

BUFFER ZONE

§ 163A-1134. Limitation on activity in the voting place and in a buffer zone around it.

(a) Buffer Zone. – No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity in the voting place or in a buffer zone which shall be prescribed by the county board of elections around the voting place. In determining the dimensions of that buffer zone for each voting place, the county board of elections shall, where practical, set the limit at 50 feet from the door of entrance to the voting place, measured when that door is closed, but in no event shall it set the limit at more than 50 feet or at less than 25 feet.

Numbered Memo 2016-17 from NCSBE Executive Director

“In order to preserve the voter’s statutory right of privacy, we will no longer permit electioneering to take place in the area where curbside voting occurs. Please mark the curbside voting area with proper and easily visible signage. Your county may also find it helpful to post signage that prohibits electioneering in the area. If a voting location cannot accommodate the 50’ or 25’ buffer, a reasonable boundary should be established to ensure the curbside area remains free of electioneering.”

§ 163A-1133. Limited access to the voting enclosure.

- (a) Persons Who May Enter Voting Enclosure. – During the time allowed for voting in the voting place, only the following persons may enter the voting enclosure:
1. An election official.
 2. An observer appointed pursuant to G.S. 163A-821.
 3. A runner appointed pursuant to G.S. 163A-821, but only to the extent necessary to announce that runner's presence and to receive the voter list as provided in G.S. 163A-821.
 4. A person seeking to vote in that voting place on that day but only while in the process of voting or seeking to vote.
 5. A voter in that precinct while entering or explaining a challenge pursuant to G.S. 163A-913 or G.S. 163A-914.
 6. A person authorized under G.S. 163A-1139 to assist a voter but, except as provided in subdivision (7) of this section, only while assisting that voter.
 7. Minor children of the voter under the age of 18, or minor children under the age of 18 in the care of the voter, but only while accompanying the voter and while under the control of the voter.
 8. Persons conducting or participating in a simulated election within the voting place or voting enclosure, if that simulated election is approved by the county board of elections.
 9. Any other person determined by election officials to have an urgent need to enter the voting enclosure but only to the extent necessary to address that need.

Bathroom facilities will only be available for voters and election staff as entrances to most bathroom facilities at our polling sites are located within the 50’ buffer zone. This information has been provided early as a courtesy so candidates, electioneers, and impacted entities can make alternate arrangements.