+1.9 | +7.9 | +1.7 | 5,928 | +37% |
| HD-25 | Chesser (R) | D+2.6 | +6.8 | +0.1 | 5,826 | +41% |
| HD-37 | Paré (R) | R+2.4 | +6.5 | +1.8 | 6,507 | +47% |
| HD-35 | Schietzelt (R) | R+3.3 | +7.4 | +2.7 | 5,511 | +47% |
| HD-9 | Reeder (R) | R+7.0 | +7.2 | +1.4 | 4,877 | +62% |
| HD-74 | Zenger (R) | R+8.1 | +7.3 | +2.0 | 4,821 | +23% |
| HD-7 | Open seat | R+9.9 | +6.9 | +2.9 | 4,987 | +38% |
| HD-12 | Humphrey (R) | R+7.6 | +7.1 | +1.3 | 4,023 | +18% |
| HD-98 | Helfrich (D) | D+0.9 | +7.3 | +2.0 | 4,995 | +24% |
| HD-32 | Cohn (D) | D+3.1 | +5.4 | +0.5 | 4,949 | +34% |
| HD-48 | Pierce (D) | D+4.6 | +6.8 | +2.9 | 3,783 | +42% |
| HD-24 | Pittman (D) | D+1.7 | +5.8 | +1.3 | 3,981 | +35% |
| HD-43 | Wheatley (R) | R+9.7 | +5.9 | +1.2 | 3,741 | +37% |
| HD-82 | Echevarria (R) | R+7.5 | +5.4 | +1.5 | 4,265 | +72% |
| HD-62 | Blust (R) | R+6.3 | +4.6 | +0.2 | 4,752 | +34% |
| HD-5 | Ward (R) | R+4.8 | +5.3 | +2.3 | 3,614 | +23% |
| HD-26 | White (R) | R+10.0 | +5.4 | +2.0 | 4,167 | +26% |
| HD-20 | Open seat | R+9.6 | +5.1 | +2.2 | 4,243 | +19% |
| HD-59 | Branson (R) | R+8.0 | +4.9 | +0.7 | 4,381 | +38% |
| HD-64 | Riddell (R) | R+6.1 | +4.2 | +0.3 | 3,627 | +34% |
| HD-63 | Open seat | R+6.1 | +3.2 | +0.3 | 3,706 | +38% |
| HD-73 | Almond (R) | R+5.0 | +3.8 | -0.2 | 3,784 | +58% |

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

92 of 98 counties are ahead of their 2022 pace.




**Fastest growth:** Edgecombe +90%, Buncombe +74%, Halifax +72%, Pitt +67%, Moore +66%, Durham +61%.

**Behind 2022:** Alexander -32%, Columbus -18%, Randolph -16% (hatched), Gates -16% (hatched), Alleghany -13%, Rowan -7% (hatched).

Counties with fewer than 100 ballots at this point in 2022 are left grey (Hyde and Tyrrell). Hatched counties had different weekend hours from 2022 (open on Saturday or Sunday in one year but not the other), so their comparison tilts with the calendar. 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.