

Election Protection	NC Statute or Code	Brinson Bell Memo Interpretation	Comment
<p>Absentee Ballot Request Signature To protect ballot integrity and prevent voter disenfranchisement, the signature on the request form is required to be match the voter’s signature on their voter registration form.</p>	<p>Under NC GS § 163-230.2, the signature of the voter (or other authorized person) is required on the Absentee Ballot request form.</p>	<p>Under NM 2020-15, “The voter’s signature should not be compared with the voter’s signature on file because this is not required by North Carolina law.”</p>	<p>Renders the requirement to sign an absentee ballot request form meaningless if the election board won’t verify if it is the voter’s signature.</p>
<p>Return of Absentee Ballots in Person To ensure the Absentee Ballot is filled out without duress or fraud, only the voter (or other authorized person) is allowed to deliver an absentee ballot outside of the mail service.</p>	<p>Under NC GS § 163-226.3(a)(5), it is a felony for anyone other than the voter (or other authorized person) to take possession of another voter’s ballot for delivery or return to a county board of elections.</p>	<p>Under NM 2020-23, “A county board shall not disapprove an absentee ballot solely because it was delivered by someone who was not authorized to possess the ballot.”</p>	<p>The protection against duress of a voter or against other fraud is rendered meaningless.</p>
<p>Logging Requirement To prevent ballot-stuffing, each returned Absentee Ballot must be logged to verify that the person delivering the ballot is authorized.</p>	<p>Under 08 NCAC 18 .0102, “Any person who returns an Absentee Ballot in person to a county board of elections office shall, upon delivery, provide the following information in writing”: name of the voter, name and relationship to the voter of the person delivering the ballot, phone number and current address of the person delivering the ballot, date and time of delivery of the ballot, and signature affirming the information provided is true and correct.</p>	<p>Under NM 2020-23, “Failure to comply with the logging requirement, or delivery of an absentee ballot by a person other than the voter, the voter’s near relative, or the voter’s legal guardian, is not sufficient evidence in and of itself to establish that the voter did not lawfully vote their ballot.”</p>	<p>The protection against ballot-stuffing is rendered meaningless by letting anyone return Absentee Ballots.</p>
<p>Unmanned Ballot Boxes Similar to the logging requirement for returned Absentee Ballots and also to prevent ballot-stuffing, ballots deposited in an unmanned ballot box or a mail slot for the county board cannot be accepted, since they did not meet the logging requirement.</p>	<p>Same as above — a proper log of the person returning the absentee ballot is required by law, which cannot be the case for ballots deposited in unmanned boxes or mail slots.</p>	<p>Under NM 2020-23, “If your site has a mail drop or drop box used for other purposes, you must affix a sign stating that voters may not place their ballots in the drop box. However, a county board may not disapprove a ballot solely because it is placed in a drop box.”</p>	<p>Allows ballot-stuffing without the protections against fraud.</p>
<p>Deadline for Absentee Ballots To prevent uncertainty in the election process, all Absentee Ballots must be postmarked and returned by some time certain.</p>	<p>Under NC § 163-231(b)(2)(b), all Absentee Ballots must be postmarked on or before election day and must be received no later than three days after the election.</p>	<p>Under NM 2020-22, “the deadline for receipt of postmarked civilian absentee ballots is hereby extended to nine days after the election only for remaining elections in 2020.”</p>	<p>Allows a much longer time after the election to “find” ballots that were not validly received (per above).</p>