North Carolina Early Voting Trends

October 28, 2020

The accompanying graphs document important trends related to early voting in North Carolina. The data were downloaded from the website of the North Carolina Board of Elections. The data are based on the daily absentee ballot reports, which include early voting records. The results are reported daily.

Note that these statistics pertain to individual ballot returns. A small number of voters may have more than one request or return, because of problems encountered with the ballots. (For instance, if a voter “spoils” a ballot—that is, makes a mistake and asks for a new ballot—both the spoiled and replacement ballot will appear in the dataset.) We have not removed duplicates such as these.

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Of Note today

• As of October 27, approximately 2.8 million North Carolina voters cast their ballots early in person. The total number so far is over half of the total turnout during the 2016 General Election.

• Cumulatively, the proportion of early voters is converging to around one-third for Democratic, Republican, and other/unaffiliated registered voters.
  – The rates of early voting by race are about equal to their proportions of registered voters.

General trends

• A total of 197,156 North Carolinians early voted the day of October 27. This bring the total number of early votes to 2,812,202.

By race

• The breakdown of early voting by party for the week was White 134,317, Black 31,685, and other race 31,154. Cumulatively, the breakdown of early voting is White 1,843,139, Black 599,706, and other race 369,357.
  – For the week, 68.13% of early ballots were cast by Whites, 16.07% from Blacks, and 15.8% from voters of other races. Cumulatively, 65.54% of early ballots were cast by Whites, 21.33% from Blacks, and 13.13% from voters of other races.

By party

• The breakdown of early voting by party for October 27 was Democrat 58,818, Republican 75,352, and other or no party affiliation 62,986. Cumulatively, the breakdown of early voting is Democrat 1,037,903, Republican 961,435, and other or no party affiliation 812,864.
  – For October 27, 29.83% of early ballots cast were by Democrats, 38.22% from Republicans, and 31.95% from voters of other or no party affiliation. Cumulatively, 36.91% of early ballots cast were by Democrats, 34.19% from Republicans, and 28.9% from voters of other or no party affiliation.
Appendix 1: Aggregate early voting trends
Appendix 2: Early voting trends by race

Data source: North Carolina Board of Elections
Graph Source: MIT Elections Data and Science Lab
Graph date: 10/28/2020
Appendix 3: Early voting trends by party
Cumulative percentage distribution of early voting each day, by party

Note: Dashed lines reflect proportion of registered voters
Data source: North Carolina Board of Election
Graph date: 10/25/2020
Grapher: 10/25/2020

Legend:
- DEMOCRATIC
- OTHER
- REPUBLICAN