

Early Voting Update: Republican Lead Surges Countywide as Democrats Hold Narrow Edge in Lincolnton

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LINCOLNTON, N.C. — Early voting continues to gain momentum across Lincoln County as the latest figures from the Lincoln County Board of Elections show 20,514 ballots cast through Thursday, October 29, ahead of the November 3 general election.

The newest numbers reveal that registered Republicans have significantly widened their countywide turnout advantage over registered Democrats. However, the City of Lincolnton continues to show a much closer contest in voter participation, with registered Democrats maintaining a narrow lead.

According to the latest unofficial early voting reports, 9,295 registered Republicans have voted compared to 4,474 registered Democrats. Another 6,695 ballots have been cast by unaffiliated voters along with 45 Libertarians and five Green Party voters.

That gives Republicans a countywide participation advantage of 4,821 ballots over Democrats.

The difference is particularly noticeable when compared to the Lincoln Herald's previous update on October 28, which reported 14,898 ballots cast through October 26. At that time, Republicans held a 2,916-ballot advantage. In just three additional voting days, that lead has grown by 1,905 ballots.

Overall, 5,616 additional voters participated between October 27 and October 29.

The City of Lincolnton continues to present a different picture, although the Democratic registration advantage has narrowed considerably.

The latest city figures show 1,698 ballots cast, with 592 registered Democrats compared to 567 registered Republicans. Another 534 voters were unaffiliated along with five voters registered with other parties.

That leaves Democrats with a narrow 25-ballot participation advantage in the city, down from the 60-ballot lead reported through October 26.

Looking at the three early voting locations, East Lincoln continues to lead the county with 11,114 ballots cast. The Board of Elections location in Lincolnton follows with 6,846 ballots while the West Lincoln location has recorded 2,554 ballots.

Unaffiliated voters continue to represent a substantial portion of the electorate. With 6,695 ballots cast, they account for approximately one-third of all early voting participation in Lincoln County.

One of the more interesting developments is how quickly the Republican turnout advantage has grown in recent days. While Republicans have maintained a lead throughout early voting, the gap has expanded substantially as Election Day approaches.

However, these statistics should not be mistaken for actual election results. The figures represent the political registration of voters who have participated, not

which candidates received their votes. Registered Republicans can vote for Democratic candidates, registered Democrats can vote for Republican candidates and unaffiliated voters may support candidates from either party.

With early voting continuing through Saturday, October 31 and Election Day scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, the final outcome remains to be determined.

The Lincoln Herald will continue monitoring voter participation and providing updates as Lincoln County residents head to the polls.

Source: Lincoln County Board of Elections, 2026 General Election Daily Early Voting Reports through October 29, 2026. All figures are unofficial and reflect early voting participation rather than candidate vote totals.