

# NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

## EXPAND ACCESS TO THE BALLOT BOX

### WHAT IS NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING?

Virginia's excuse-based voting system is inherently unfair and intrudes on voters' privacy. All voters should have the same right to vote whether in person on Election Day, or by absentee ballot submitted in person or by mail. All voters should be given the same access to the ballot box.

### THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA

Although the General Assembly expanded access to absentee voting last session, our current system still prioritizes some excuses over others, elevating certain classes of voters while marginalizing others. As the law stands, a registered voter may vote absentee in person during a seven-day window. By contrast, an individual voting absentee by mail during that period would have to provide one of the twenty excuses.

**No-excuse absentee voting increases voter turnout and makes it easier for people to participate in our democracy.** The existing limits on absentee voting disproportionately affect voters in rural areas and voters with lower income.

### OUR GOALS

It's important that the Virginia General Assembly pass a law that allows all Virginia voters to vote absentee both in person or by mail without having to offer an excuse or provide personal information. Adopting true no-excuse absentee voting would simplify the process and increase voting participation.

**We call on the Virginia General Assembly to do away with its excuse-based absentee voting system.**

### FACT

VIRGINIA IS ONE OF

# 16

STATES THAT STILL  
REQUIRE AN EXCUSE  
TO VOTE ABSENTEE.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are a few things you can do to get involved:

- Stay up-to-date on this issue through our social media.
- Subscribe to our email list: [acluva.org](https://acluva.org).
- Take action through our Lobby Guide: [acluva.org/lobby-guide](https://acluva.org/lobby-guide).
- Become a member: [acluva.org/join](https://acluva.org/join)
- Start a People Power group to work on this issue: [peoplepower.org](https://peoplepower.org)