

## I work at a facility such as a nursing home. How do I arrange a visit by a MAT?

First, it is extremely important to be aware of the law that prohibits employees of such facilities from providing assistance with mail-in absentee voting. **Employees of hospitals, clinics, nursing homes or rest homes are prohibited by law from providing assistance with absentee voting.**

Employees of the facility can arrange a MAT visit for residents. It is most helpful if the facility informs residents about MATs and determines a time when the most voters who need help will be available. That way, the MAT can help the maximum number of voters during the visit. It is also important, if possible, to know whether or not some voters have already received assistance in voting from family members (or if a family member plans to drive the resident to vote in person), particularly if the voter has memory difficulties.



## How do I request help from a MAT?

Contact the activity coordinator of your facility. If you do not know who the activity coordinator is, or if there is no activity coordinator, talk to staff or management at your facility. Ideally, the local elections office can schedule a MAT visit to help several voters in one visit, so it is preferable that the visit is arranged by the facility.

The Absentee Ballot Request Form includes a checkbox to request assistance from a MAT in casting a mail-in absentee ballot. If you check that box, someone from the county board of elections will be in contact about arranging a visit.



**To inquire about scheduling a MAT visit, contact your local county board of elections office.**

# Multipartisan Assistance Teams



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

In North Carolina, any registered voter can vote by mail-in absentee ballot. Some voters find it necessary to vote by mail-in absentee ballot because they are elderly, limited in their mobility, or have a disability. This group of voters includes persons living at facilities such as nursing homes. Oftentimes, these voters require assistance in completing the request forms or marking the ballot. The first preference, according to the law, is for the voter to receive assistance from a near relative or legal guardian. But some voters, particularly voters who live in facilities, may not have a near relative or guardian available to provide that assistance.

In every county, an impartial team called a **Multipartisan Assistance Team** is available to visit facilities such as nursing homes in order to provide assistance with mail-in absentee voting.

### What is a “Multipartisan Assistance Team”?

A Multipartisan Assistance Team, or “MAT,” is a group of persons appointed by the local county board of elections office to provide assistance with mail-in absentee voting to voters living at facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, or rest homes. The makeup of the Team includes, at minimum, two people who have different party affiliations (or, in the alternative, persons who were unanimously appointed by a bipartisan county board of elections). So, if you request help from a MAT, you should receive impartial, professional assistance. Their job is to help you vote, but your voting choices will remain confidential.

### What is absentee-by-mail voting?

Any registered voter may vote absentee by-mail. Absentee by-mail voting occurs when a voter completes a request form for an absentee ballot, then mails it to their county board of elections. Voters who submit a valid request will receive a ballot from their county board of elections. The ballot materials will include detailed instructions on how to complete and return the ballot, including information on who can serve as a witness.

### Is a photo ID required when voting absentee-by-mail?

Voters will not be required to show photo ID when they vote in the 2020 primary election. In a December 31 order, a federal district court blocked North Carolina’s voter photo ID requirement from taking effect. The injunction will remain in place until further order of the court.

### What does a Multipartisan Assistance Team do?

MATs can assist in requesting or casting a mail-in absentee ballot.

- **Requesting a mail-in absentee ballot:** To receive an absentee ballot by mail, a request must be made on the official Absentee Ballot Request Form. MATs can provide this form and help you fill it out if necessary. The MAT can then deliver the form back to the County Board of Elections office, and the ballot will be mailed to you in the following days.
- **Casting a mail-in absentee ballot:** If you’ve requested a mail-in absentee ballot, it will arrive in the mail, along with a special return envelope. On the back of the return envelope, you must enter some information and sign your name. It is also required that two witnesses (or a Notary Public) are present while you mark your absentee ballot, and those witnesses sign on the return envelope as well. MATs can help with marking the ballot, completing the required information on the return envelope, and serving as witnesses to the act of voting.

