Early Vote Day Report

Day 4 of 17 · Data through Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026*

525,970

ballots cast so far, in person and by mail

+37%

more than at this point in 2022 (383,029)

6.7%

of registered voters have voted (5.2% in 2022)

Open the live dashboard →

Every county and district, updated each morning

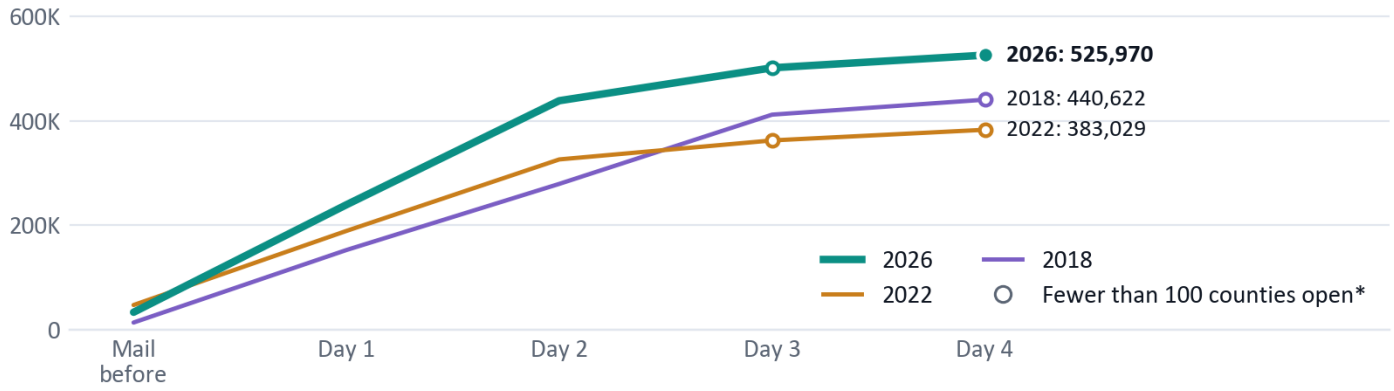
Snapshot

Through Sunday, the fourth day of early voting, North Carolinians have cast 525,970 ballots in person and by mail. That is 37% more than at the same point in 2022, and 6.7% of all registered voters. Most counties kept their early voting sites closed on Sunday: 7 opened (23 on 2022's Sunday). Those counties took 24,257 ballots in person, against 20,272 on 2022's Sunday.

Top takeaways

- **Democrats had their best day yet on Sunday.** Sunday's 24,333 ballots from the 7 counties that opened were 51.9% Democratic, 8.9% Republican and 38.9% unaffiliated. Taken one day at a time, days 1 to 3 ran from 16% to 22% Republican and 44% to 47% Democratic. On 2022's Sunday, the split was 48.5% Democratic, 21.0% Republican and 30.3% unaffiliated.
- **The Democratic turnout edge widened to 5.9 points on Sunday.** 10.3% of registered Democrats have voted and 4.4% of registered Republicans; after Saturday the gap was 5.4. On 2022's Sunday it moved +0.2 points, to 1.3.
- **Sunday's voters were younger than on the days before.** 23.8% were 65 or older, against 52.4% on the days before; 14.2% were under 30, against 6.9%. On 2022's Sunday: 30.0% and 10.6%.
- **Among the seats to watch, the Democratic turnout edge grew most on Sunday in HD-37 and HD-35.** Their gaps between the share of registered Democrats and Republicans who have voted grew +1.3 and +1.3 points, to 7.8 and 8.7. It held in SD-34, at 4.3.

Ballots cast, day by day



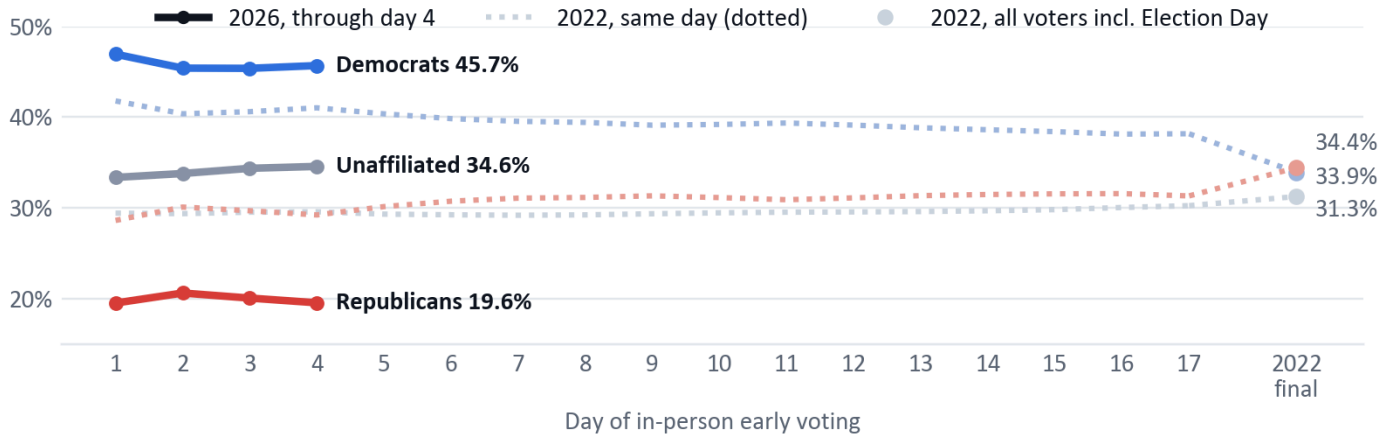
Day by day

	2026			2022, same day			2018, same day	
Day	Date	In person	All so far	Date	In person	All so far	Date	All so far
4	Sun. Oct. 18*	24,257	**525,966**	Sun. Oct. 23*	20,272	383,029	Sat. Oct. 20*	440,622
3	Sat. Oct. 17*	61,440	**501,633**	Sat. Oct. 22*	35,027	362,643	Fri. Oct. 19	411,988
2	Fri. Oct. 16	196,676	**438,680**	Fri. Oct. 21	132,506	326,248	Thu. Oct. 18	279,423
1	Thu. Oct. 15	203,157	**239,486**	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); Sun. Oct. 18, 7 (2022: 23).

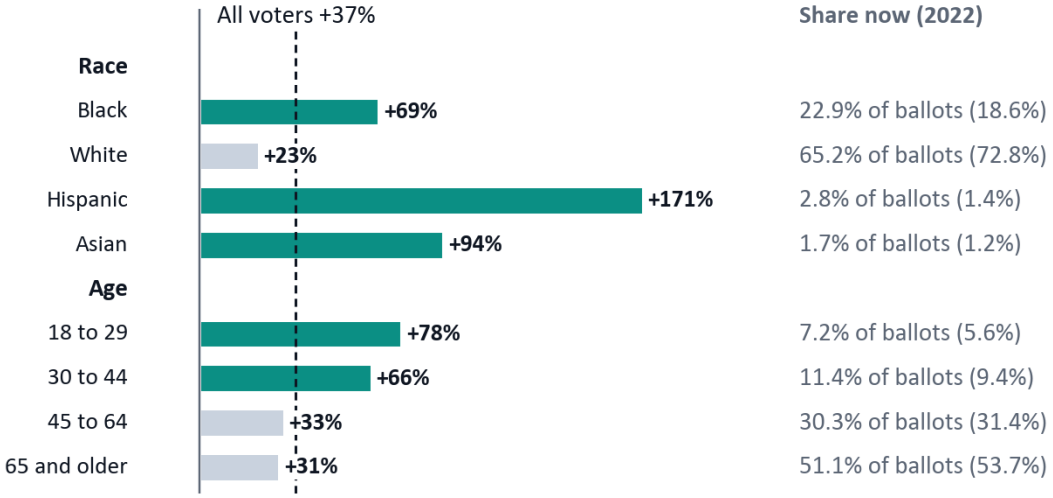
Who is voting: the party mix, day by day

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

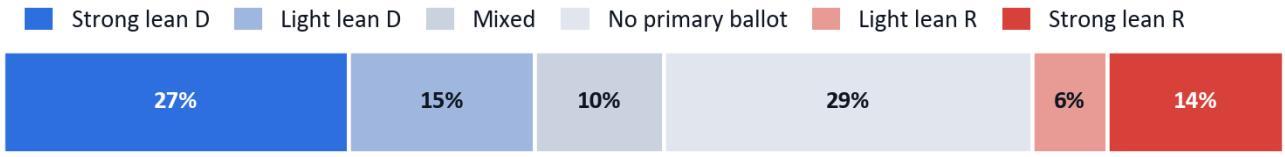
Voters so far by party of registration and by their record in the last two general elections. Base: voted in both 2022 and 2024. Sporadic: voted in one of the two. Unlikely: new to the rolls, or voted in neither. Under each count: the share of that group's registered voters who have voted, and the same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

	BASE	SPORADIC	UNLIKELY
DEMOCRAT	**Democrat Base** **205,045** 39.0% of all ballots +10,388 on Sunday **16.6%** of 1,237,884 registered 2022, same point: 9.4%	**Democrat Sporadic** **21,090** 4.0% of all ballots +1,272 on Sunday **4.0%** of 526,595 registered 2022, same point: 2.2%	**Democrat Unlikely** **14,071** 2.7% of all ballots +980 on Sunday **2.5%** of 569,413 registered 2022, same point: 1.8%
UNAFFILIATED	**Unaffiliated Base** **148,521** 28.2% of all ballots +7,336 on Sunday **10.5%** of 1,417,817 registered 2022, same point: 7.5%	**Unaffiliated Sporadic** **19,123** 3.6% of all ballots +1,056 on Sunday **2.9%** of 658,746 registered 2022, same point: 1.9%	**Unaffiliated Unlikely** **14,165** 2.7% of all ballots +1,071 on Sunday **1.3%** of 1,093,945 registered 2022, same point: 1.0%
REPUBLICAN	**Republican Base** **90,806** 17.3% of all ballots +1,874 on Sunday **6.6%** of 1,370,390 registered 2022, same point: 7.3%	**Republican Sporadic** **7,564** 1.4% of all ballots +183 on Sunday **1.5%** of 504,969 registered 2022, same point: 2.0%	**Republican Unlikely** **4,475** 0.9% of all ballots +117 on Sunday **1.0%** of 455,061 registered 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 Sunday: ballots dated that day. Other parties (1,110 voters) are not shown.

The unaffiliated row, by the primary ballots they have taken

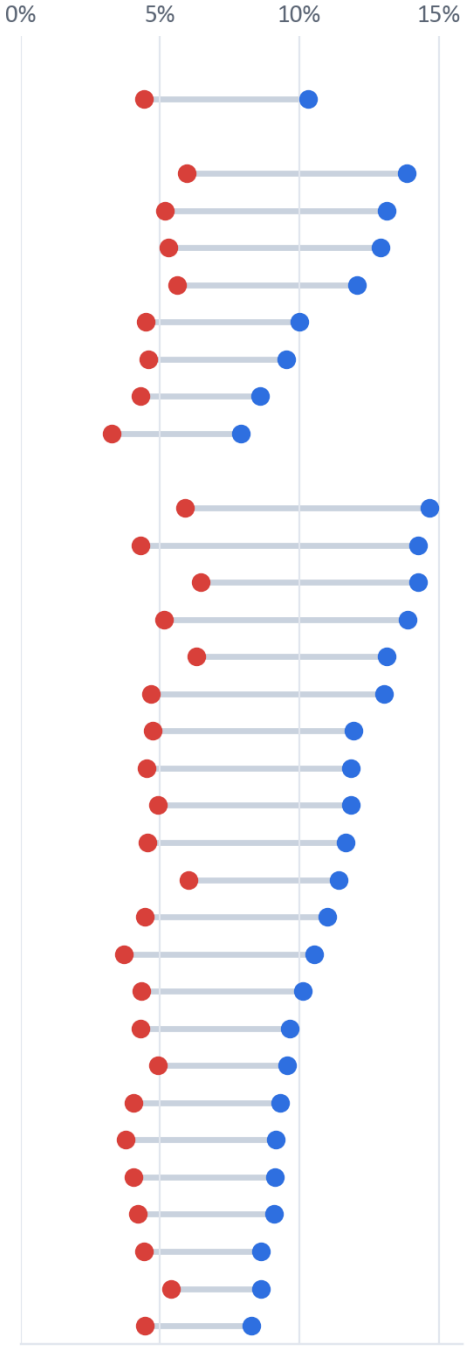
The 181,809 unaffiliated voters so far, sorted by which party's primary ballot they took in the five statewide primaries from 2018 to 2026.



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, 10.3% of Democrats and 4.4% of Republicans have voted, 5.9 points apart; at this point in 2022 they were 1.3 points apart.

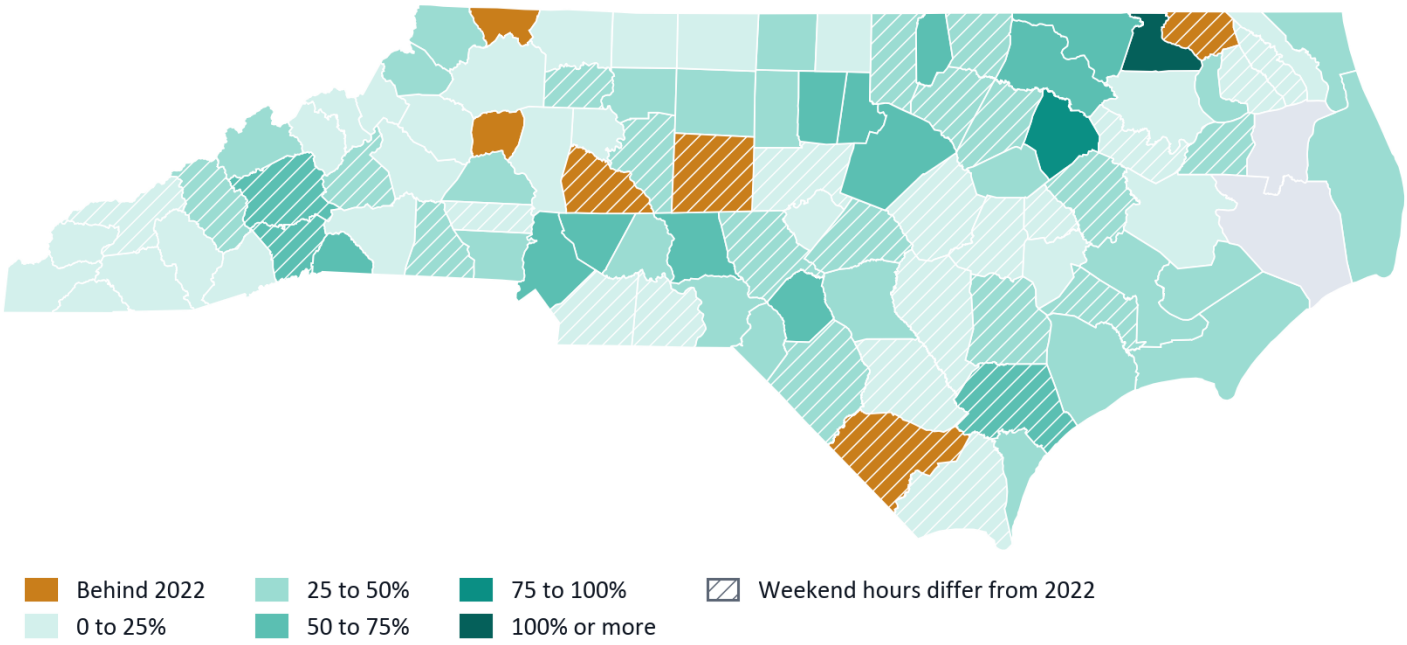


		2024 lean	Dem minus Rep	Same, 2022	Ballots	vs. 2022
Statewide			+5.9	+1.3	525,970	+37%
Senate						
SD-13	Grafstein (D)	D+4.4	+7.9	+2.3	15,451	+42%
SD-42	Bradley (D)	D+3.3	+8.0	+1.7	14,087	+37%
SD-18	Open seat	R+0.8	+7.6	+2.5	13,607	+43%
SD-11	Barnes (R)	R+0.8	+6.5	+0.9	12,387	+36%
SD-4	Newton (R)	R+7.3	+5.5	+1.0	9,297	+20%
SD-7	Lee (R)	R+4.6	+5.0	+1.8	9,847	+28%
SD-34	Open seat	R+6.8	+4.3	+0.3	9,236	+58%
SD-24	Britt (R)	R+8.8	+4.7	+2.0	6,822	+38%
House						
HD-105	Cotham (R)	R+1.9	+8.8	+2.0	6,565	+40%
HD-115	Prather (D)	R+0.5	+10.0	+3.3	5,969	+57%
HD-37	Paré (R)	R+2.4	+7.8	+2.1	7,459	+51%
HD-35	Schietzelt (R)	R+3.3	+8.7	+3.1	6,333	+50%
HD-25	Chesser (R)	D+2.6	+6.8	+0.1	5,826	+31%
HD-98	Helfrich (D)	D+0.9	+8.4	+2.4	5,678	+31%
HD-9	Reeder (R)	R+7.0	+7.2	+1.6	4,877	+39%
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-32	Cohn (D)	D+3.1	+5.4	+0.5	4,949	+34%
HD-43	Wheatley (R)	R+9.7	+6.6	+1.3	4,132	+40%
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-82	Echevarria (R)	R+7.5	+5.4	+1.5	4,265	+72%
HD-62	Blust (R)	R+6.3	+4.6	+0.2	4,770	+35%
HD-5	Ward (R)	R+4.8	+5.3	+2.4	3,614	+14%
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	4,251	+20%
HD-59	Branson (R)	R+8.0	+4.9	+0.7	4,391	+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%, Durham +61%, Cabarrus +59%, Pender +58%.

Behind 2022: Columbus -36% (hatched), Alexander -32%, Randolph -16% (hatched), Gates -16% (hatched), Rowan -15% (hatched), Alleghany -13%.

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.