2026 Your Right, Your Vote, Your Power

Virginia

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Hamkae Center

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

SOLVE

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Who Can Vote?

You can vote if you are:

- 18 or older by Election Day
- A U.S. citizen and VA resident
- Registered to vote
- Not convicted of a disqualifying felony or currently declared mentally incompetent by a court of law, unless your voting rights have been restored.

How to Register?

You can register:

- Online[i]
- In person at DMV offices or local voter registration offices
- By mailing a completed registration form[ii]
- Same-day at a polling site during early voting or on Election Day

Time to Vote!

- **In person:** Look up locations and hours for your Election Day polling place[iii] or countywide early voting sites.
- **By mail:** Request a ballot no later than Oct 23[iv] and make sure it is returned in person by Election Day or postmarked by Election Day and received by 12 p.m. Nov. 6.
- Remember, voters will be asked to present an approved ID (e.g., driver's license, passport, military IDs, and some college IDs[v]) for all methods of voting.

My Voting Rights

Federal Protections:

- Vote without facing discrimination, intimidation, or harassment
- Assistance if you have a disability
- Help if you can't read or write in the language of the ballot
- Receive a provisional ballot if questions come up about your registration
- Access to a replacement ballot if you make a mistake filling out your ballot
- Cast your ballot privately so who and what you vote for is confidential

State Safeguards:

- If you miss the voter registration deadline, you can still register AND cast a provisional ballot during the early voting period or on Election Day.
- If you don't have a voter ID, you can sign an ID Statement and cast a regular ballot or vote a provisional ballot and cure by 12 p.m. on Nov. 6.
- Polling places must have "buffer zones" free from campaigning and electioneering outside the voting area.

Important 2026 Dates

Register by: Oct. 23

Mail Ballots:
→ Request by Oct. 23
→ Hand in by 7 p.m. Nov 3, or Mail by 12 p.m. Nov. 6 (if postmarked by Nov. 3)

Early Voting: Sept. 18 to Oct. 31

Election Day: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. Nov. 3

DON'T GIVE AWAY YOUR POWER — VOTE!

Questions about how and where to vote or facing issues? Text or call the nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) for real-time help from trained volunteers!

Scan for more VA voting information

FAQ: Casting Your Ballot and Making it Count

Voting rules can be confusing and vary significantly depending on where you live — but don't let that stop you from having your say at the polls. If questions or issues come up, reach out to the nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline anytime for free, individualized guidance. An informed voter is a powerful one!

English: 866-OUR-VOTE, (866-687-8683) Spanish: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)
Asian Languages: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683) Arabic: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)

Q: Disability or illness makes it hard for me or someone in my life to navigate voting (e.g., physically getting into the polling place or filling out ballots). What options or help are available to me?
A: Federal and state laws require voting sites to be accessible. Depending on what help you need, you might be able to vote curbside (i.e., in a vehicle outside a polling place), vote by mail, or with accessible voting machines designed to help voters with disabilities. While rules on who can assist you differ by state, direct family and near relatives can usually help, and so can poll workers.

Q: I moved since the last time I voted. Does that impact my ability to vote?
A: Your voter registration and the races you vote in are tied to your address so it's important for it to be updated and current before voting. You can update your address and voter registration at your local election board, but plan to do it before your state's registration deadline to ensure your vote counts.

Q: I'm trying to vote, but the poll worker said I'm not registered. What do I do?
A: Voters are sometimes erroneously removed from state voter rolls. If you believe you are registered and eligible to vote, you have the right to ask for a provisional ballot which lets you vote while election officials research your eligibility.

Q: I read on social media that my usual polling place closed and there are new rules about the identification and documentation I need to vote. How do I know what is real and what is not?
A: Every election season brings a flood of information about candidates, voting rules, and deadlines. Not all of it is accurate. Some of it is designed to confuse voters and discourage participation. Most laws leave it to voters to sort fact from fiction, so when in doubt, go straight to the source: your local or state election officials or the Election Protection Hotline.

Q: Rude and aggressive campaigners are blocking parking spaces at the voting site and bothering people waiting to vote, is that allowed?
A: Election officials are required to ensure voters can safely cast their ballots, and federal and state laws prohibit voter intimidation and interference. Enforcement, however, is often limited to the most extreme cases. Your safety is always the top priority. If you witness a problem and feel comfortable doing so, tell an election worker on site or report it to the Election Protection Hotline.

Q: I mailed in my ballot but want to make sure it got there and was counted. How do I check?
A: Great job getting your ballot in! Local election officials can confirm the status of your mailed ballot by telephone and most states offer online ballot tracking tools. Contact the Election Protection Hotline for local election official contact information or find it at https://ballot.elections.virginia.gov/voter/va/bt/track.

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[i] Online registration portal available at: https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/Registration/DmvLookup.
[ii] Voter registration forms available at: https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/voter-forms/.
[iii] Election Day polling place lookup available at: https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/polling-place-lookup/.
[iv] Request your mail-in ballot at: https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/absentee. Track your mail-in ballot here.
[v] Acceptable forms of voter IDs available at: https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/voter-id/outreach-materials/documents/Voter-Identification-Chart---Revised-07.2025.pdf.