First-time voters

Congratulations on your first time voting in Virginia! All you need to do is register, research, and vote!

#1 Register
- Fill out a [Voter Registration Form](#) and turn it in. Your registrar should inform you of your registration status within two weeks after submitting your form. If you don't receive any such communication, [Click here](#) to see if you are registered.
- You have the opportunity to register to vote or update your registration when you apply for or update your Virginia driver's license.
- For Primary and General Elections, the deadline to register is 22 days before the election. For Special Elections, the deadline is 14 days before the election. If a Special Election is called by the Governor of Virginia, the deadline is 7 days before the election.
- You can register to vote when you are 17 years old and will be 18 by election day.
- If your registration has been confirmed, you may vote any time within the early voting period or on election day.

Already registered to vote in Virginia?
You can [Update Your Voter Registration here](#)

In Virginia, you should update your registration when your name or address changes. You will need the last four digits of your social security number.

#2 Research
- Once early voting starts, Vote411 publishes a [nonpartisan voting guide](#) that you can use to compare candidates.
- Your [locality](#) may include a sample ballot on its website, or you can use Ballotpedia's [sample ballot tool](#).
- Bring your Voter ID (more information in the Voter ID portion of this guide)

#3 Go vote!
- Where do I vote?
  - During early voting, you can vote at [your local registrar](#) or any additional [satellite locations](#).
  - You can find your election day polling place using Virginia's [Citizen Portal](#).
- It's great to vote early! In Virginia, early voting lasts between 45 days until election day to the Saturday before the election. You can find more information in the early voting portion of this guide.
- Any registered voter in Virginia can also vote by mail! You can find more information in the absentee voting portion of this guide.

Virginia Voter Information
- You can find more specific information in the Virginia Elections portion of this guide!
- Virginia comprises 95 counties and 38 independent cities, together called its localities. Each locality determines the process for voter registration, where and how to vote, the ballots, and appointing general registrars and election officials. You can find your [locality's election website](#) here.
- Voters in Virginia must show ID to vote. You can learn more in the Voter ID portion of this guide.

- It's useful to bring a list of candidates you intend to vote for! This may be on paper or on your phone but be careful not to use your phone in any way that disrupts the voting process or infringes on others' rights to secret ballots.
- During primaries, the Republican and Democratic parties nominate the candidates who will run in the general election. Virginia has open primaries, which means Virginians do not register with a party and can vote in either (but not both) primaries.