

Make a Plan to Vote

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? CALL THE VIRGINIA VOTER HOTLINE (844) 4VA-VOTE (844-482-8683) OR TEXT "VOTEVA" TO 24365

Part 1: Make Sure you are Registered to Vote

REGISTER TO VOTE

Who: New address? Name change? Not voted in a while?
Turning 18 by Nov. 3? Check your status just to be sure?

How: Go online at Virginia Voter Information – Citizen Portal. Be sure to use the correct locality: Charlottesville if you live in the city. Albemarle if you live in the county. - Deadline to Register: October 13

RESTORE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE (for those who lost their right due to a felony conviction in the past)

How: Check to see if your rights have been restored at <https://www.restore.virginia.gov/> If you don't show up in the system, it might be that your name has changed since the conviction or that your name was misspelled when it was entered into the database, so it is worth trying a couple of different spellings. If you see that your rights restoration has been "granted," you can register to vote. If you can't find your name or your rights have not been restored, you can fill out a request to restore your rights at <https://www.restore.virginia.gov/>. You can also call the office at 804-692-0104 or at 855-575-9177 (toll free).

If you have questions about voting rights restoration, you can email: ormail@governor.virginia.gov

Part 2: VOTE!!!!!! There are 3 options for casting your ballot

Option 1: VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

Everyone can now vote early in-person - no excuse needed
Where: For city residents, Charlottesville Registrar, 120 7th Street NE, City Hall Annex, Room 142*

When: (starting Sept 18) weekdays 8:30 - 4:30, Saturdays Oct. 24 & 31, 8:30 - 5:00;
Last day: October 31

Parking: The first hour of parking is free in the Market Street Parking garage, so if you are not doing curbside voting, this is a great option.

**Curbside voting option:* Park in the marked spots on 7th St and call 434-970-3250

Photo IDs are no longer required to vote

List of acceptable forms of ID can be found here:
IDs Required to Vote - Virginia Department of Elections

Option 2: VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL

How: Apply online now *with* a driver's license or VA ID: Virginia Voter Information – Citizen Portal Expect the ballot to be mailed to you around September 18.

Apply online now *without* a driver's license:

First step, get the paper form to request the ballot. You can get and print a paper application here. If you are unable to apply on-line or print the form, you can email us at cvilledemschair@gmail.com and we can bring you a request form to your door.

2. Second step, get the completed form to the Registrar.

You can hand deliver it to : Charlottesville City Registrar, 120 7th St NE #142nd, Charlottesville, VA 22902

You can mail it to: Charlottesville City Registrar, P.O. Box 1219 Charlottesville, VA 22902

You can email* it to: vote@charlottesville.gov

(*You can e-sign your application and email to your Registrar rather than print it out and sign it with a pen. You can also take a picture of your printed and signed application and email it to your Registrar. Make sure the picture is clear!)

Deadline to request absentee by mail ballot: October 23 by 5:00 PM. But we recommend not waiting! The earlier the better!

Tracking your mail ballot's progress: Once you put that very valuable ballot in the mail, you can check and make sure it arrives at the Registrar. Go to the citizen portal and choose "Check my Registration," and scroll down to the "Absentee" section.

What to do if your ballot is taking too long to arrive and you are worried it is lost in the mail? All hope is not lost! You have two choices to make sure your vote counts:

1) You can go to the Registrar for early voting (up until 5:00 PM Oct. 31.) Before giving you a ballot, the staff will enter the database to cancel your absentee ballot. You will not be given a provisional ballot but a regular early voting ballot that you will be able to mark and scan immediately because your absentee ballot will have been

canceled before you vote. If your mailed ballot arrives later it will be rejected because you will have already voted.

2. You can go to your precinct on Election Day. You will vote using a provisional ballot, which will be counted if your mailed ballot does not arrive by noon on Friday (in which case it will count).

How to return a ballot: Your ballot will come with a stamped return envelope. If there isn't enough time to mail it in (and please don't take a chance!), you can deliver it in-person to the Registrar at 120 7th St NE #142nd, Charlottesville, VA 22902. You can go inside and hand it in, or can use the secure drop box. On election day drop boxes for absentee ballots will be available at all city polling places. It is important to make sure not to put an Albemarle County ballot in a Charlottesville drop box, and vice versa.

What is the deadline?: Your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, and arrive at the registrar's office by noon on the Friday after the election, but again, we recommend sending it in early and tracking its progress to make sure it has arrived. The earlier the better!

How to fill out an absentee ballot correctly: Please read below for helpful advice from the Albemarle County Dems on how to make sure your absentee by-mail ballot is counted.

DISQUALIFYING BALLOT ERRORS Nationwide, anywhere from 1% to 4% of absentee ballots get rejected, with younger, minority, and first-time voters more likely to see their ballots rejected. Albemarle's registrar estimates that in past elections, 3% to 4% of local absentee ballots have gotten tossed out for errors. In this past June's primary, about 1.6% of Albemarle Democrats' mail-in ballots got rejected. Because of the new law passed by the special session, voters will be notified if they have made a disqualifying error on their ballot and will get a chance to "cure" their ballot.

HOW YOU CAN AVOID NEEDING A BALLOT CURE:

Make sure you fill out your ballot correctly! We're working on videos to guide you through that process step by step, and we'll spotlight them in a future newsletter as soon as they're ready.

Write down your full legal name -- first, middle, and last -- the same way it's listed and spelled on your voter registration card. You can check how your name's listed on the Citizen Portal (under "Check Registration Status") to make sure you've got it right.

If you're a Junior, III, IV, etc., use a generational suffix if you're registered at the same address with an elder or younger voter who shares your name. For example: If

Hank Williams, Jr. and Hank Williams III both live at 123 Rowdy Friends Road, both Junior and his son need to add their respective generational suffixes to their names on their mail-in ballots; simply listing themselves as "Hank Williams" will leave election officials confused and their ballots disqualified.

Provide your full address. That includes your house number and street name or your rural road address; your city; and your ZIP code. Again, you can use the Citizen Portal to make sure that information lines up with your registration.

Make sure you sign the envelope in which you seal your completed ballot.

When your blank ballot arrives in the mail, you'll find three other envelopes inside. Envelope A, sealed, holds your blank, unfilled ballot, ready for you to cast your vote. Envelope B waits to seal up your completed ballot. And once that's done, Envelope B goes into a third pre-addressed envelope for you to mail back. (Because of COVID, a witness signature is not required).

Prepare yourself and every Democratic voter you know to overcome these challenges. Together, we can all vote safely, and we can all make sure our votes count.

Option 3: VOTE AT YOUR PRECINCT ON ELECTION DAY

When: Tuesday, November 3 from 6:00AM to 7:00 PM

Where: Find your polling place at Virginia Voter Information – Citizen Portal

If you haven't filled out your [Census](#) data yet, please take a few minutes to get that done! It is so important for funding and for representation.