



NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[email](#)

Statement on 2018 General Election

RALEIGH, N.C. - The N.C. Supreme Court on Wednesday paused the preparation of ballots for the November 6 general election as a result of legal challenges to proposed constitutional amendments.

State law requires that absentee-by-mail ballots be available 60 days before an election - in this case, September 7. However, court action has effectively delayed the start of absentee voting this year, and ballots will not be ready by September 7. Under federal law, ballots must be available 45 days before an election, or Sept. 22.

It takes about three weeks to prepare, print, test and deliver ballots to counties across the state. To meet the federal deadline, that process should start around Sept. 1, although the State Board staff is exploring additional options to ensure federal compliance if delays continue.

Also, a three-judge panel recently found that the state's 13 congressional districts reflected unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders and asked the parties to address how and when congressional elections may occur this year.

As the legal process unfolds, the State Board office will provide information via our Facebook and Twitter feeds and through news releases available at ncsbe.gov.

"We will provide detailed information to the public about the constitutional amendments and North Carolina's 2018 congressional elections as soon as possible," said Kim Westbrook Strach, State Board executive director.