

# 10 Things Every Virginia Primary Voter Should Know in 2021

## 1. YOU HAVE OPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING

- Despite COVID-19 still affecting every part of our daily lives, Virginians can make voting in the June primary election a safe and convenient experience.
- In-person voting with additional personal protective equipment and distancing measures will be available on Election Day (see #2 below) and for 45 days of early voting (see #3 below).
- Voting absentee by mail is different this year: you can return your ballot by mail or at a drop box.

## 2. YOU CAN STILL VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, JUNE 8

- Polls will be open from 6 AM to 7 PM on Primary Election Day, which is Tuesday, June 8, 2021.
- You can find your polling place online here: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/>.
- Every qualified voter who is standing in line by 7 PM has a right to cast a ballot.

## 3. YOU CAN ALSO VOTE EARLY IN PERSON STARTING SATURDAY, APRIL 24

- You do NOT need any excuse to vote early in person (sometimes called voting “absentee in person”). You can vote early for any reason.
- You can vote early during regular business hours at your local registrar’s office from Saturday, April 24, 2021 to Saturday, June 5, 2021.
  - There may be additional early voting (or “satellite”) locations in your county or city.
- Check the website of your county or city’s registrar to confirm the location and hours for early voting sites.

## 4. VOTING ABSENTEE BY MAIL IS A SAFE, SECURE, AND SIMPLE PROCESS

- You do NOT need any excuse to vote absentee. You can request to vote absentee by mail for any reason here: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/>. (Certain first-time voters cannot vote absentee by mail.)
- Request and return your ballot early!
  - The deadline to request to vote absentee by mail is 5pm on Friday, May 28, 2021.
  - You must drop off or mail your voted ballot by 7pm on Election Day, Tuesday, June 8, 2021.
    - If mailed, the registrar must receive your ballot by noon on Friday, June 11, 2021.
- You can return your voted ballot 5 different ways:
  - By mail to your local registrar—for the June 2021 primary election, the state has prepaid your postage
  - In-person at your local registrar’s office
  - In-person at a drop-off location (or drop box)
  - In-person at your polling place on Election Day
  - By commercial carrier (UPS, FedEx, etc.)

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- You can track your absentee ballot here:  
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/>.
- Due the COVID-19 pandemic, if you believe you cannot safely have a witness present while completing the absentee ballot for the June 8 primary election, you are not required to have a witness present when you vote absentee by mail.
- Check the website of your county or city's registrar to confirm the location and hours for drop-off locations.

## 5. CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY

- For the June primary election, the voter registration deadline is Monday, May 17, 2021.
- Not sure if you're registered? Check your record here:  
<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/>.
- If you moved to a new home since your last time voting, make sure your voter registration is updated with your new address BEFORE the deadline.

## 6. YOU NEED A VALID ID TO VOTE

- If you choose to vote in person, poll workers will ask you for identification. You can present any of these IDs:
  - Voter confirmation documents you received after you registered to vote
  - Virginia DMV-issued driver's license or ID card
  - Valid U.S. passport
  - Any ID card issued by the federal government or any agency of Virginia state or local government.
  - U.S. military ID
  - A tribal ID issued by a recognized Virginia tribe
  - Any student ID card issued by a US university or community college
  - Employer-issued photo ID card
  - Any current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with your name and address
- If you do not have one of the IDs above, you can sign and submit an ID Confirmation Statement in order to vote a regular ballot. If you do not sign an ID Confirmation Statement, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot.
- Your ID must be genuine and not expired for more than 12 months, with one exception:
  - The expiration date of your driver's license does not matter for determining its validity.

## 7. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE AT YOUR POLLING PLACE

- You have the right to obtain assistance to vote due to physical disability, limited-English proficiency, or inability to read or write from someone of your choice (except your employer or a union representative).

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- If you are physically disabled or at least 65 years old, you may request to vote curbside. A poll worker will bring you a ballot outside the polling place, but within 150 feet of the entrance to the polling place, which you can fill out and return to the poll worker.

## 8. VOTER INTIMIDATION IS AGAINST THE LAW

- Voter intimidation is illegal. It includes:
  - Behavior that threatens, harasses, or hinders voters.
  - "Noisy or riotous" behavior around the polling place.
  - Attempts to bribe, coerce, or otherwise illegally influence voters.
- Nobody may loiter or solicit votes within 40 feet of the polling place's entrance.
- If you witness voter intimidation at your polling place, report it!
  - An election official at your polling place or your local registrar.
  - Virginia Department of Elections: 800-552-9745, [info@elections.virginia.gov](mailto:info@elections.virginia.gov), and/or <http://elections.virginia.gov/voter-complaints>.
  - The Election Protection hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE, 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish), 1-844-YALLA-US (Arabic), and 1-888-API-VOTE (Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Tagalog).
  - Advancement Project Voter Protection: 202-728-9557 and/or [junger@advancementproject.org](mailto:junger@advancementproject.org).

## 9. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IF YOU ARE CHALLENGED

- Any qualified voter can challenge your qualifications to vote (such as being 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, etc.).
- The challenge must be in writing, identify the reasons for the challenge, and be signed by the challenger.
- If you are challenged, election officials can ask you questions about your qualifications to vote and can seek sworn testimony from witnesses about your qualifications to vote.
  - If your eligibility to vote is challenged on the basis that you are in the wrong precinct, ask a poll worker to identify your correct precinct and direct you to that precinct.
- If a challenged voter insists she is qualified and signs an sworn statement affirming her qualifications to vote, she **must be allowed to vote using a regular ballot**.
- The only time she would cast a provisional ballot is if the pollbook indicates she already voted in another precinct.

## 10. VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT ONLY AS A LAST RESORT

- You have a right to vote a provisional ballot if you believe that you are a registered voter in Virginia. To make your provisional ballot count, follow the provisional ballot instructions about how to provide written proof of your eligibility to your local registrar's office before noon on Friday, June 11.