

UTILIZING THE ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

1-888-OUR-VOTE: NORTH CAROLINA-SPECIFIC HOTLINE NUMBER

1-866-OUR-VOTE: NATIONAL HOTLINE, WITH PROMPTS TO GET DIRECTED TO NC-RUN HOTLINE

WHAT IS IT?



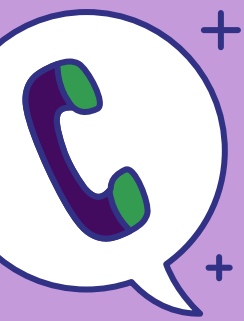
North Carolina is one of the few, if only, states that's a part of the national Election Protection Coalition (using the OUR-VOTE hotline infrastructure) to staff its election protection hotline entirely with NC-located attorneys and law students deeply familiar and well-trained on NC-specific law.

WHO RUNS IT?

The hotline, run by Democracy NC and SCSJ, taps into the resources of law students across the state, and legal staff and volunteers from ACLU-NC, League of Women Voters of NC, Forward Justice, Self-Help, and others, in addition to countless independent legal volunteers. We have continuity in our hotline staffing, which leads to high expertise and experience and thus quick problem-solving from hotline workers.



WHY DON'T WE DEAL WITH PROBLEMS ON THE GROUND?



The hotline's trained volunteers will help on-the-ground vote protectors assist and protect voters, but centralized collection of voter incidents allows us to do two things: (1) observe systemic problems and act quickly for larger-scale solutions; and (2) provide voters with the expertise of election law experts who have been doing this work for years. Our hotline workers have direct lines to county and state election officials and can reach out to those officials quickly to demand resolution of any problem.

HOW DOES CALLING THE HOTLINE WORK?

We encourage poll monitors and vote protectors to have the voter call the election protection hotline right then and there. In past elections, poll monitors have called the hotline from their phones, and then handed the phones to the voter so that the voter could talk directly to the election law expert. During the pandemic and to comply with social distancing, however, the poll monitor will not want to be passing a phone back and forth with a voter, and will need to give the number to the voter and strongly encourage them to call then and there.



WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS CAN THE HOTLINE WORKERS ADDRESS?



Essentially, we want voters to report any problems at polling places. Examples include:

- Long lines at polling places
- Curbside voting being unavailable or inadequately staffed
- Voters being denied provisional ballots or being unnecessarily forced to cast provisional ballots
- Voter intimidation
- Poll worker misconduct
- Inadequate signage at polling places
- Inadequate attention to social distancing and sanitation needs during the pandemic
- Malfunctioning elections equipment or inadequate supplies
- Voters being given misinformation, in or outside of the polling place
- Voters being given the wrong ballot or being told they are not registered/cannot register during Same Day Registration
- Non-first-time voters being told they must provide a photo ID to cast a ballot