Early Vote Day Report

Day 7 of 17 · Data through Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026*

1,101,322

ballots cast so far, in person and by mail

+38%

more than at this point in 2022 (798,778)

14.0%

of registered voters have voted (10.8% in 2022)

Open the live dashboard →

Every county and district, updated each morning

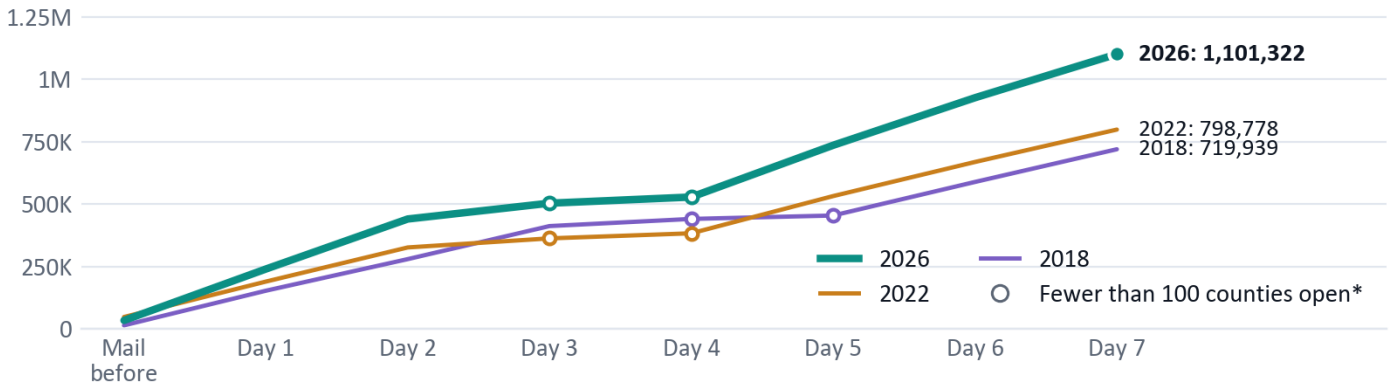
Snapshot

In-person voting slows through the first full week: in each of the last four general elections it fell every day from Monday to Wednesday, and Thursday was lower still. This year too: 171,916 voted in person on Wednesday, the fewest of any weekday so far, but 38% more than on 2022's Wednesday (124,614).

Top takeaways

- **The Democratic turnout edge widened to 9.7 points on Wednesday.** 20.3% of registered Democrats have voted and 10.6% of registered Republicans; after Tuesday the gap was 8.8. On 2022's Wednesday it moved +0.1 points, to 1.5.
- **Republicans had their best day yet on Wednesday, and still ran well behind 2022.** Wednesday's 174,829 ballots were 38.9% Democratic, 27.0% Republican and 33.9% unaffiliated. On 2022's Wednesday, the split was 38.0% Democratic, 32.8% Republican and 29.0% unaffiliated.
- **Voters under 30 are up 99% from this point in 2022; young Republicans are down 11%.** 79,132 voters under 30 have cast ballots, 7.2% of all ballots (5.0% in 2022). Young Democrats are up 125% and young unaffiliated voters up 128%. Republicans are 8.9% of under-30 ballots, against 20.0% in 2022.
- **In SD-34, an open Cabarrus County seat that leaned R+6.8 in 2024, registered Republicans have gone from casting the most ballots to the fewest.** At this point in 2022, Republicans cast 38.0% of its ballots, Democrats 32.2% and unaffiliated voters 29.6%; now Democrats cast 38.3%, unaffiliated voters 36.4% and Republicans 25.1%. Democratic ballots are up 85% and unaffiliated up 91%, against +2% for Republicans, and 27% of Democratic ballots come from people who did not vote in 2022.
- **In the House seats to watch, the Democratic turnout edge grew most on Wednesday in HD-115 and HD-35.** Their gaps grew +2.1 and +1.3 points, to 17.9 and 14.1; at this point in 2022 they were 6.5 and 4.1. The edge is wider than in 2022 in all 23 House seats to watch.

Ballots cast, day by day



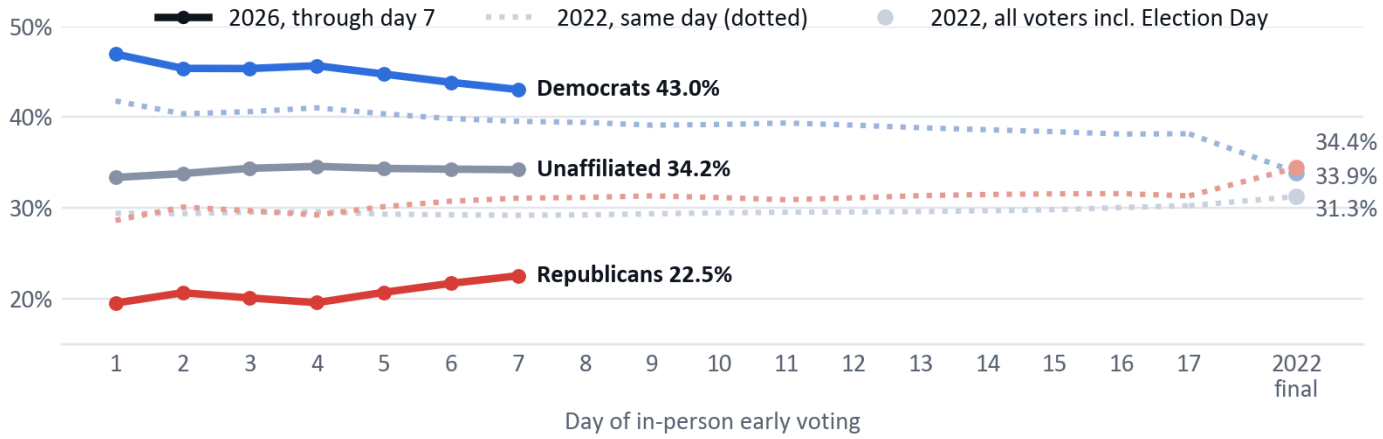
Day by day

	2026			2022, same day			2018, same day	
Day	Date	In person	All so far	Date	In person	All so far	Date	All so far
7	Wed. Oct. 21	171,916	**1,101,322**	Wed. Oct. 26	124,614	798,778	Tue. Oct. 23	719,939
6	Tue. Oct. 20	187,434	**926,488**	Tue. Oct. 25	133,127	668,913	Mon. Oct. 22	588,862
5	Mon. Oct. 19	203,580	**735,914**	Mon. Oct. 24	141,489	532,240	Sun. Oct. 21*	454,336
4	Sun. Oct. 18*	24,542	**528,351**	Sun. Oct. 23*	20,272	383,029	Sat. Oct. 20*	440,622
3	Sat. Oct. 17*	61,746	**503,667**	Sat. Oct. 22*	35,027	362,643	Fri. Oct. 19	411,988
2	Fri. Oct. 16	197,761	**440,263**	Fri. Oct. 21	132,506	326,248	Thu. Oct. 18	279,423
1	Thu. Oct. 15	203,246	**239,711**	Thu. Oct. 20	137,387	189,375	Wed. Oct. 17	152,804

All so far: every accepted ballot, in person and by mail. *Fewer than 100 counties open: Sat. Oct. 17, 39 (2022: 38); Sun. Oct. 18, 8 (2022: 23).

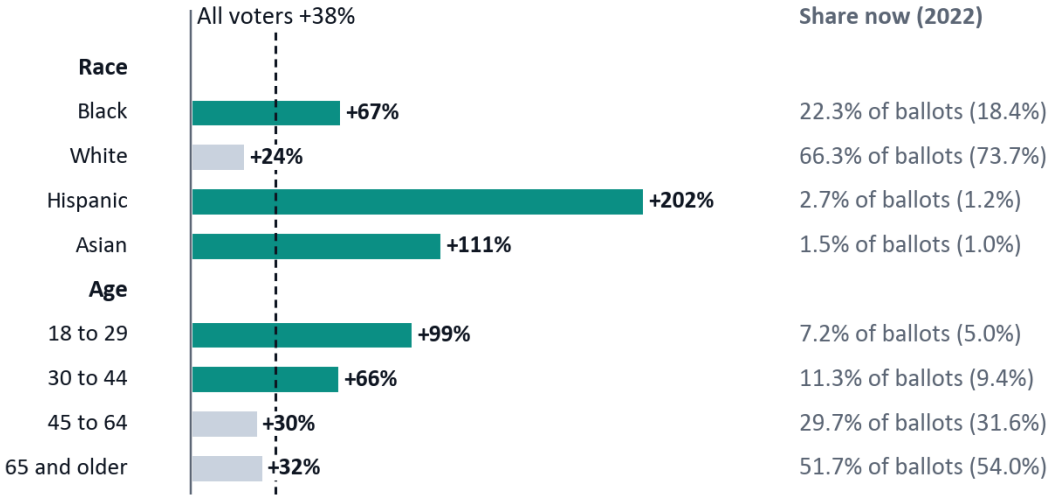
Who is voting: the party mix, day by day

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

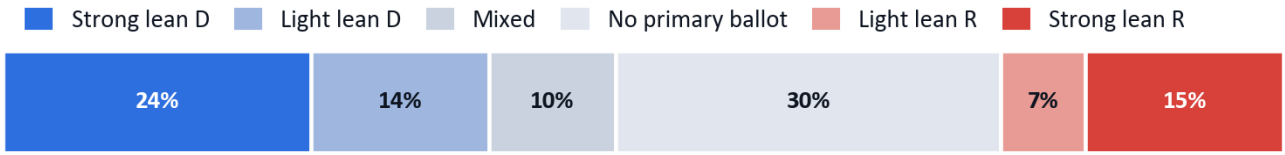
Voters so far by party of registration and by their record in the last two general elections. Base: voted in both 2022 and 2024. Sporadic: voted in one of the two. Unlikely: new to the rolls, or voted in neither. Under each count: the share of that group's registered voters who have voted, and the same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

	BASE	SPORADIC	UNLIKELY
DEMOCRAT	**Democrat Base** **397,483** 36.1% of all ballots +55,023 on Wednesday **32.1%** of 1,237,884 registered 2022, same point: 19.1%	**Democrat Sporadic** **47,591** 4.3% of all ballots +8,705 on Wednesday **9.0%** of 526,595 registered 2022, same point: 4.2%	**Democrat Unlikely** **28,889** 2.6% of all ballots +4,239 on Wednesday **5.1%** of 569,413 registered 2022, same point: 3.3%
UNAFFILIATED	**Unaffiliated Base** **306,322** 27.8% of all ballots +47,432 on Wednesday **21.6%** of 1,417,817 registered 2022, same point: 15.4%	**Unaffiliated Sporadic** **41,260** 3.7% of all ballots +7,368 on Wednesday **6.3%** of 658,746 registered 2022, same point: 3.9%	**Unaffiliated Unlikely** **29,183** 2.6% of all ballots +4,494 on Wednesday **2.7%** of 1,093,945 registered 2022, same point: 1.8%
REPUBLICAN	**Republican Base** **220,459** 20.0% of all ballots +41,956 on Wednesday **16.1%** of 1,370,390 registered 2022, same point: 16.2%	**Republican Sporadic** **17,741** 1.6% of all ballots +3,522 on Wednesday **3.5%** of 504,969 registered 2022, same point: 4.6%	**Republican Unlikely** **9,921** 0.9% of all ballots +1,664 on Wednesday **2.2%** of 455,061 registered 2022, same point: 2.8%

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 Wednesday: ballots dated that day. Other parties (2,469 voters) are not shown.

The unaffiliated row, by the primary ballots they have taken

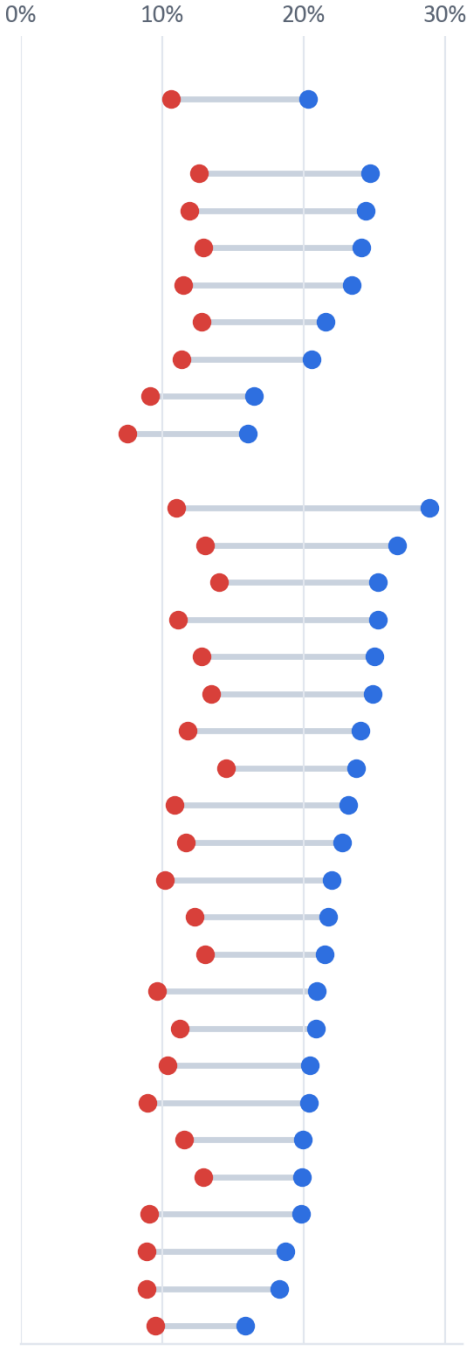
The 376,765 unaffiliated voters so far, sorted by which party's primary ballot they took in the five statewide primaries from 2018 to 2026.



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, 20.3% of Democrats and 10.6% of Republicans have voted, 9.7 points apart; at this point in 2022 they were 1.5 points apart.

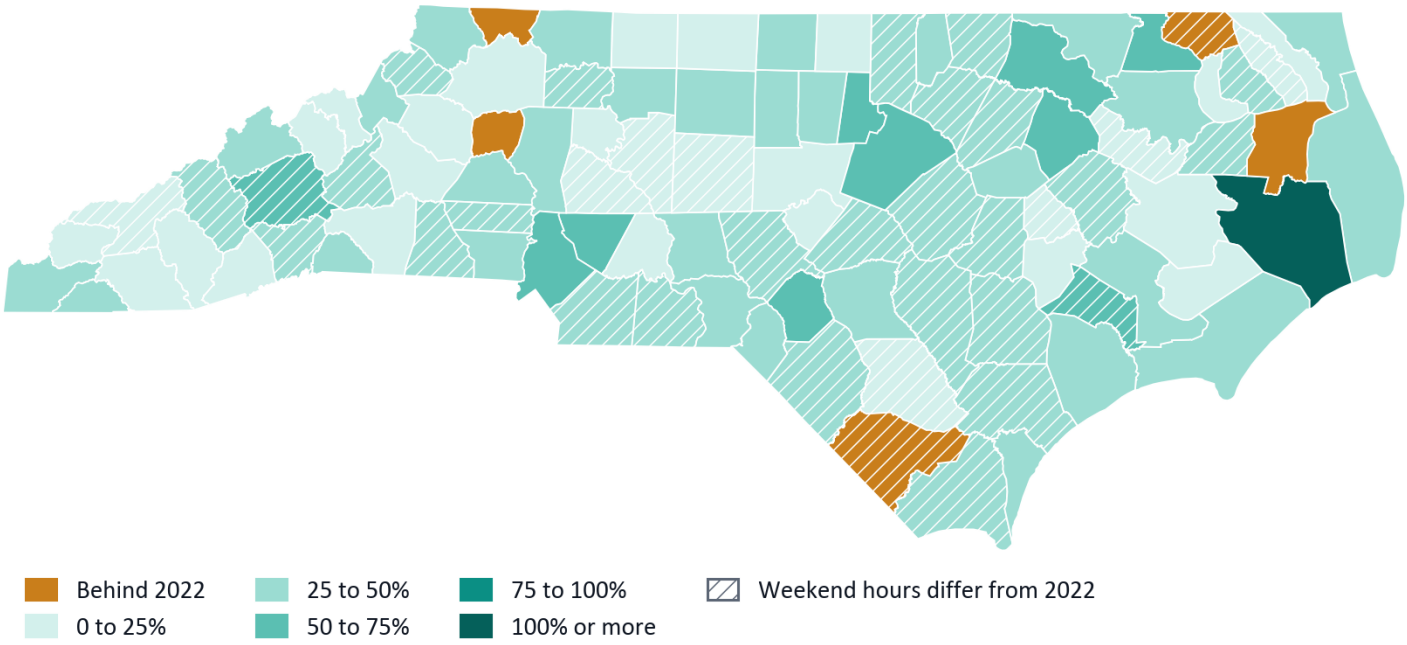


		2024 lean	Dem minus Rep	Same, 2022	Ballots	vs. 2022
Statewide			+9.7	+1.5	1,101,322	+38%
Senate						
SD-13	Grafstein (D)	D+4.4	+12.1	+3.0	28,702	+47%
SD-18	Fatmi (D)	R+0.8	+12.5	+4.0	26,894	+48%
SD-11	Barnes (R)	R+0.8	+11.1	+2.0	25,897	+39%
SD-42	Bradley (D)	D+3.3	+12.0	+1.4	26,910	+35%
SD-7	Lee (R)	R+4.6	+8.8	+2.4	24,438	+32%
SD-4	Newton (R)	R+7.3	+9.2	+1.0	20,232	+27%
SD-34	Open seat	R+6.8	+7.3	-0.1	17,983	+55%
SD-24	Britt (R)	R+8.8	+8.5	+3.7	14,469	+36%
House						
HD-115	Prather (D)	R+0.5	+17.9	+6.5	12,690	+42%
HD-105	Cotham (R)	R+1.9	+13.6	+1.6	12,752	+37%
HD-25	Chesser (R)	D+2.6	+11.3	+0.2	11,604	+35%
HD-35	Schietzelt (R)	R+3.3	+14.1	+4.1	12,185	+58%
HD-74	Zenger (R)	R+8.1	+12.2	+3.2	11,350	+25%
HD-37	Paré (R)	R+2.4	+11.4	+2.3	13,599	+53%
HD-7	Open seat	R+9.9	+12.2	+5.5	10,801	+43%
HD-32	Cohn (D)	D+3.1	+9.2	+2.0	10,753	+37%
HD-98	Helfrich (D)	D+0.9	+12.3	+3.2	10,937	+30%
HD-9	Reeder (R)	R+7.0	+11.0	+2.1	10,203	+32%
HD-12	Humphrey (R)	R+7.6	+11.8	+1.5	8,080	+19%
HD-20	Open seat	R+9.6	+9.4	+2.8	11,145	+27%
HD-62	Blust (R)	R+6.3	+8.5	-0.7	11,348	+36%
HD-26	White (R)	R+10.0	+11.2	+2.8	9,992	+44%
HD-59	Branson (R)	R+8.0	+9.6	+0.8	10,563	+39%
HD-24	Pittman (D)	D+1.7	+10.0	+1.3	8,330	+30%
HD-48	Pierce (D)	D+4.6	+11.5	+5.1	7,766	+40%
HD-64	Riddell (R)	R+6.1	+8.4	+0.7	8,661	+38%
HD-63	Open seat	R+6.1	+7.0	-0.2	8,626	+36%
HD-43	Wheatley (R)	R+9.7	+10.8	+2.5	7,787	+39%
HD-5	Ward (R)	R+4.8	+9.8	+4.7	7,541	+12%
HD-82	Echevarria (R)	R+7.5	+9.4	+2.0	8,199	+71%
HD-73	Almond (R)	R+5.0	+6.4	-1.0	7,320	+53%

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

95 of 100 counties are ahead of their 2022 pace.



Fastest growth: Hertford +64%, Wake +58%, Durham +57%, Edgecombe +56%, Mecklenburg +56%, Cabarrus +55%.

Behind 2022: Alexander -25%, Columbus -22%, Alleghany -11%, Gates -9%, Tyrrell -4%.

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.