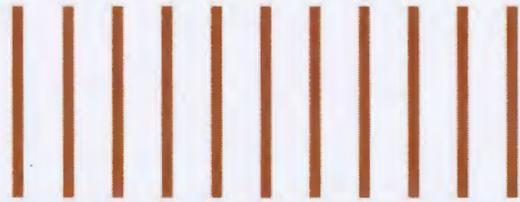


# NORTH CAROLINA second chance ALLIANCE



I am for **Second Chances**

**Restoring** opportunities.  
**Strengthening** communities.  
**Preserving** resources.

The **NC Second Chance Alliance** is a statewide alliance of impacted people and families, advocacy organizations, service providers, congregations, community leaders, and concerned citizens that have come together to address the causes of criminal records and the collateral barriers to successful reentry through public education, mobilization, and local and state policy reforms.

**JOIN US TODAY!**

Add your voice to the collective call for reduced barriers to reentry and additional reentry supports for North Carolinians with criminal records.

**[www.ncsecondchance.org](http://www.ncsecondchance.org)**

The NC Second Chance Alliance also provides an extensive database of reentry resources on our website, including information regarding expungements, certificates of relief, and Title VII, as well as state and national resources available to individuals with criminal records.



Please join the Second Chance Alliance in support of restoring opportunities for prosperous citizenship for North Carolinians with criminal records. Our 2019-2020 legislative agenda includes automatic expunctions and expanded eligibility, adoption of a fair chance public hiring and licensing policies, increased resources for reentry services, and expansion of local reentry councils.



To join the NC Second Chance Alliance, please email Jarvis Johnson at [jjohnson@forwardjustice.org](mailto:jjohnson@forwardjustice.org)



# NORTH CAROLINA VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

You have the right to vote – it's the law, and the proof is in your hands! You'll notice letters and numbers after each of your rights listed below. These tell lawyers and poll workers where to find the N.C. statute or legal document that protects your rights as a properly-registered voter. Take this document with you to vote. If you are not registered, check out the bottom section.



## You Have the Right to Vote

**1. HOURS.** Your assigned Election Day polling place is open between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm. You must be allowed to vote if you are in line or inside the polling place by 7:30 pm (or in line or inside the polling place at the closing time of any Early Voting poll in your county). *It's the law: NC General Statute (NCGS) 163A-1130*

**2. NO ID NEEDED TO VOTE IN THE 2020 PRIMARY.** If you are properly registered, you do not need a photo ID to vote in the 2020 Primary. The controversial voter ID requirement was blocked by a federal court for all elections while it's being challenged in court. See [ncvoter.org](http://ncvoter.org) for the latest on the law. *Order: 1:18CV1034 Issued: 12/31/19*

**3. PROVISIONAL BALLOT.** If any problem arises, you have a right to vote with a provisional ballot. For example, ask for a provisional ballot if you believe you have registered but your name is not on the rolls or if you are told that you are in the wrong precinct. You must also be given a way to find out if the provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason it was not counted. *NCGS 163A-1142*

**4. IF YOU MOVE.** If you have moved within your county and have lived in your new location more than 30 days, you have the right to vote in your new precinct or at a central location. If you have lived in your new location less than 30 days, you must vote in your old precinct or cast a provisional ballot in your new precinct. If you have moved within your precinct, you can update your info at the polls and vote. If you move to a new county, you must re-register to vote by 25 days before the election, or you

can visit an Early Voting poll anywhere in your new county to register and vote all at the same time. Find your county's Early Voting locations at [demnc.co/voteearly](http://demnc.co/voteearly). *NCGS 163A-878*

**5. NAME CHANGE.** If your name has changed since you registered to vote, you have the right to vote, even if you have not reported your name change to election officials. *NCGS 163A-880*

**6. SPOILED BALLOT.** If you make a mistake on your ballot, you have a right to a new ballot. You can spoil up to three ballots. *8 NCAC 10B.0104*

**7. ASSISTANCE.** You have the right to receive assistance from a family member in order to vote. If you have a disability or difficulty reading (due to language ability, vision, etc.), you have a right to assistance from anyone of your choice, except your employer or union agent. *NCGS 163A-1139*

**8. CURBSIDE.** If the polling place is difficult to reach due to your age or physical disability, you have a right to vote in a vehicle at the curb or at the door of the polling place. *NCGS 163A-1140*

**9. BEEN LOCKED UP?** If you are in jail for a misdemeanor, you still have a right to vote. If you were convicted of a felony, you can re-register to vote once you fully complete your sentence, including any parole or probation (restitution and fines do not affect voting eligibility if a criminal court has declared its sentence complete). *NCGS 13-1*.

**10. INTIMIDATION.** You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote in a certain way. *NCGS 163A-1385*

## What to Do if You're Not Registered

You can register to vote if your signed registration form is postmarked 25 days before an election. See [ncsbe.gov](http://ncsbe.gov) for the deadline. If you miss that deadline, you can register and vote on the same day during the 17-day Early Voting period before Election Day (you cannot do this on Election Day). You must be a citizen, be at least 18, and have lived in the county for 30 days before the election.

Just go to an Early Voting site in your county, fill out the registration form, show one of the following with a name and address: a gov't document, pay stub, utility bill, bank statement, or student ID with a school document showing your address, and then vote! To find an Early Voting site in your county, call 888-OUR-VOTE or visit [demnc.co/voteearly](http://demnc.co/voteearly).

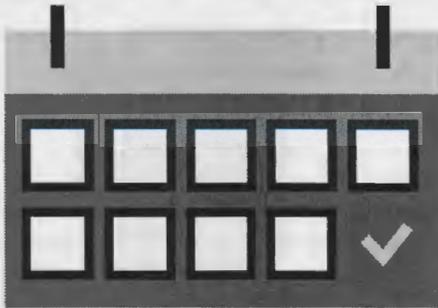
**DEMOCRACY NC**

For the latest voting rules, visit [ncvoter.org](http://ncvoter.org)

January 2020

# WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT IN 2020?

No matter what you care about, **YOUR ISSUES** are on the ballot in 2020.



➔ Pick who's on the ballot in the General Election

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**  
is March 3, 2020.  
Save Time, Vote Early  
Feb. 13-Feb. 29, 2020

➔ Pick who represents you in the years to come

**GENERAL ELECTION DAY**  
is November 3, 2020.  
Save Time, Vote Early  
Oct. 15-Oct. 31, 2020

## REMEMBER: Start with the Locals

*The races at the bottom of your ballot that touch our everyday lives should be a top priority for all voters.*

### LOCAL JUDGES

Have the power to do everything from felony and misdemeanor criminal cases to business disputes to divorce and child custody.

### LOCAL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Hold the purse strings for your community, determining everything from local funding for your elections to setting your property taxes.

### LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

Sets the school system budget and decides who runs your schools, where kids go to school, how big classes are, and even what textbooks are used.

### LOCAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SUPERVISORS

Establishes local conservation priorities and works with landowners on things like soil preservation, flood prevention and protecting clean water.



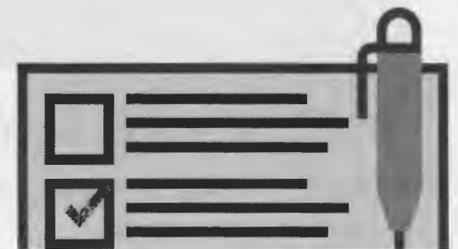
**More than 30% of voters fail to complete their ballot\***

Don't be one of them.

*\*Based on research from the University of Virginia Center for Politics*

**PRO-TIP:** The more you know about the races on your ballot — the less you leave blank.

Take your time, mark your choices in EVERY race, and encourage others to do the same. Learn more at [demnc.co/ontheballot](http://demnc.co/ontheballot).



### HEALTH CARE IS ON THE BALLOT.

From Congressional Medicaid funding to your county's budget for social services, your physical and mental health is in the balance.

### CLEAN AIR & WATER ARE ON THE BALLOT.

From the President's climate policies to your local leader's conservation priorities, what you're breathing and drinking is on the line.

### SAFE COMMUNITIES ARE ON THE BALLOT.

From state and federal lawmakers to local judges, politicians who control whether your community feels fearful or secure are seeking your vote.

Find your ballot, check your registration, and see your voting precinct at [demnc.co/lookup](http://demnc.co/lookup). Problems or questions? Call 888-OUR-VOTE.

# NORTH CAROLINA FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE

A PROGRAM OF THE NORTH CAROLINA EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION  
CHIEF JUSTICE CHERI BEASLEY, CHAIR



## ISSUE

More than 1.5 million people live in poverty in North Carolina and millions more live paycheck to paycheck. In the past year, 71% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem like custody disputes, denial of government benefits, driver's license revocation, landlord and tenant disputes, and drafting wills, among others.

## MISSION

The North Carolina Faith and Justice Alliance seeks to build a coalition of faith-based groups and legal practitioners to help meet the growing need for legal assistance for North Carolinians who lack the resources to access our courts and protect their legal rights.

## GOALS

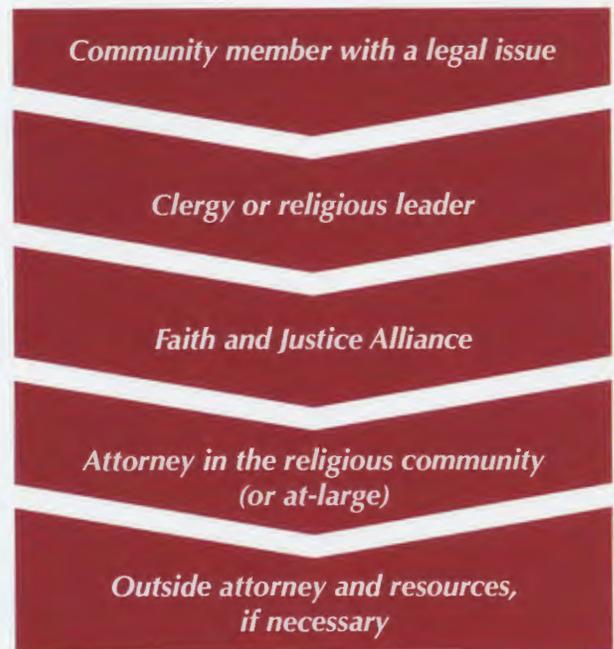
1. Create partnerships among faith leaders and the legal community to improve access to the judicial system
2. Reduce the financial burden on counties by restoring driver's licenses that have been revoked due to the inability to pay court imposed fines and fees
3. Improve access to expunction relief

## NEXT STEPS

1. Meet with faith leaders and establish Faith and Justice Alliance chapters (March - December 2020)
2. Provide training to FJA-involved faith communities (June 2020 - June 2021)
3. Hold individual FJA legal clinics in the Triangle, Triad, and Wilmington (June 2020)

## FJA FAITH-BASED REFERRAL MODEL

1. A community member brings a concern to the attention of a religious leader
2. The religious leader recognizes the legal issue implicated by community member's concerns and refers the community member to the Faith and Justice Alliance
3. The Alliance refers the community member to Legal Aid of North Carolina, the North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center, or another local provider of pro bono services



## PRO BONO CLINIC MODEL

Faith-based groups can host driver's license restoration clinics or expunction clinics in their facilities. The Alliance will provide legal training and other resources necessary to host a clinic. The faith-based group will recruit local attorneys to volunteer their time, publicize the event, and provide the facility on the day of the event.

**NC** Equal  
Access to  
Justice  
**COMMISSION**

[ncaccesstojustice.org](http://ncaccesstojustice.org)  
919.890.1090  
PO Box 2448, Raleigh, NC 27602

# **THE SECOND CHANCE ACT PROVIDES CLEAN SLATE RELIEF BY:**

## **Providing Automatic Relief**

A misdemeanor or felony charge that is dismissed or disposed "not guilty" on or after December 1, 2019, will be automatically expunged.

## **Providing Expunction Relief for Convictions of Offenses Treated as Juvenile Offenses Under Raise the Age**

A person or prosecutor will be able to petition for expunction of all misdemeanor and Class H or I felony convictions that occurred when a person was ages 16 or 17 and prior to Dec. 1, 2019 (the effective date of Raise the Age).

## **Providing Prosecutor-Initiated Relief**

A prosecutor may petition for expunction of dismissed charges and charges disposed "not guilty" and "Raise the Age" convictions (see above).

## **Expanding Eligibility to Multiple Nonviolent Convictions**

A person may petition for expunction of (i) all nonviolent misdemeanor convictions after 5 years of good behavior, and (ii) all nonviolent felony convictions after 10 years of good behavior, as long as the person has never been convicted of an A1 misdemeanor or violent felony offense. A judge may deny the person relief unless the petition is for expunction of nonviolent misdemeanors after 7 years of good behavior

# Renting with a Criminal History

The Fair Housing Act makes housing discrimination illegal

THE FAIR HOUSING ACT prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing, and in other housing-related transactions based on:

RACE ● COLOR ● NATIONAL ORIGIN  
RELIGION ● SEX ● DISABILITY  
FAMILIAL STATUS

Housing providers may require individuals to undergo a criminal background check as part of the application process. A provider may use the results of the criminal background check to determine whether an individual qualifies for housing.

Recent federal fair housing guidance states that it may be illegal for housing providers to refuse to rent to someone because of their criminal background without considering the nature and severity of the crime(s), how old the record is, and any rehabilitative efforts since the conviction. This is because landlords who refuse to rent to anyone with a criminal record may be disproportionately limiting housing choices for people protected by the Fair Housing Act because of their race, national origin, disability, and/or sex.

Your criminal background is not necessarily indicative of whether or not you will be a good tenant.

If you have a criminal record and have been denied housing, you may have experienced illegal housing discrimination.

#### Examples:

- A leasing agent only requires *certain* applicants to undergo a criminal background check.
- A leasing agent tells you that they make decisions about applicants based on *arrest* records.
- You have a criminal record related to your disability, and request a reasonable accommodation to a criminal records screening but are denied.
- You are discouraged from submitting an application because of a conviction on your record.
- A housing provider's policy rejects *all* applicants with *any* criminal history.
- A property manager says you must move (or won't rent to you) because you've been arrested for domestic violence, even though you were the victim in the incident.

## HOW TO USE YOUR FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS

- **DOCUMENT** every interaction you have with the housing provider. Include information about the property, addresses, dates, times, names of the people you spoke with, and nature of the interaction.
- **SAVE** any applications, brochures, emails, texts, and any other documents related to the interaction.
- If you are denied because of your criminal history, **ASK FOR A COPY** of the background check they conducted. You are legally entitled to it.

Visit [www.fairhousingnc.org](http://www.fairhousingnc.org) to see detailed guidance for asserting your fair housing rights.

If you have been denied housing because of your criminal background, please call the:

### FAIR HOUSING PROJECT

Legal Aid of North Carolina

**1-855-797-FAIR (3247)**

We may be able to help you understand and advocate for your fair housing rights.

There is no charge for any of our services, and all calls are confidential.  
INTERPRETER SERVICES ARE OFFERED IN MANY LANGUAGES.



FAIR HOUSING PROJECT • 224 South Dawson Street, Raleigh, NC 27601 • 1-855-797-3247  
[www.fairhousingnc.org](http://www.fairhousingnc.org) • [info@fairhousingnc.org](mailto:info@fairhousingnc.org)

