

Absentee ballots

Can I cast an absentee ballot?

Any registered voter may vote by mail in Virginia!

How do I apply for an absentee ballot?

1. You can find applications here:
 - a. Printable in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#) or [Korean](#). You should return these to [your local registrar](#) via mail, fax, or via scanned attachment to an email.
 - b. Apply online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/absentee>,
OR
 - c. Call [your local registrar](#) office and ask for an application.

For the January 2025 election, you can submit an absentee ballot request between December 11 and December 27, 2024. For the June 17 primary, the deadline is June 6, 2025. For the November 4 election, the deadline is October 24, 2025. The deadlines are when it must be received at your local registrar's office. But don't wait that long!!!

2. Fill out the application:
 - a. You must provide:
 - i. Your first and last name.
 - ii. The last four digits of your Social Security Number.
 - iii. The address under which you registered.
 - iv. The election for which you are requesting a ballot.
 1. If it is a general or special election, select that. If not, mark whether you would like to vote in the Democratic or Republican primary.
 2. Mark the date of the election
 3. Mark the locality in which you are voting.
 - v. (Optional) If you would like to vote absentee in all future elections, mark yes (otherwise mark no) and choose which party's ballots you would like in primary elections. If you don't want to have to remember to apply every year, this is a great option.
 - vi. Mailing address to where your ballot will be sent, if different from the address under which you registered.
 - vii. (Optional) Your phone number and/or your email address, so you can be contacted in case of an issue.
 - viii. Sign and date the application.
 - ix. If you have changed your name or address, provide your former name and/or address and date moved.
 - x. If you are a member of the military or currently overseas, follow the instructions in part 7b.
 - xi. If you require assistance with a ballot for a disability other than a print disability, mark as such, and you will be provided with an assistance form.
 - xii. If you require an electronic ballot due to print-disability, mark as such and you will receive one with instructions for return.

- xiii. If somebody assisted you with the application or witnessed your signature or mark, they must complete section 7d.
3. Return your completed application by 5 PM eleven days prior to the election, except in case of emergency.

How do I fill out my absentee ballot?

1. Marking your ballot:
 - a. Use black or blue pen.
 - b. Completely fill in the ovals.
 - c. Seal your ballot in Envelope B.
 - d. Wait to place Envelope B inside the return envelope!
2. Fill out Envelope B with the following information:
 - a. Your full, legal name.
 - b. Your full address.
 - c. The last four digits of your SSN or, if you were never given an SSN, check “No SSN” and write your Voter Identification number.
 - d. Your signature, including date of birth and date signed.
 - e. If you cannot sign, your assistant should mark “Blind Voter” if you are blind or “Voter Unable to Sign” for any other reason on the signature space in the Request for Assistance form.
- i. If you did not receive this form with your ballot and need it, contact [your local registrar](#).
 3. If you marked on your application that you required assistance to complete your absentee ballot, you will receive a Request for Assistance form.
 - a. If you did not receive this help, you do not need to fill out this form.
 - b. If you require assistance but did not receive this form with your ballot, you can contact [your local registrar](#) to request it.
 - c. If you did receive this help, the voter and assistant should fill out their respective portions of the form and include it in the return envelope.
 4. **If you are a first time voter and you are voting absentee in a federal election**, you must include one of the three following forms of ID in your return envelope:
 - a. A current and valid photo ID
 - b. A current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that shows name and address OR
 - c. Another government document that shows name and address (for example a voter card).
 5. Seal Envelope B in the return envelope.
 6. You can return your ballot in the following ways:
 - a. Hand delivered to [your local registrar](#)'s office by 7 PM on election day
 - b. Hand delivered to a drop box at [your local registrar](#)'s office or [satellite locations](#) by 7 PM on election day.
 - c. Or mailed to [your local registrar](#)'s office and postmarked on or before election day.
- i. Your mailed ballot must be received by noon on the third day after the election.
 - d. Vote in person instead:

- i. If you have your ballot with you, bring it to the polling place during early voting (between 45 days until and the Saturday before election day for general and primary elections) or on election day and you will receive a regular ballot.
- ii. If you do not have your ballot, you can still vote a regular ballot during early voting if you sign a Gold Form. You may only vote with a provisional ballot on election day.

What if I have an emergency and I missed the deadline to register to vote absentee?

In case of an emergency/obligation:

- If your emergency arises before noon on the Saturday before the election,
 - You may [request an emergency mail-in ballot](#) for the following reasons:
 - If your personal hospitalization or illness, or the hospitalization, illness, or death of a child, spouse, or parent prevented you from submitting your application by the deadline,
 - If your personal hospitalization or illness, or the hospitalization, illness, or death of a child, spouse, or parent prevents you from voting on Election Day, OR
 - Some other emergency justifiably had prevented you from submitting your application by the deadline or currently prevents you from voting on Election Day.
 - You have until 2 PM on the day before the election to submit your request.
 - You may choose a representative to deliver your form and return it to the registrar if needed.
 - If you choose such a representative, they must be present while you complete your ballot.
 - Your or your representative must return your ballot by the close of polls.
- If your emergency/obligation arises after noon on the Saturday before the election,
 - You may [request an emergency ballot](#) for the following reasons:
 - If you were assigned as an election officer to a precinct different from your own, OR
 - If an obligation arose with
 - Your business, profession, or occupation
 - Hospitalization of yourself or an immediate family member, OR
 - The death of an immediate family member.
 - You must submit your application *and* vote *in person* by 2 PM on the day before the election

How do I know my absentee ballot has been accepted?

- [Track your ballot](#)
- Your locality is required to notify you within 90 days of your ballot's submission if it has been rejected.
 - If you feel your ballot was acceptable and this has violated your voting rights

- You may file an informal complaint—which may be resolved more quickly due to its informality—to the Virginia Department of Elections by
 - Filling out an [online complaint form](#)
 - Emailing info@elections.virginia.gov **OR**
 - Sending a letter to the address below:
Virginia Department of Elections
1100 Bank Street, First Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
- If necessary, you may file a formal complaint to the Virginia Department of Elections by
 - Filling out the [form](#)
 - Having the form notarized and
 - Mailing it to the address below:
Deputy Commissioner
Virginia Department of Elections
Washington Building, First Floor, 1100 Bank Street,
Richmond, VA 23219
- If there is an error in your mail-in application or ballot, your locality is required to notify you and instruct you how to fix it by phone, email, or written communication.

Other FAQs and tips

- Ballots will begin mailing to applicants 45 days before general and primary elections.
- If you need help or have a question, contact the Virginia Department of Elections at (804) 864-8901 or info@elections.virginia.gov.

If you make a mistake on your ballot, you can contact [your local registrar](#) to resolve it.