



# NORTH CAROLINA

---

## STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### *New Republican Primary Election in Columbus County Commissioner District 2 to Be Held June 23*

**Raleigh, N.C.** – A new Republican primary election for Columbus County Commissioner District 2 will take place as planned on June 23, with precautions in place to combat the potential spread of COVID-19.

The new election will be held the same day as the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District second primary in the western part of North Carolina.

**“The safety of North Carolina’s voters and poll workers is our top priority heading into this year’s remaining elections,”** said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections. **“We are taking the necessary precautions to ensure voters can vote efficiently and safely, no matter which option they choose to cast a ballot.”**

The State Board on April 7 unanimously ordered a new election in Columbus County Commissioner District 2. Audits by the county board of elections of the March 3 primary election results showed 10 voters received a ballot style with the District 2 contest on it on Election Day, but they were not eligible to vote in that district.

Contest results showed a margin of 4 votes between Mack Ward, the top vote-getter, and Chris Smith, the runner-up.

The same three candidates will be on the ballot for the new election: Ward, Smith, and W. Bernard White.

*Voters in Columbus County Commissioner District 2 who are registered Republican, as well as unaffiliated voters in that district who voted a Republican ballot in the March 3 primary and unaffiliated voters in the district who did not vote in the March 3 primary, will be eligible to vote in the new election on June 23. Unaffiliated voters who voted a nonpartisan, Democratic, or Libertarian ballot in the March 3 primary are not eligible to participate in the new primary.*

Eligible voters will find their sample ballot through the voter lookup tool here:

<https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>.

*Significant precautions will be taken to protect in-person voters and poll workers at early voting sites and Election Day precincts. They include:*

- Masks available for all poll workers and voters who do not bring their own.
- Single-use pens for voters to mark their ballots and take with them.
- Enforced social distancing between all poll workers and voters.
- Hand sanitizer for voters and poll workers.
- Face shields and gloves for poll workers.
- Protective barriers between poll workers and voters at check-in tables.
- Special sanitation kits at each precinct to ensure poll worker protection and clean tables and voting booths throughout the voting process.
- Thorough cleaning of voting sites before and after the election.

### **Absentee by-mail voting**

Because this is a new election, voters who requested an absentee ballot for the first election will not automatically receive a ballot for the new election. Eligible voters may request an absentee ballot through **June 16, 2020**.

To request a ballot, eligible voters should complete an [absentee ballot request form](#) and return it by mail or in-person to the Columbus County Board of Elections.

To learn more about how to vote by mail, go here:

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/Outreach/Absentee/Infosheet\\_howtoabsentee\\_FINAL.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/Outreach/Absentee/Infosheet_howtoabsentee_FINAL.pdf).

### **In-person early voting**

The early voting period for the **June 23** second primary is **June 4 to June 20**.

Because this is a new election, eligible voters may register to vote and cast a ballot on the same day during the early voting period.

### **Election Day voting**

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on June 23.

**COVID-19:** For more information about the State Board's response to the pandemic, please visit [NCSBE.gov/Coronavirus](https://NCSBE.gov/Coronavirus) and follow the State Board on social media.

Please also see the NCSBE's ["10 Facts About Voting in North Carolina During the COVID-19 Pandemic."](#)

###