



# North Carolina

*Help America Vote Act  
(HAVA) Complaint  
Process Guide*

*Provided by*

VOTER  
REFERENCE   
FOUNDATION

**Disclaimer:** This is a guide to your state’s laws relating to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and other election related complaints.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in this guide or the information linked to on the state site.

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## What is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)?

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According to the [Election Assistance Commission](#):

The [Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\) of 2002](#) was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA mandates that EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections.

HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration. The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA also established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to assist the states regarding HAVA compliance and to distribute HAVA funds to the states. EAC is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government's first voting system certification program. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. HAVA requires that the states implement the following new programs and procedures:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures

## How do I file a HAVA complaint?

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[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to HAVA Complaint Form](#)

Any person who believes that there is a violation of any provision of Title III of the Help America Voting Act (HAVA), 52 U.S.C. §§ 21081–21102, may file a complaint. A complaint shall be in writing and notarized, signed and sworn by the complainant. You (the complainant) may use: (1) this form prescribed by the State Board of Elections; or (2) any other document providing the same information required in this Board-prescribed form, if signed and notarized.

A complaint shall be filed within 30 days after the occurrence of the actions or events that form the basis for the complaint, including the actions or events that form the basis for your (complainant’s) belief that a violation is about to occur, or, if later, within 30 days after you knew or, with the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have known of those actions or events.

## How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

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[Link to non-HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to non-HAVA Complaint Form](#)

Members of the public may submit allegations of election law violations or election fraud using the [Election Law Complaint Form](#) (PDF).

## Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

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### **North Carolina State Board of Elections, Investigation Unit**

**Physical Address:**

Investigation Unit  
430 North Salisbury Street, 3rd Floor  
Raleigh, NC 27603

**Mailing Address:**

Investigation Unit  
P.O. Box 27255  
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

**Phone Number:**

919-814-0700

**Email Address:**

[investigations.sboe@ncsbe.gov](mailto:investigations.sboe@ncsbe.gov)

**Website:**

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/about-elections/election-security/investigations-division>