



New Citizens: Steps to be a Voter in Virginia

Register to Vote

You might have registered to vote at your Oath Ceremony. If you did, then you do not have to do anything else to register! If you did not register to vote at your Oath Ceremony, there are three ways that U.S. Citizens who are residents of Virginia can register to vote.

- Register to vote online:
 - Go to this link: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/Registration/DmvLookup>
 - You have to enter your driver's license number or the number on your state issued ID. If you do not have one of those, you have to register one of the other two ways below.
 - You have to enter your Social Security Number, your date of birth and your home address
- Mail in a voter registration form
 - You will need to fill out this form:
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formwarehouse/veris-voter-registration/applications/VA-NVRA-1-Voter-Registration-Application-rev-5-2024.pdf>
 - You have to enter your Social Security Number, your date of birth and your home address
 - You should be able to get the form at your local library or DMV
- Go to your local voter registration office:
 - Go to this website to find the voter registration office near you:
<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>
 - Choose the city or county that you live in.
 - It will give you the address, phone number and website for the office where you can go to register to vote. It will also tell you the hours that the office is open.
 - When you go to the office to register, you will need to tell them your Social Security Number, your date of birth, and your home address.

After you register to vote:

- Your voter registration card will come to you in the mail.

If you do not know if you registered, or you moved after you registered:

- Go to this website: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

Getting ready to vote:

- Learn about the people who are running for different government jobs.
 - Each local voter registration office usually has a sample ballot to show what people are running for which jobs. You can find the website for your local voter registration office here:
<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>

- This website has a sample ballot where you can click on each candidate to learn more about them. It will ask for your address - you can put your zip code there. https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup
- This website has information about all of the elections and candidates for Virginia: <https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia>

Vote:

After you have registered to vote, you can vote in-person before Election Day or you can vote in person on Election Day. If you are pregnant, older than 65 or you have a disability, you are allowed to vote by mail the first time you vote.

Vote In Person Early

- Early voting starts 45 days before each election (*September 20 for the 2024 Election*)
- You can vote early at your local voter registration office during their regular office hours. Find your local voter registration office here: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>
- You have to bring your ID. It can be your driver's license, state ID, voter ID card or US passport.
 - They will ask you to say your full name and home address
- They will give you a ballot and a pen or pencil and show you a place to vote where no one can see your ballot.
- After you vote, they will show you where to put your ballot.
- There will also be two early voting Saturdays in 2024: October 26 and November 2nd

Vote In Person on Election Day

- Make sure you know where you can vote. The government tells each voter where they should vote on Election Day depending on where they live. You cannot vote at a different voting place. Your voter registration card says where you can vote. You can also use this website to find out where you are allowed to vote: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>
- When you go to your voting location, you have to show them your ID. It can be your driver's license, state ID, voter ID card or US passport.
 - They will ask you to say your full name and home address
- They will give you a ballot and a pen or pencil and show you a place to vote where no one can see your ballot.
- After you vote, they will show you where to put your ballot and you will get a sticker to wear that says, "I Voted!"

Vote by mail

When you vote by mail, it is called absentee voting. The first time you vote, you can vote by mail only if you are pregnant, over 65 years old or you have a disability. After you have already voted in person in your current city or county, then anyone can vote by mail.

- If you want to vote by mail in any election, you have to apply to vote by mail.
 - You have to send your application to vote by at least 2 weeks before the election - it is better to apply to vote by mail sooner if you can.
 - You can do it on this website: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/absentee> OR

- You can print and fill out this form:
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formwarehouse/absentee-voting/applications/REVISED-SBE-701-703rev7.022..pdf>
 - You can take that form to your local voter registration office or you can mail it to your local voter registration office. You can find their address here:
<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>
- After you apply to vote by mail, you will get a ballot in the mail.
- Use the ballot to vote.
 - Follow the instructions about closing the envelope and sign the Statement of Voter.
 - You may have to have another person sign as a witness that you are person who voted.
- Mail or bring your completed ballot envelope to your local voter registration office (<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>)
 - If you are mailing it, you have to mail it by early in the day on Election Day.
 - If you bring it to your local voter registration office during their office hours or you can put it in the ballot dropbox in front of the voter registration office.
 - The last day you can bring it to the office is Election Day before 7:00 pm.

Produced by Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle (LVCA) to help the adult students in the Citizenship program access the rights and responsibilities awarded to them through naturalization. These instructions are specific to U.S. Citizens eligible to vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

To support LVCA's Citizenship program, donate [here](#)

www.literacyforall.org