

Constitution and Elections

See full summary documents for additional detail

H3 - Ballot Designations/Referenda. (SL 2018-131)

S.L. 2018-131 provides that referendum questions be placed on the ballot without numerical or other reference of order, and removes the requirement of short descriptive captions printed on the ballot with respect to referendum questions for proposed amendments to the North Carolina Constitution.

H9 - Allow Election Day Service - Retired LEOs. (SL 2018-25)

S.L. 2018-25 allows a retired law enforcement officer to be employed to provide service to a county board of elections on an election day without impacting payments from the officer's special separation allowance benefit. This act became effective June 22, 2018.

H335 - Restore Last Saturday Early One-Stop. (SL 2018-129)

S.L. 2018-129 does the following:

- Restores early voting hours on the last Saturday before the elections, required from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM on that day and optional from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM on that day;
- Allows a county with an inhabited barrier island accessible only by marine vessel to offer early voting sites on flexible days during the early voting period, under certain circumstances.

H496 - Fair and Nonpartisan Ballot Placement. (SL 2018-99)

S.L. 2018-99 applies the same random selection process to determine candidate order on official ballots to the primary and the general election in the same year. This act became effective June 26, 2018, and applies to elections held on or after that date.

H551 - Strengthening Victims' Rights. (SL 2018-110)

S.L. 2018-110 places a constitutional amendment on the November 2018 ballot to expand the rights of victims of certain crimes and acts of delinquency.

H659 - Filling Vacancies/U.S. Senate. (SL 2018-102)

S.L. 2018-102 requires the Governor to appoint from a list of three nominees to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Senator submitted by the State executive committee of the political party, if the vacating

member was the nominee of a political party. This act became effective June 26, 2018, and applies to vacancies filled on or after that date.

H913 - Bipartisan Ethics and Elections Enforcement. (SL 2018-117)

S.L. 2018-117 proposes amendments to the North Carolina Constitution to make the following changes:

- Establish a bipartisan board of elections and ethics enforcement, consisting of eight members appointed by the General Assembly.
- Clarify the legislative powers to control the powers, duties, responsibilities, appointments, and terms of office of any board or commission prescribed by general law, and the powers of the Governor to faithfully execute those laws.
- Clarify that members of the General Assembly may not serve on Executive or Judicial Branch boards or commission that exercise non-advisory powers.

The proposed constitutional amendments are placed on the ballot in the November 2018 general election.

H1092 - Const. Amendment - Require Photo ID to Vote. (SL 2018-128)

S.L. 2018-128 proposes amendments to the North Carolina Constitution to require photo identification for voters voting in person, and places the amendments on the ballot in the November 2018 general election.

S3 - Party Disclosure/2018 Judicial Races. (SL 2018-130)

S.L. 2018-130 revises the ballot language included prior to the contests for Justices and judges of the State courts on the 2018 general election ballot, and allows persons who have filed a notice of candidacy for these offices to withdraw that notice of candidacy at any time prior to August 8, 2018.

This act became effective August 4, 2018, and applies to the 2018 elections only.

S75 - Const. Amd. - Max. Income Tax Rate of 7.0%. (SL 2018-119)

S.L. 2018-119 proposes an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution to cap the tax rate on both personal and corporate incomes at 7% for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and places that amendment on the ballot in the 2018 general election. The cap is currently 10%.

Except as otherwise provided, the act became effective June 28, 2018.

S99 - Appropriations Act of 2018.

Sec. 23.1: Help America Vote Act Funds. (SL 2018-5)

Sec. 23.1 of S.L. 2018-5 requires the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement (State Board) to submit a status report on the use of 2018 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee by October 1, 2018. The report must include a budget, a time frame for using the HAVA funds for security upgrades and other necessary improvements, and report on any remaining HAVA funds awarded from prior federal grants.

This section became effective July 1, 2018.

S325 - The Uniform & Expanded Early Voting Act. (SL 2018-112)

S.L. 2018-112 makes the following changes, as amended by S.L. 2018-129:

- Amends the time period for early voting to begin no earlier than the third Wednesday before an election, and end no later than the last Saturday before the election. On the last Saturday before the election, a county board of elections must conduct one-stop voting from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. and may conduct early voting until 5:00 P.M. on that Saturday.
- Establishes hours for one-stop early voting sites to be open during the early voting period, including requirements that:
 - All sites remain at the same location throughout early voting.
 - All sites be open uniformly on the days they are open.
 - All sites on weekdays during early voting must be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
 - All sites open on Saturdays other than the last Saturday of early voting must be open for a uniform number of hours.

S486 - The Elections Security and Transparency Act. (SL 2018-13)

S.L. 2018-13 makes the various changes to elections laws, including:

S655 - Change Date When Primary Elections Held. (SL 2018-21)

S.L. 2018-21 moves the date of the general primary election and the presidential preference primary to March and provides for notices of candidacy in primary elections to be filed in December.

This act becomes effective January 1, 2019, and applies to even-year elections held on or after that date.

S677 - Protect Right to Hunt and Fish. (SL 2018-96)

S.L. 2018-96 directs that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in November of 2018 to include language in the State's Constitution to provide that the people of the State have a right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, subject to certain limitations.

S757 - Various Court Districts Changes. (SL 2018-14)

S.L. 2018-14, effective with phasing in beginning with the 2018 elections, re-establishes the following judicial districts:

- Superior Court districts, Mecklenburg County, fully effective January 1, 2023.
- District Court districts, Mecklenburg County, fully effective January 1, 2021.
- Superior Court districts, Pender and New Hanover Counties, fully effective January 1, 2019.
- District Court districts, Wake County, fully effective January 1, 2021.

S814 - Judicial Vacancy Sunshine Amendment. (SL 2018-118)

S.L. 2018-118 proposes amendments to the North Carolina Constitution to establish nonpartisan judicial merit commissions for the nomination and recommendation of nominees to fill vacancies in the office of Justice or Judge of the General Court of Justice, and places the amendments on the ballot in the November 2018 general election.