



# VIRGINIA VOTES 2023

## FAQS & TIPS



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence  
**ACTIONALLIANCE**

Every election is important, and every vote matters. The voices of survivors and the voices of advocates are critical to building a future where we all thrive. **The November 2023 election is especially important in Virginia because every seat in the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate is up for election.** These legislators will make decisions that affect our lives every day, from gun control, to access to reproductive care, to childcare costs and living wages.

As advocates working with survivors, an important part of advocacy is helping survivors register to vote and making sure they can complete their ballots.

# IMPORTANT DATES

- SEPTEMBER 22, 2023** Absentee voting begins for the November election.
- OCTOBER 16, 2023** Last day to register to vote in Virginia
- OCTOBER 27, 2023** Last day to apply via online, fax, or mail for an absentee ballot.
- NOVEMBER 4, 2023** Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot. Application must be completed at Registrar's office.
- NOVEMBER 7, 2023** **ELECTION DAY**
- NOVEMBER 11, 2023** Provisional No ID voter must provide a copy of acceptable photo ID via fax, email, mail, or in person to General Registrar

## VOTER FORMS

Find all voter forms here:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/voter-forms/>

# REGISTERING TO VOTE IN ADVANCE

## YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE AT ANY OF THESE PLACES:

- [Online Registration](#)
- [Local voter registration office](#)
- [Download a PDF copy of the registration form \(En Español\) \(Tiếng Việt\) \(한국어\)](#)
- State or local government offices when applying or re-certifying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, or Rehabilitation Services.
- Government offices in the State that provide State-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to person with disabilities
- Armed forces recruitment offices
- Public libraries
- Virginia Department of Elections office
- Department of Motor Vehicles offices
- Voter Registration Drives

You can take your application to the local voter registration office (see second bullet above) or you can mail it the address on the form.

Once you have submitted your registration form, you should receive an information card that confirms you are registered to vote,

If you do not receive one, contact your local Registrar's Office to make sure they received your application. You can also check your [voter record online](#).

Remember that a voter ID card is not the same thing as a photo ID. To see a list of qualified identification for voting in person, or how to obtain a Voter Photo Identification card, please visit: [elections.virginia.gov/voterID](https://elections.virginia.gov/voterID) or call toll free at (800) 552-9745 or TTY: 711

**Please note:** The deadline to register to vote also applies to updating your voter registration address. Generally the deadline for registration is three weeks before a general election. If your address change is not submitted to the office of the general registrar by the applicable deadline for the election in which you wish to vote, you may not be able to vote.

# REGISTERING TO VOTE IN ADVANCE

## WHAT IF I HAVE MOVED SINCE THE LAST TIME I VOTED?

- **If you have moved from another state:** you will have to complete a Virginia Voter Registration Application. You may only be registered to vote in one state.
- **If you have moved within the state:** you will need to update your voter record. You can do so [online](#) or at your local general registrar. If your move occurred since the last November election, you may return to and vote at your previous polling location. Remember, all voters must update their records to reflect current residence.

## WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A PERMANENT ADDRESS RIGHT NOW?

- You may list a family member's address or shelter address as your voting address where you could receive mail. If you are homeless and living on the street, you may denote a street corner or a park as your residence, instead of a traditional home address. There is a box on the form where you can indicate you are homeless.

## I HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY. CAN I VOTE?

- Unfortunately, Virginia takes away your right to vote if you have been convicted of a felony. You may vote only if you have had your rights restored.
- Any person convicted of a felony loses their right to vote in Virginia and that right can only be restored by the Governor of Virginia. You can find out more information, check the current status of your civil rights, and apply to have your rights restored through the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website: <https://commonwealth.virginia.gov/judicial-system/restoration-of-rights/>.
- The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Restoration Department can be contacted directly at (804) 692-0104. Once your rights have been restored you must register to vote before you can qualify to receive a ballot at the next election.

# REGISTERING TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Beginning with the 2022 General Election, the General Assembly approved legislation that provides the ability to register at any time, up to and including Election Day.

## HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM HOW REGISTRATION HAS PREVIOUSLY WORKED?

- Previously, registration was closed for the 21 days before an election; there was no ability to register to vote after this deadline. The new law allows registration, with limitations, during the 21-day period before an election. If you register on Election Day, you will use a provisional ballot.

## WHAT IS A PROVISIONAL BALLOT?

- Provisional ballots are used by voters who do not appear on the list of registered voters at their polling location. Provisional ballots are not processed by a vote counting machine at the time of voting, but rather must be approved by the local electoral board before the ballot can be counted.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PROVISIONAL BALLOT AFTER I VOTE?

- The general registrar's office for your locality will research your ballot to gather evidence about whether you are qualified and eligible to vote. The general registrar's office will forward your ballot and the information gathered to the electoral board to review and approve or deny your ballot.

## HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY PROVISIONAL BALLOT IS COUNTED?

- After you vote, you will be given a notice with the date, time, and place where the local electoral board will make a decision regarding your provisional ballot. You are entitled to attend this meeting, but you are not required to attend in order for your ballot to be counted. If your registration application is approved and there are no other issues, your ballot will be counted. If your ballot is not counted, you will receive written notice from your general registrar.

# REGISTERING TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

## HOW DO I FIND MY POLLING PLACE?

- You can find this information by contacting the office of the general registrar for the locality in which you reside. You can find information about your general registrar's office on the Department of Elections' website at: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>.

## WHO CAN SAME-DAY REGISTER?

- Any person qualified to register to vote is eligible. However, if you are already registered in a different locality and seeking to update your registration, you may be eligible to cast a non-provisional ballot, rather than the provisional ballot used for same day registration. Your general registrar or officer of election at your polling place can provide further information about eligibility.

## WHEN CAN I SAME-DAY REGISTER?

- Same-day registration and voting with a provisional ballot can be used after the October 16 deadline to register to vote a non-provisional ballot.

## WHERE DO I SAME-DAY REGISTER?

- You may same-day register at the office of your general registrar or satellite location during the early voting period. On Election Day, you must go to the polling place for the precinct in which you reside.

# VOTING IN ADVANCE OF ELECTION DAY ABSENTEE BALLOT\* BY MAIL

## IS AN ABSENTEE BALLOT THE SAME AS THE BALLOT I WOULD RECEIVE ON ELECTION DAY?

- Yes. The absentee ballot is identical to an Election Day ballot.

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You have several options:

- You may apply on-line. [www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal)
- You can contact your general registrars' office and request the ballot. You will find that contact information at: [www.elections.virginia.gov/LocalGR](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/LocalGR)
- You may visit your local general registrar's office and complete the application. If during the absentee ballot voting period your application is approved, you will be allowed to cast your vote at that time.

**Notice to voters using US mail service:** the USPS delivery standards changed last year so that First Class delivery went from 1-3 days to 2-5 days and Standard delivery is now 2-9 days. Please keep this in mind, as **the ballot must be received by your local general registrar no later than 12:00 PM on the third day following Election Day**. Having the ballot postmarked by the deadline does not count if the ballot is still received after the deadline.

## HOW DO I RETURN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- You may return your completed absentee ballot to your general registrar's office by mail or personally deliver it to your [general registrar](#). Additionally, you may drop-off your completed, sealed ballot at any drop-off location in your county or city. A list of drop-off locations is available on your county or city's official website. You may also drop off your voted ballot at any polling place within your county or city on Election Day by 7pm (when polls close).

\*Absentee voting refers to the process of voting before Election Day. In Virginia, you may vote either absentee by-mail or vote early in-person.

# VOTING IN ADVANCE OF ELECTION DAY ABSENTEE BALLOT\* BY MAIL

## WHEN DO I TURN IN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

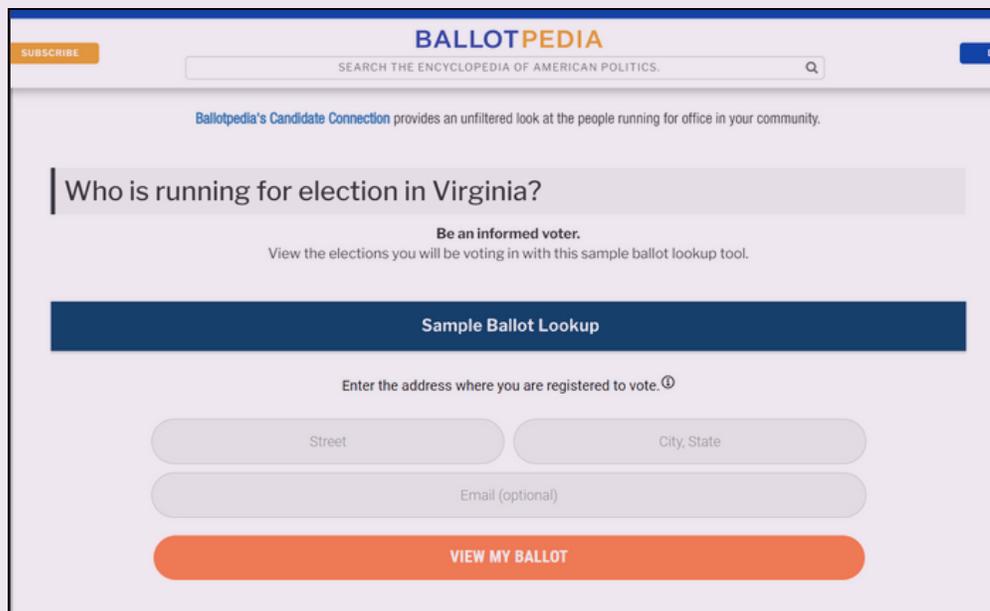
- Please return your ballot at your earliest convenience. Your ballot will be counted if it is postmarked by Election Day and received by your local registrar by noon on Monday, November 14. If you are worried that you do not have time to return your ballot by mail, you should personally deliver your ballot to your local registrar's office. If you personally deliver your ballot, it must be returned to your registrar or drop-off location by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

\* Absentee voting refers to the process of voting before Election Day. In Virginia, you may vote either absentee by-mail or vote early in-person.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### YOU CAN LOOK UP IN ADVANCE WHO WILL BE ON YOUR BALLOT?

- Visit [https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia\\_Sample\\_Ballot](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_Sample_Ballot) to get a preview of which candidates will be on your ballot.



The screenshot shows the Ballotpedia website interface. At the top, there is a 'SUBSCRIBE' button and a search bar with the text 'SEARCH THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN POLITICS.' Below this, a blue banner reads 'Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection provides an unfiltered look at the people running for office in your community.' The main heading is 'Who is running for election in Virginia?' followed by the sub-heading 'Be an informed voter. View the elections you will be voting in with this sample ballot lookup tool.' A large blue button labeled 'Sample Ballot Lookup' is prominent. Below it, a text prompt says 'Enter the address where you are registered to vote.' There are three input fields: 'Street', 'City, State', and 'Email (optional)'. At the bottom, there is an orange button labeled 'VIEW MY BALLOT'.

# VOTING IN ADVANCE OF ELECTION DAY EARLY VOTING IN PERSON

You can vote early at your local registrar's office beginning 45 days before Election Day and ending the Saturday before Election Day. Before visiting your local registrar's office, you may wish to [check your registration status](#) or call your registrar's office. You can find your registrar's phone number [here](#).

## TO VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON, DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Starting 45 days before Election Day, visit your local registrar's office or a satellite voting location in your county or city to vote early. Remember, the Saturday before Election Day is the last day to vote early.
- **You do not have to have a reason or fill out an application to vote early.**
- At the registrar's office or satellite voting location, you must provide your name and address and show an acceptable form of ID or sign an ID Confirmation Statement. [View a complete list of acceptable IDs here](#). If acceptable identification is not provided, you must sign an ID Confirmation Statement or a provisional ballot will be offered and you are allowed until the Friday at noon following the election to provide a copy of acceptable identification to the electoral board or sign an ID Confirmation Statement. Provisional voters receive a notice to remind them of the deadline and right to attend the electoral board meeting.
- Accessible equipment and/or curbside voting is available upon request.

# VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

### WHEN ARE THE POLLS OPEN?

Polling hours are from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. As long as you are in line by 7:00 p.m., you will be able to vote.

### WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

1. Access the Virginia Department of Elections [polling place lookup](#).
2. Enter your address

### DO I NEED AN ID TO VOTE?

Voters may provide either an acceptable form of ID or sign an ID Confirmation Statement at the polls.

Here are some acceptable forms of ID:

- Virginia drivers' license (current or expired)
- Virginia DMV ID card (current or expired)
- Valid employee ID card, containing a photograph, issued by voter's (public or private employer)
- U.S. Military ID
- Valid student ID issued by a public or private school of higher education located in Virginia. Or a public or private high school.
- Valid U.S. passport or passport card
- Voter ID card
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck containing the name and address of the voter
- [For a detailed list of acceptable IDs click here.](#)

### WHAT IF I FORGET MY ID? CAN I STILL VOTE?

- **Yes!** If you get to your polling place without acceptable ID (see list above), you can sign an ID statement affirming your identity, you will be able to vote a regular ballot.
- If you do not sign an ID statement to affirm your identity you may vote a provisional ballot.\*
- You will need to submit a copy of a valid ID by 12:00 noon the Friday after the election. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

\* Provisional ballots are used by voters who do not appear on the list of registered voters at their polling location. Provisional ballots are not processed by a vote counting machine at the time of voting, but rather are subject to approval by the local electoral board prior to the ballot being counted.

# VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

### WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A RIDE TO MY POLLING LOCATION ON ELECTION DAY?

- If your car is broken down, or you just need a ride, you can schedule a ride with an election day volunteer through “Rideshare 2 Vote Virginia” at <https://rideshare2vote.com/virginia/>.
- Additionally, many local public transit/bus systems and rideshare programs like Lyft and Uber often provide free and/or reduced fares on election day. Be on the lookout for those offers!

### WHAT IF I WAS TURNED AWAY AT THE POLLING PLACE?

- If you were turned away because you were at the wrong polling location, then you will need to vote at the polling location that is associated with the voter registration address. You can look up the polling address using [Polling Place Lookup](#).
- If you were turned away for any other reason, return to your polling location and ask to vote with a provisional ballot\*.

### ACCESSIBILITY & ACCOMMODATIONS

- VA State Law requires voting polls to be accessible to qualified voters. Every polling place must have at least one voting system equipped for individuals with diverse needs.
- Any voter may request assistance with voting.
- Some localities are required to provide translated ballots and election information in other languages if the locality has a certain percentage of residents who speak a language other than English.
- Signs should be posted midway and eye level for a standing person and one in a wheelchair.
- Seating will be available for elderly voters or those with mobility impairments.
- Curbside voting is available.



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October 2, 2023