

VOTER'S RIGHTS

Virginia Elections 2020

Election Day: Nov. 3, 2020

Election Hotline:

866-OUR-VOTE | 866-687-8683

Virginia recently passed a historic slate of election reforms that are effective as of July 1, 2020. These include:

- no-excuse absentee voting
- elimination of the requirement of a government-issued photo ID
- availability of voting materials in languages other than English
- creation of Election Day as a state holiday

These reforms remove many barriers for Virginia voters.

**VOTE LIKE
YOUR RIGHTS
DEPEND ON IT.**



TIP 1

MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE

Check to see if you're registered before **Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020**. Either call your local registrar or the Department of Elections at **800-552-9745**. You can also check online at elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

- If you have moved since the last election, it is best to change your address online at elections.virginia.gov/registration/view-your-info before the registration deadline on Oct. 13. You can also send a letter to your registrar that must be received by the registration deadline on Oct. 13.

ELECTION DATE	VOTING ABSENTEE BY MAIL	VOTING ABSENTEE IN PERSON
Nov. 3, 2020 Make sure to register to vote or update your address by Oct. 13, 2020 .	Deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2020 . Your ballot must be postmarked on or before Nov. 3 and received by your registrar by Nov. 6 .	Deadline to vote absentee in person is Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020 . You must appear in person at your registrar's office by 5 p.m.

TIP 2

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

As of July 1, any registered voter can vote absentee for any reason starting on Sept. 18 (45 days before Election Day).

- To vote by mail, if you have a DMV issued license or ID card, you can apply for an absentee ballot online by visiting the citizen portal at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.
- Using this same portal, you can check if your absentee application was received and whether your ballot was sent and received.
- You can also download and complete the Vote by Mail Application Form at this link <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/castyourballot/SBE-701-703.1.pdf> and return your completed and signed form to your local registrar's office by mail, fax or email.
- The application must be made by 5 p.m. on the 11th day before the election, Oct. 23, unless you are applying and voting in person.
- Once you get the ballot, fill it out completely and accurately and mail it to your local registrar. Your vote will be counted if your absentee ballot is postmarked on or before Nov. 3 and received by the registrar before noon on the third business day following the election (Nov. 6). Voters are encouraged to get their absentee applications and completed ballots in as early as possible.
- You can also choose to hand deliver your absentee ballot to your local registrar's office any time before the polls close at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 3.

TIP 3

VOTING ABSENTEE IN PERSON

You can also vote absentee by going in person to the registrar's office or a satellite voting location set up in your locality between Sept. 18 and Oct. 31 at 5:00 p.m.

- Contact your registrar's office to find out where you can go to vote in person before Election Day.
- At the voting location, you must provide your name and address and show an acceptable form of ID or sign an ID Confirmation Statement. See more information below on Virginia's Voter ID Laws.

Virginia's Voter ID Law

Voters No Longer Have to Provide a Photo ID
(Va. Code §24.2-643(B))

Starting July 1, you no longer have to provide a photo ID in Virginia, but you must provide an approved form of identification.

Acceptable IDs include: Voter registration card, bank statement, utility bill, paychecks, any government document that shows your name and address, DMV-issued ID, passport, or driver's license.

To be a valid ID, it cannot have expired more than 12 months prior. For full list of acceptable IDs, visit: elections.virginia.gov/registration/photo-ids-required-to-vote/index.html

What if I don't have an ID? If you do not have an approved ID, you may get a **FREE** voter photo ID at any general registrar's office. Call your local registrar's office to learn more about the process: elections.virginia.gov/localVRO.

What if I forget my ID? If you forget your ID and you have time, it is usually better to go back and get it. Voters without identification must cast a provisional ballot. You must deliver a copy of your ID to your local electoral board **no later than noon on Friday, Nov. 6.** (Va. Code §24.2-653)

TIP 4

VOTING AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

- **Take this card with you** in case you run into any issues at your poll location.
- **First and foremost, check if your polling location is open** or if there is an alternative location. You can check what polling places are open by visiting <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal>.
- **Voters can wear campaign apparel** when going to vote according to Va. Code §24.2-604(J). Poll workers cannot prevent you from wearing campaign apparel.
- **If your name isn't on the poll book** at your voting location as a registered voter, ask the poll worker to contact the local registrar. If they are not available or they can't find your name, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name is not on the voter list. However, know that your ballot may not be counted if the Board of Elections finds no record of your registration in the precinct where you cast your vote. (Va. Code §24.2-652-653)
- **If someone challenges your eligibility to vote**, even if you're on the list of registered voters, ask for and fill out an Affirmation of Eligibility form. You have the right to vote or at least cast a provisional ballot if you sign the form. (Va. Code §24.2-651)

ACLU
Virginia

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- **If you need help using the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help.** Poll workers are required to assist you any time to ask. You can ask for help after entering the voting booth but should be allowed to vote privately once you receive help. (Va. Code §24.2-647)
- **If you make a mistake on a paper ballot or if the machine malfunctions, do NOT cast your ballot!** Ask for a replacement ballot. You have the right to as many replacement ballots as you need (Va. Code §24.2-645). If a machine malfunctions, inform a poll worker and ask them to direct you to a different machine or give you a paper ballot. (Va. Code §24.2-642, §24.2-646.1)
- **Remember, if you are in line by 7:00 p.m.** when the polls close, you have the right to vote. (Va. Code §24.2-603)

The Right to Vote Belongs to the People

Virginia is one of only three states which permanently ban people convicted of a felony from voting, unless the governor individually restores that right. **The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. It belongs to the people and should not be taken away for any reason.**

Every person in Virginia — including those in jails or prisons, and their families — is governed by the same laws. It is only right that everyone who meets the qualifications of age, citizenship, and residency has the same opportunity to choose who represents them in crafting those laws. **We are working with lawmakers and Virginians to pass a constitutional amendment that guarantees the right to vote for every Virginia resident citizen 18 and over.**