



Proclamation



VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

WHEREAS, National Voter Registration Day was first observed in 2012; since then, it has been recognized annually on the fourth Tuesday of September to celebrate democracy and encourage people to participate in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental freedom that is enshrined in our Constitution; for many, it is a right that is accepted without question or concern; for others, it is a right that was gained through generations of struggle and persistent vigilance to ensure that it is not eroded or lost; and

WHEREAS, African Americans had to fight for the right to vote; the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified 150 years ago in 1870, and although it affirmed that African Americans had the constitutional right to vote, in practice, enormous barriers to voting rights still persisted: poll taxes, literacy tests, voter intimidation, and other means were used to deliberately deny African Americans the right to vote; and challenges still remain; and

WHEREAS, women also had to fight for the right to vote; decades of effort resulted in the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution 100 years ago last month, affirming that women had the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 bore the burden of service in the military and other requirements of citizenship before they had the right to vote when the Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1971; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, barriers to voting remain an issue in our nation; voter ID requirements, voter roll purges, the closure of polling places, inadequate access for some with disabilities, attempts to challenge and delegitimize voting by mail, disenfranchisement based on certain criminal records in some states, and other efforts that restrict access to the democratic process must be acknowledged and resolved; and

WHEREAS, to vote in the upcoming election, a person must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by November 3, 2020, and registered to vote; information about registration and other voting issues can be found at www.ncsbe.gov or by calling the North Carolina State Board of Elections at (919) 814-0700; and

WHEREAS, note that you can request an absentee ballot even if you plan to vote in person; therefore, this absentee ballot can serve as an insurance policy if for some reason you are not able to vote in person; further, note that voters can either return their completed absentee ballot by U.S. Mail, or drop off their completed absentee ballot at the Orange County Board of Elections or any early-voting site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, September 22, 2020 as Voter Registration Day in the Town of Carrboro. I ask all citizens in Carrboro to make your voting plan. This means making certain you are properly registered to vote; deciding whether you are going to vote with an absentee ballot, early vote, or vote on Election Day; and then exercising that precious right to vote that so many have fought for and continue to fight for.

This, the 22nd day of September 2020.




Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor