

Register to Vote

Check your voter registration status

You can check your registration status [here](#).

Who can register to vote in Virginia?

- A U.S. citizen,
- A Virginia Resident,,
- 18 years old, or 17 years old if the individual will be 18 by election day,
 - 16 year olds may pre-register to vote
 - If a 17 year old will be 18 by the general election, they may vote in any election that year except some special elections but you can vote in the primary!
- Not voting in any other state,
- You must not have been legally declared mentally incapacitated,
- And you must not have been a convicted felon unless your right to vote has been restored by the Governor of Virginia.

How do I register to vote?

Voters can receive applications at any of the following locations:

- [Online](#)
 - You will need a valid Virginia driver's license or State ID card. If you do not have one of these, please use one of the other methods listed below.
- [Your local registrar](#)
- [PDF Download](#)
- Government offices in Virginia with state-funded programs mainly intended to aid individuals with disabilities
- Armed forces recruitment offices
- Public libraries
- Virginia Department of Elections office
- DMV offices
- Voter registration drives

After filling out their form, voters may either mail it to the address listed on the document or file it with [their local registrar](#).

If you require Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, or Rehabilitation Services, you may receive your form at state or local government offices.

How to update voter registration status online

- You can change your registered name or address using the [Virginia Citizen Portal](#).
- You will need your full SSN and Virginia Driver's License or State ID.
 - If you do not have a State ID/VA License, you can send a letter to [your local registrar](#) or submit a new [Voter Registration Application](#).
- You have the option to update your registration status (or register to vote) when you update your [driver's license](#) online.

When will I know I'm registered?

Your registrar should inform you of your official registration status within two weeks after you submitted your form. If you did not receive any such correspondence, [check here](#) to see if you are registered or call your local [Voter Registrar's office](#).

When is the deadline to register to vote in Virginia?

For Primary and General Elections, the deadline 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.

To register to vote for the November 5, 2024 and vote on a regular ballot, the deadline is midnight, October 15, 2024.

Tips

- Your registration applies for all future elections unless you move or change your name, or your registration is otherwise canceled or challenged. You don't need to register for every election, but it's worthwhile to keep checking your status.
- Not all Virginia registrars use voter registration cards, so do not be concerned if your registration is confirmed but you do not receive a card.
- If your registration has been confirmed, you may vote early (between 45 days until the election and the Saturday before election day). **The first early voting day for the November 5 election is September 20, 2024.**

On provisional ballots

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 requires states to offer [provisional ballots](#). In Virginia, you can vote on a provisional ballot if:

- Your name is not on the rolls of registered voters, but you believe you are registered.
- The pollbook indicates that you have already voted or requested an absentee ballot but you believe you have not.
- You do not have your ID and refuse to sign an ID Confirmation Statement.
 - In this case, you will have until noon on Friday after the election to submit your ID or ID Confirmation Statement to the local election board. You will be given instructions on how to do so when you cast your provisional ballot.
- A court order extends polling hours and you vote during extended hours.
- You believe you have been registered to vote in the wrong district within a split precinct.
- You have been challenged by another voter and refuse to sign the affirmation statement but still want to vote.
- The General Registrar cannot confirm your registration.

Note: Virginia allows for same-day voter registration. If you cast a provisional ballot, an election officer should offer you a voter registration application regardless of reason, but you do not have to fill this out.

To cast a provisional ballot, you need to:

- Show ID or sign an ID Confirmation Statement, unless this is one of your reasons for requesting a provisional ballot, in which case, you should follow the instructions above.
- Fill out all starred items on the provided ballot.
- The electoral board will meet to discuss the validity of provisional ballots at or before 5:00 PM on the day after the election. Provisional voters will be provided with a Provisional Voter Notice Form which will include the selected time for this meeting.
 - If you cast a provisional ballot and wish to provide further evidence of your registration or request a one-day extension, you may attend this meeting and may bring legal counsel. The meeting will take place at the local clerk's or general registrar's office.
- The ballot will be counted if the locality decides your voter registration is valid.

- You will be notified if your ballot has been counted or, if not, why.

Voters on the “inactive” list can still vote!

Being placed on the “inactive” list simply means that your locality is not sure if your address is up to date.

- “Inactive” voters can still vote!
- Voting in a primary, special, or general election automatically restores voters to “active” status.
 - You may also notify the general registrar of your address change, respond to a confirmation notice establishing your address has not changed, or transfer your registration to your new address to have your status restored. However, none of these steps are necessary to vote.
- If you do not take any of the above steps (including voting) to restore your active status before the day of the second general federal election after your status was declared inactive, your voter registration will be canceled.
 - The general registrar will publish this information at the courthouse or in a local newspaper.

Registering to vote with special circumstances

- **For college student voters** living away from home, you may register at either your home or college address. However, most elections occur during the school year, so it may be easier to register at your college address.
- **Voters experiencing homelessness or without a residence**, in the space on the registration form for Residence Address, should write the address of the location in which they typically sleep at night. You do not have to submit a mailing address to register, but may choose to provide one where you can receive mail.
- **Voters who are victims of domestic violence or stalking** who have filed a complaint with law enforcement may indicate protected voter status on their registration application and have their address redacted on registration lists. You must list a valid mailing address to register with protected status. If you cannot receive mail at your residence address, you may list a P.O. Box instead. If you do not have access to a P.O. Box, you may use the P.O. Box provided by the Attorney General’s Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). You will be contacted with this information if you indicate protected status on your registration application and do not provide an address.
- **Voters with a past felony conviction** may not vote unless their civil rights have been restored by the Virginia Governor after you have completed your sentence. You can check the status of your civil rights [here](#) and request consideration for restoration of rights [here](#) or by calling 804-692-0104.
- **Law enforcement officers (active or retired), individuals with protective court orders, individuals in the address confidentiality program, and federal or Virginia judges or justices (active or retired)** may also mark protected status on their voter registration application and have their address of residence redacted in registration lists. These voters must list a valid mailing address to register with protected status. If you cannot receive mail at your residence address, you may list a P.O. Box instead. If you do not list a mailing address on your application, you will not be denied registration until you have been contacted, informed of this provision, and given the time to correct it.

How are voter registration lists maintained?

Under Section 8 of The National Voting Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), all states must complete a non-discriminatory process to remove ineligible voters from registration lists at least

90 days before the next primary or general federal election in which those removed would have been eligible to vote.

Virginia's Department of Elections (ELECT) performs voter registration list maintenance in a set of separate processes throughout the year.

On an ongoing basis:

- ELECT compares registration records with border states to ensure no voter is registered in more than one state.
- ELECT mails voters to confirm that their address has not changed if they suspect it has.
 - Voters who do not respond to such notices within 30 days will be labeled "inactive" for two federal elections before being removed from the registration list.
- ELECT receives monthly lists of residents convicted of felonies and uses an automated system to remove them from registration lists. They also utilize lists of convicted felons sent by attorneys and update lists to reflect felons whose voting rights have been restored.
- ELECT receives a weekly list of all deaths taking place in Virginia of individuals over the age of 17 and removes these voters from registration lists.
- ELECT looks up out-of-state deaths in a national death record database.
- ELECT receives monthly notice from the DMV of those who respond "No" to the citizenship question and provides this information to local registrars. They also utilize information from the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program to determine citizenship. Localities then notify voters of potential cancellation. If a voter does not affirm their citizenship within 14 days, their registration is canceled.
- ELECT receives a monthly list from circuit courts of voters adjudicated mentally incapacitated and sends this information to local registrars to process and notify those removed from the voter registration list.

[Learn more](#)

Learn more

- [National Voter Registration Act](#)
- [Virginia Department of Elections' Election and Voter FAQ](#)
- [Virginia General Registrar/Department of Elections \(GREB\) Handbook 2023](#)
- [Virginia Department of Elections' Annual List Maintenance Reports](#)