Help for Older and Disabled Voters in North Carolina: Curbside Voting and Help in the Voting Booth

Right to Assistance
If you can make it inside the polling place on election day, you can get help voting from certain people.

Who Can Help?
*Any voter, regardless of disability,* is entitled to receive help from a *close family member.* The law defines a close family member as a spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, step-parent, or step-child.

Voters who have a *physical disability* or are *illiterate or blind* are entitled to assistance from *any person* other than their employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of a union to which that person belongs.

What Kind of Help?
Voters may get help from an appropriate person to *enter and exit the voting booth* and to *prepare the ballot.*

No Photo ID Requirement
A poll worker may ask if you have a photo ID, but *a photo ID is not required to vote this year.* The new law will be effective in 2016.

Curbside Voting
If a person is able to get transportation to the polling place but *because of age or physical disability* is unable to make it inside without physical assistance, that person may vote from inside the vehicle.

Where?
Curbside voting is available at every polling place, even during primaries and early voting.

How?
- Pull up to the designated area for curbside voting at your polling place.
- An election official will come to assist you.
- You will sign a paper swearing that *because of age or physical disability,* you are unable to enter the voting place to vote in person without physical assistance.
- The election official will bring a ballot to the vehicle.
- You will complete the ballot, with assistance from an appropriate person, if needed.
- The election official will take your ballot to be counted.

If the area designated for curbside voting is not clearly marked, or if an election official does not come out to the vehicle, someone may have to enter the polling place to get help.

Reporting Problems
If a problem with voter assistance or accessibility cannot be resolved, then that problem should be reported immediately to the appropriate county board of elections office.

For more information, please visit the Wake Forest University Elder Law Clinic website: http://elder-clinic.law.wfu.edu