

LET ME VOTE

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

★ VIRGINIA ★

Tips for Avoiding Problems

- *Vote before Election Day using an absentee ballot, if you're eligible to do so.*
- *Locate your polling place before the election.*
- *Vote early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.*
- *Bring ID! You can use your voter registration card.*
- *Read all instructions carefully, and take your time.*
- *Ask for help if you need it.*

Am I registered to vote?

Check to see if you are registered **before October 15, 2012**. Call your local registrar ("Voter Registration" in the city/county government pages of the White Pages) or the State Board of Elections, at (800) 552-9745. You can also check on the internet at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>.

When do I vote?

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 6, 2012**. Polling places are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where do I vote?

Call your local voter registration office before Election Day, or look on your most recently issued voter registration card. You may also find your polling place online at www.sbe.virginia.gov, click "Voter Information."

Registering to Vote

How do I register to vote?

The deadline to register to vote is Monday, **October 15, 2012** if you want to vote in the November 2012 election. Voter registration applications are available at all local voter registration offices, post offices, public libraries, DMV offices and online at www.sbe.virginia.gov. If you miss the deadline, you won't be able to vote in the November 6 election, but you can register to vote in future elections.

What if I'm a college student?

You can register to vote at the address you consider your "residence." This can be a place you plan on staying for an unlimited amount of time, like your school address or your home address.

What if I'm homeless?

You don't need a home to register. On your voter registration form, write down where you usually stay, like a street corner, a park, a shelter, or any other place you normally return to.

Restoration of Voting Rights

If you were convicted of a misdemeanor, you can vote in Virginia. (VA. CODE § 24.2-700). If you were convicted of a felony in Virginia, you can vote *if your voting rights have been restored*. (VA. CODE §§ 53.1-231.1, -231.2.)

Only the Governor can restore your right to vote. The process begins by submitting an application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. For more information or assistance, contact the ACLU's Virginia Voter Restoration Project at (804)644-8080 or vote@acluva.org.

NEW! Virginia's Voter ID Law

Because of Virginia's new voter ID law, **all voters must show an ID** to vote. (VA Code 24.2-643(b))

Some Acceptable IDs: Valid Virginia driver's license, valid government-issued ID, employee ID with photo, Virginia voter registration card, valid student ID issued by any institution of higher education in Virginia, concealed handgun permit; or copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck that shows your name and address.

What if I Don't Have ID? If you forgot your ID and you have the time, then it is usually better to go back and get it. Voters without identification must cast an "ID-only" provisional ballot. For your provisional ballot to count, you must submit a copy of your ID to your local electoral board, which they must receive **no later than noon on Nov. 9, the Friday following election day**. You can send your ID by fax, e-mail, mail, or in-person. The registrar will provide you with written notice of an electoral board meeting at which they will determine if you're qualified to vote. You may attend the board meeting, but are not required to. (VA Code 24.2-653)

Common Questions on Election Day

If I'm in line when the polls close, can I still vote? Yes! You have the right to vote if you are in line by 7 p.m. when the polls close. (VA Code 24.2-603)

Can I wear campaign apparel when going to vote? Yes! You are allowed to wear apparel and buttons or stickers that contain a candidate's name or a political slogan to the polls. (VA Code 24.2-604(k))

What should I do if I have moved since the '11 election? If you did not notify the registrar of your move to a new precinct before October 15, 2012, you may still vote in your old precinct in this year's election. (VA Code 24.2-401) You must notify your local registration office before the next registration deadline in order to vote in your new precinct in the next election.

What if I believe I am registered but a poll worker says I am not? Ask the poll worker to contact the local registrar. If the registrar is unavailable or cannot 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, be aware that your ballot may not be counted if the Board of Elections can find no record of your registration. (VA Code 24.2-652-653)

What if someone challenges my eligibility to vote even though I am on the list of registered voters? Ask for an Affirmation of Eligibility form. You have a right to vote if you sign this form. (VA Code 24.2-651-651.1)

What if I need instructions on how to use the voting equipment? Ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to assist you at any time you ask— even if you have entered the voting booth. (VA Code 24.2-647)

What should I do if I make a mistake on a paper ballot? Do not cast your ballot, but ask for a replacement ballot immediately. You have a right to as many replacement ballots as you need. (VA Code 24.2-645)

What if I need help in the voting booth because of a physical disability or I have trouble reading or writing? Ask a poll worker for a Request for Assistance form. You have a right to have a poll worker, friend, or relative help you in the voting booth if you sign this form. (VA Code 24.2-649 (b)). No one can be denied the right to vote because they can't get in the building or use the machines. If you think it will be difficult to vote inside the polling place, you have the right to vote curbside. On Election Day, you can send someone into the polling place to request curbside voting on your behalf. Poll workers will bring a ballot or voting machine outside so you can vote. (VA Code 24.2-649 (a)).

Absentee Voting

If you expect to be unable to go to your polling place on Election Day because of a long commute, work, school, religious, medical, or other reasons, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot via mail or in person. (VA Code 24.2-700)

The **absentee ballot application** (available at your local registrar's office or online at www.sbe.virginia.gov) must be received by your local voter registrar's office by 5 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2012. (VA Code 24.2-701-702) Your **completed ballot** must be delivered by you, in person, or by a Board of Elections-approved mail service (check with your local registrar) to the registrar's office by Nov. 6, 2012 at 7 p.m. You may also apply for an absentee ballot and vote in person at your local registrar's office no later than Nov. 3, 2012— confirm hours with your local registrar's office. (VA Code 24.2-707-709)

What if I need language assistance?

With the exception of Fairfax County, ballots are only required to be printed in English. If you don't vote in Fairfax County and need language assistance, you have the right to bring someone who can translate with you to the polls. This person is allowed to help you communicate with poll workers and translate the ballot.

Fairfax County is required to provide language assistance in Spanish. You have a right to receive all ballots and other election materials in Spanish. Ask the poll worker for help in Spanish.

What if the voting machine malfunctions?

If your voting machine malfunctions, inform a poll worker and the poll worker will either direct you to a different machine or give you a paper ballot. (VA. CODE. § 24.2-642, § 24.2-646.1.)

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, see "How do I make a complaint?" below.

How do I make a complaint?

First, ask for an officer of election at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints. Candidates, political parties and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers at your polling place who may be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you who you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call the Virginia State Board of Elections (800-552-9745) or the Election Day hotlines at the ACLU of Virginia (804-644-8080) or the Virginia NAACP (804-321-5678). You can also submit a complaint online at http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Misc/VoterComment/Voter_Complaint_Form.aspx.

MORE INFORMATION

Virginia Board of Elections
800-552-9745 or www.sbe.virginia.gov

ACLU of Virginia Election Day Hotline
804-644-8080

NAACP Virginia State Conference
804-321-5678

U.S. Department of Justice
800-253-3931

National ACLU Voter Protection Hotline
877-523-2792