

**Disclaimer:** This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

**Note:** This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter's contact information should follow-up be necessary.

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS Revised 11/03/20 (6:05 am EST)**

##### **REGISTERING TO VOTE**

1. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)
2. **HOW:** [How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?](#)
3. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)
4. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)
5. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)
6. **PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)
7. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily due to COVID-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?](#)
8. **STUDENT:** [I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?](#)
9. **LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)
10. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?](#)
11. **INCARCERATED:** [I am currently in jail. Can I vote?](#)
12. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** [I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?](#)
13. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** [My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What do I do?](#)

##### **HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING**

14. **AVAILABILITY:** [Is there early voting in my state \(whether called early voting or in person absentee voting\)? When is it?](#)
15. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a reason to vote early?](#)
16. **WHEN:** [When do the polls open/close during early voting?](#)
17. **WHERE:** [Where do I vote during early voting?](#)
18. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

##### **HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE and/or VOTE BY MAIL**

19. **AUTOMATIC:** [Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically?](#)
20. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** [What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?](#)
21. **APPLICATION RETURN:** [Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?](#)

22. **APPLICATION - DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME:** [What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?](#)
23. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote absentee whether in person or by mail-in or drop off ballot?](#)
24. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** [How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?](#)
25. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** [I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)
26. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** [How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?](#)
27. **LOST OR SPOILED:** [What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?](#)
28. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?](#)
29. **IN PERSON OPTION:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?](#)
30. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** [What is the deadline for the \*\*ballot\*\* to be mailed and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?](#)
31. **BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)
32. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)
33. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** [Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?](#)

## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. **HOURS:** [When do the polls open/close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?](#)
35. **POLLING LOCATION:** [Where do I vote on Election Day?](#)
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required to vote? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** [The polling place is not open. What do I do?](#)
38. **LONG LINES:** [There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?](#)
39. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** [What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?](#)
40. **NO PPE/COVID:** [What if my polling is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?](#)
41. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** [I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?](#)
42. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** [I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?](#)
43. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** [I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?](#)
44. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** [When can I request curbside voting?](#)
45. **CAMPAIGNING:** [What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?](#)
46. **CHALLENGE:** [Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?](#)
47. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** [There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?](#)
48. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** [I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?](#)

## QUESTIONS

49. [Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?](#)

---

## REGISTERING TO VOTE

---

### 1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

Voters can determine whether they are registered by checking the South Carolina Election Commission's [website](#). Use of the website is not expressly limited to voters themselves.

### 2. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

Voters can register online at this [link](#) on the South Carolina Election Commission's website.

Voters can also use the form at this [link](#) on the South Carolina Election Commission's website and return it by mail, fax, or email to their county board of elections.

Voters can register without access to a computer or printer, by visiting their county board of voter registration and registering in person. A list of counties is available at this [link](#).

### 3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

If a voter is registering for the first time online, they will need a current valid South Carolina driver's license or state-issued photo ID card. If they are registering by email, mail, fax, or in person, they can also use a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows their name and address.

### 4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

Voters must be registered at least 30 days prior to any election in order to vote in that election.

Registration by mail applications must be postmarked at least 30 days prior to that particular election to be eligible. If the deadline falls on a Sunday or U.S. Postal Service holiday, the postmark deadline is extended to the next day that is not a Sunday or holiday.

The deadline for in person applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday October 2, 2020, unless the voter's locality has weekend registration hours through October 4, 2020; online, fax, and email applications must be submitted by October 4, 2020; and mail-in registrations must be postmarked on October 5, 2020. Exceptions to this rule are:

- If a person was discharged or separated from their service in the Armed Forces and arrived home too late to register, they may register up to 5:00 pm on the day of the election.<sup>2</sup> They can apply to register at the office of the board of voter registration and elections in the county they are voting in.<sup>3</sup>

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- If a person becomes old enough to vote after the voting registration deadline, but before the election, they can still register to vote in the 30 days leading up to the election at the office of the board of voter registration and elections in the county they are voting in.<sup>4</sup>
- 5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?**

No.

- 6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?**

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

<b>Moved within the same precinct</b>	<b>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</b>	<b>Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Moved from a different state</b>
<p>Yes. Voter can vote at their same polling place but must first fill out a change of address form at the poll.<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>Yes. A voter has two options to cast a “failsafe” ballot: 1) the voter can go to their county voter registration office, complete a change of address form, and vote a full ballot;<sup>6</sup> or 2) the voter can go to their previous polling place and vote a provisional ballot containing only federal, state, countywide and municipality-wide offices after completing change of address form.<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>If a voter moved to a different county in South Carolina more than thirty days prior to an election (before October 4th for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election) they must register to vote in their new county at least 30 days prior to the election.<sup>8</sup></p> <p>Voters who moved to a new county less than thirty days prior to an election (after October 4<sup>th</sup> for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election), have two options to vote a “failsafe ballot:” 1) voters can go to the county voter registration office in their new county, complete a change of address form, and vote a full ballot, or 2) voters can go to their previous polling place and vote a provisional ballot containing only federal, state, countywide and municipality-wide offices after completing change of address form.<sup>9</sup></p>	<p>If a voter moved to South Carolina more than thirty days prior to an election (prior to October 4<sup>th</sup> for the presidential election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>) the, voter can register to vote in South Carolina.</p> <p>If the voter moved to South Carolina within thirty days of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election (after October 4<sup>th</sup>) and they cannot register to vote in South Carolina because they missed the state’s voter registration deadline, federal law permits the voter to vote for President and Vice President only in their state of former residence. That voter should contact their former voting office to request a ballot.</p> <p>CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE</p>

			<p>If a registered voter of a South Carolina county moves to another state within 30 days (or after that state’s registration cut-off), this voter may contact their former county office and request an absentee ballot for President and Vice-President only. The voter would go through the normal absentee voting procedures, either by mail or in person. The former county is responsible for furnishing this voter a ballot for President/Vice President. A voter who has moved to another state within this deadline also has the option of returning to their former precinct and voting in person at the polls for President and Vice President only. This will probably require the voter to cast a provisional ballot.<sup>10</sup></p>
--	--	--	---

**7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?**

You should vote wherever you live permanently and not where you are staying temporarily. You can only vote in South Carolina if that is your legal domicile, which is a legal term for your “fixed home” that you have “no present intention to leave.”<sup>11</sup>

Generally speaking, this is: (1) where you file taxes; (2) where you have a lease or own real estate; (3) where you receive mail; (4) the address on your driver’s license; (5) the address you use on legal or financial documents; (6) the address you use for public school assignments or the determination of in-state tuition; (7) where your car is registered; (8) the address you use to join clubs; (9) where you store personal property; and (10) where your family lives.

**8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?**

You can register to vote where you live while attending college. It is generally sufficient to establish residency by moving to a school in South Carolina with the present intent to make the school’s address your principal home without the present intent to return to your former home after graduation.<sup>12</sup>

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

If you are currently attending classes remotely in another state, but South Carolina is your principal residence because you normally attend school there and you intend to return there, you can still vote in South Carolina. If you have moved out of South Carolina to attend classes remotely with no intention of returning, you should register to vote in the state where you are living.<sup>13</sup>

**9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?**

Military and overseas citizens are provided with special procedures and protections under federal and state law to help them overcome barriers to voter registration and voting caused by their military service or residence overseas. They can register and obtain a ballot using an online Electronic Voting Accessible Tool (EVAT). Because there are special procedures and deadlines for these voters, they should visit the South Carolina website on Military & Overseas Citizens at <https://www.scvotes.gov/military-overseas-citizens>. It includes additional information as well as a link to the EVAT.

**10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?**

Yes, unless: (1) you are currently incarcerated for the crime for which you have been convicted; (2) you are on parole or probation; or 3) you were convicted of a violation of election laws and you have not fully completed your sentence.

Any person who is convicted of a felony or an offense against the election laws is not qualified to register or to vote, until the disqualification has been removed by service of the sentence, or unless sooner pardoned. Service of sentence includes completion of any prison/jail time, probation and parole.

Once the citizen has fully completed the terms of the sentence for a felony or offenses against the election laws or has been pardoned, they may register again to vote and vote a regular ballot.<sup>14</sup>

Misdemeanor convictions do not prevent a voter from voting in South Carolina.

**11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?**

If you are incarcerated after being convicted of (or pleading guilty to) a crime, you cannot vote.<sup>15</sup>

If you are in jail awaiting trial or are in jail for failure to pay child support, you are able to vote by absentee ballot.<sup>16</sup>

**12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?**

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the polling place where the voter is attempting to vote, the precinct must call the county registration office.<sup>17</sup>

- If the county registration office responds that the voter is registered and in the correct precinct, the precinct worker will ask the voter for their date of birth. Upon answering correctly, the voter may vote a regular ballot.<sup>18</sup>
- If the poll worker says the voter is not eligible to vote at a particular precinct, but the voter believes they are eligible, that voter can cast a provisional ballot.<sup>19</sup> However, if it is later determined that the voter was at the wrong precinct, then the provisional ballot will NOT count.<sup>20</sup>

**13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?**

A voter's name can only be removed from the list of registered voters by:

- Their written request
- An adjudication of mental incompetence,
- Death,
- A change in residence, or
- In connection with a voter registration list maintenance program.<sup>21</sup>

A voter is disqualified from voting if they:

- Have been declared mentally incompetent by a court,
- Are serving a prison term for a criminal conviction, or
- Are convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws. If a voter was previously convicted of an election-related offense, the voter must have served the entire sentence, including probation or parole, or have received a pardon for the conviction to be qualified to vote again.<sup>22</sup>

Any voter whose name was removed in one of the above ways and who later becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system.

Note that you can take steps to help determine why a voter's name is not on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they be registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question #1.](#))

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #1](#) and [Question #6](#).)
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #1](#).)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline? (See [Question #4](#).)

---

## HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

---

### **14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?**

South Carolina has in-person absentee voting starting on October 5 and lasting until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2020. Voters (See [Question Error! Reference source not found.](#)) can visit their county voter registration office, complete an application, and cast their ballot.

### **15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?**

No. Because of COVID-19, the legislature has expanded early voting and absentee voting to all registered South Carolina voters for the November 3, 2020 election.

### **16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?**

One-stop absentee voting ends at 5:00 p.m. on November 2, which is the day before the election.<sup>23</sup> You can find the locations and times of early voting polling places at: <https://www.scvotes.gov/how-register-absentee-voting>.

### **17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?**

At locations determined by your county board of elections. You can find the locations and times of early voting polling places at: <https://www.scvotes.gov/how-register-absentee-voting>.

### **18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?**

The identification requirements are the same as for regular in-person voting. A photo ID is required to vote and it must be valid and current.<sup>24</sup> Acceptable forms of ID include:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



- South Carolina Driver’s License;
- Photo ID issued by the DMV;
- Passport;
- Photo Military ID issued by the federal government; and
- South Carolina voter registration card with photograph.

“If you do not have one of the forms of ID, you may complete an “affidavit of reasonable impediment” and vote a provisional ballot. Reasonable impediments include: disability, illness, conflict with work, lack of transportation, lack of birth certificate, family responsibilities, religious objection to being photographed, any other obstacle you find reasonable.<sup>29</sup> Certifiers have been instructed to give these voters the benefit of the doubt.<sup>28</sup>

If you do have one of these forms of photo ID, but do not have the identification with you, you may leave, get your photo ID, and return to vote by regular ballot. Otherwise, you may vote by provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will ONLY count if you show photo ID to the election commissioner prior to certification of the election<sup>25</sup> (usually Thursday after a primary election<sup>26</sup> and Friday after all other elections<sup>27</sup>

---

## HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

---

### **19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?**

You have to request a ballot. South Carolina will not mail you one automatically. You can request an absentee ballot online at this website:  
<https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=AbsenteeRequest>.

But, you will need a printer. You can also call or email your county voter registration office to request that a ballot be mailed to you. Finally, you can obtain an absentee ballot in person by visiting your county voter registration office. Contact information for county registration offices can be found here: <https://www.scvotes.org/how-register-absentee-voting>.

### **20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?**

All applications for absentee ballots, with the exception of emergency applications discussed below, must be received by your county voter registration office by **5:00 p.m., Saturday, October 24**. However, the state advises submitting the request at least two weeks before the election to allow for adequate time to return the ballot.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

To apply for an absentee ballot online go to: [scvotes.gov/absentee-voting](https://scvotes.gov/absentee-voting). To request on-line, you must be able to print the application. (You may return the application by mail, by email, or in person).

You may also request an application by telephone from your County Board of Elections. This link lists the telephone numbers of all the county boards. <https://www.scvotes.gov/how-register-absentee-voting>.

If voting absentee in person, the deadline to apply and vote absentee in person is by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2020.

In addition, if a voter is admitted to a hospital as an emergency patient from Friday, October 30, 2020, through Tuesday, November 3, 2020, an immediate family member may obtain an application from the board on the day of the election, complete it, receive the ballot, deliver it personally to the patient who shall vote, and the immediate family member personally carry the ballot back to the board of voter registration and elections.

**21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?**

You may return the absentee ballot application by mail, by email, or in person as long as it is received by your county voter registration office by no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 24<sup>th</sup>. However, the state advises submitting the request at least two weeks before the election to allow for adequate time to return the ballot.

An Authorized Representative acting on behalf of a voter who is unable to go to the polls due to an illness or disability may return the application by no later than **5:00 p.m., Friday, October 30**.

**22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?**

If you missed the deadline to request a ballot, you can vote in person at your county voter registration office any time up until 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2020 (the day prior to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election). Consult this website for locations and hours. You will need photo ID as explained in Question **Error! Reference source not found.** or be able to sign an affidavit explaining why you do not have such ID.

**23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?**

Not for the November 3, 2020 election. Because of COVID-19, South Carolina has temporarily expanded absentee voting to all registered voters.

**24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?**

You can check the status of your ballot request here:

[https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=Absentee Info](https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=AbsenteeInfo)

Use of this site is not expressly limited to the individual voter.

**25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?**

Contact your County Election Commission.

**26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?**

Place the ballot in the "ballot here-in" envelope and place the "ballot here-in" envelope in the return envelope. Be sure to sign the voter's oath and have your signature witnessed. Anyone can witness your signature. A notary is not necessary. But, you will need witnesses for your absentee ballot—this is a change from the June primary.

If you are returning the ballot by mail, you do not need identification. If you are returning the ballot in person, please see Question **Error! Reference source not found.**

**27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?**

Contact your County Election Commission.

**28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?**

You can check the status of your ballot request here:

[https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=Absentee Info](https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=AbsenteeInfo)

If it says that there is an issue, that the ballot was never requested, or that it was mailed, but you have not received it, then contact your County Election Commission.

**29. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?**

If you have been issued an absentee ballot, you may not vote in person on Election Day unless you vote at your county voting headquarters or can provide a certificate from the county board of voter registration that your absentee ballot has been returned unmarked.<sup>30</sup>

**30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?**

Return your ballot to your county voter registration office either by mail or personal delivery. It must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. For that reason, the state board of elections advises mailing your ballot at least one week before Election Day.

**31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?**

Locations of county voter registration offices can be found at: <https://www.scvotes.gov/how-register-absentee-voting>.

**32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?**

You can have another person return your ballot by completing an Authorization to Return Absentee Ballot Form, which can be found here: <https://www.scvotes.gov/absentee-voting>. Candidates and paid campaign workers may not return absentee ballots unless they are an immediate family member of the voter.

Voters admitted to the hospital as an emergency patient on the day of the election or within four days of the election can have an immediate family member apply and carry a ballot to the voter.

**33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?**

Locations and times can be found at: <https://www.scvotes.gov/how-register-absentee-voting>.

---

## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

---

**34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?**

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.<sup>31</sup> If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 7:00 a.m., advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. A voter in line at the polling place by 7:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.<sup>32</sup>

*\*Note to hotline volunteer:* If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

### **35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?**

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Questions #6 and 7.

*\*Note to hotline volunteer:* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election, consult the State Election Commission’s website or consult their county election office’s website or social media account for more current updates.

### **36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?**

A photo ID is required to vote and it must be valid and current.<sup>33</sup> Acceptable forms of ID include:

- South Carolina Driver’s License;
- Photo ID issued by the DMV;
- Passport;
- Photo Military ID issued by the federal government; and
- South Carolina voter registration card with photograph.

If you do have one of these forms of photo ID, but do not have the identification with you, you may leave, get your photo ID, and return to vote by regular ballot. Otherwise, you may vote by provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will ONLY count if you show photo ID to the election commissioner prior to certification of the election<sup>34</sup> (usually Thursday after a primary election<sup>35</sup> and Friday after all other elections<sup>36</sup>). A provisional ballot should be used only as a matter of last resort.

If you do not have one of the forms of ID, you may complete an “affidavit of reasonable impediment” and vote a provisional ballot. Reasonable impediments include: disability, illness, conflict with work, lack of transportation, lack of birth certificate, family responsibilities, religious objection to being photographed, any other obstacle you find reasonable.<sup>29</sup> Certifiers have been instructed to give these voters the benefit of the doubt.<sup>38</sup> This means that a voter must receive a provisional ballot and the county election commission will count their ballot without further curing action required unless evidence is presented at the voting certification meeting and demonstrates otherwise to the satisfaction of the county election commission. The voter's assessment of their ability to obtain the appropriate ID is not subject to review at the polling place and, absent evidence presented to the contrary at the voting certification hearing, should the end of the inquiry and the voter’s ballot should count as a vote unless there is another reason that the ballot should be rejected.

---

## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

---

### **37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?**

Contact your local county election office:

[https://www.scvotes.gov/how\\_register\\_absentee\\_voting](https://www.scvotes.gov/how_register_absentee_voting)

*\*Note to hotline volunteer:* If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

### **38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?**

See Question **Error! Reference source not found.** for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing.

*\*Note to hotline volunteer:* If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

### **39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?**

Contact your local county election office:

[https://www.scvotes.gov/how\\_register\\_absentee\\_voting](https://www.scvotes.gov/how_register_absentee_voting)

*\*Note to hotline volunteer:* If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

### **40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?**

First, speak to the poll manager. If the poll manager is unable or unwilling to resolve the issue, contact your local county election office: [https://www.scvotes.gov/how\\_register\\_absentee\\_voting](https://www.scvotes.gov/how_register_absentee_voting)

*\*Note to hotline volunteer:* If you learn of failure to enforce COVID precautions, notify your hotline captain immediately.

### **41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?**

Voting information and instructions should be available at each polling location.<sup>39</sup>A voter can ask a precinct official for help in using the voting system.<sup>40</sup>

**42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?**

All voting places in South Carolina should be accessible and should provide for curbside voting for physically disabled and senior (age 65 and older) voters who cannot enter the polling place in which they are registered to vote or are unable to stand in line to vote.

Each county board of voter registration and elections should provide at least one polling place, called the Countywide Barrier-Free Voting Precinct, for use by physically handicapped voters. They also must provide paper ballots instead of voting machines in the Countywide Barrier-Free Voting Precinct.

Any physically handicapped voter, regardless of the voter's place of residence in the county, may vote in the Countywide Barrier-Free Voting Precinct as long as the voter meets both of the below requirements<sup>41</sup>:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- The voter either cannot walk without the aid of a wheelchair, leg braces, crutches or a walker, or suffers from a lung disease such that they are unable to walk without the aid of a respirator.
- The voter applied in writing to the county board of voter registration and elections for a transfer to the Countywide Barrier Free Voting Precinct at least 30 days prior to the election and the application was approved. A voter whose physical handicap is permanent, as certified by a licensed physician, is not required to register once they have done so initially.

Finally, precinct workers must allow elderly (age 65 or older) or disabled voters who are unable stand in line or cannot enter the polling place because of their age or physical handicap to present their identification materials and vote from the nearest available parking spot in the vehicle that brought them to the polling place.<sup>42</sup>

**43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?**

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance in voting by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write English is entitled to have a poll worker and a person of their choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot.<sup>43</sup>

**44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?**

Any voter who, because of physical handicap or age (65 or older), cannot enter the polling place in which he is registered to vote, or is unable to stand in line to vote, may vote outside that polling place in the closest available parking area utilizing the vehicle in which he has driven or has been driven to the polls.<sup>44</sup>

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Curbside voting does not require a SC Department of Motor Vehicle disabled placard or license plate.

Go to your designated polling place, find the curbside voting sign and park in the designated space. Two poll managers will come out to assist you. You will be able to vote on the machine from your car.

**45. CAMPAIGNING: What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?**

No campaigning is allowed inside the polling place.

It is unlawful to distribute any type of campaign literature or place any political poster within two hundred feet of an entrance to a polling place on election day.<sup>45</sup> Candidates and campaign staff may campaign within the 200 foot barrier area as long as they are not intimidating voters or interfering with the election process. However, no campaign literature, signs, or posters are allowed. Candidates are allowed to wear a badge no larger than 4.25” x 4.25” featuring only the candidate’s name and office sought.

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Candidates must remove their badge upon entering a polling place.

Exit polls are legal and participation is voluntary. They are NOT conducted by the State Election Commission or county election offices. Exit polls may not be conducted inside the polling place, and voters should not be approached as they enter the polling place. If you feel threatened or intimidated by a pollster, report it immediately to the poll manager.

**46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?**

When a person is challenged, the poll manager must explain to the voter the qualifications of a voter and why they have been challenged. If the person challenged is qualified, and the challenge is not withdrawn, the person should be allowed to vote a provisional ballot which is then received and placed in an envelope. The manager should then write the name of the person and the name of the challenger on the envelope.

The provisional votes are kept separately and not counted but turned over by the poll managers to the Commissioners of the Election or other authority having supervision of the election. At the meeting scheduled following the election, the state officers having supervision of the election will hear all objections to these votes from any person who appears to offer evidence to sustain an objection made at the polls. The certification hearing will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup>. You should be given a written notice when you cast your provisional ballot telling you the exact time and place for the hearing.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



If the challenger appears at the meeting and produces witnesses or evidence in support of the challenge, the authority in charge must proceed to hear and determine the question. The authority's decision is final.

If no one appears to sustain the objection or if the authority found that the challenge was unsubstantiated, the ballot is no longer provisional and is removed from the envelope, mingled, and counted and the totals will be added to the previously counted regular ballot totals.<sup>46</sup>

**47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?**

Members of the military cannot be at polling places (except to cast their own individual votes).<sup>47</sup>

Police can be at the polling station to maintain order or respond to a reported incident. They cannot engage in any conduct that is meant to intimidate or harass voters.<sup>48</sup> If you see members of the military or if police are checking IDs or engaging in other behavior that makes you feel uncomfortable, report it to the precinct manager or the county board of elections immediately. [https://www.scvotes.gov/how\\_register\\_absentee\\_voting](https://www.scvotes.gov/how_register_absentee_voting)

*\*Note to hotline volunteer:* If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

**48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?**

Inquire why you were offered a provisional ballot. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- Question #6
- Question #12
- Question #18;<sup>49</sup>
- Question #36; or
- Question #46.<sup>51</sup>

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort.

If you cast a provisional ballot, you will receive notice of the certification hearing where the decision will be made to count or reject the provisional ballot. Voters who voted a provisional ballot because they forgot their ID will be told that their ballot will **not** count unless they produce the forgotten ID at the County election headquarters at or before the certification hearing on November 6, 2020<sup>52</sup>

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Voters may also check the status of your provisional ballot on the South Carolina Election Commission’s website:

<https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=ProvisionalBallotInfo>

---

## QUESTIONS

---

### 49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

First, speak to the poll manager. If the poll manager is unable or unwilling to resolve the issue, contact your local county election office: [https://www.scvotes.gov/how\\_register\\_absentee\\_voting](https://www.scvotes.gov/how_register_absentee_voting)

---

<sup>2</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-150.

<sup>3</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-150.

<sup>4</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-180.

<sup>5</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-440(A).

<sup>6</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-7-440(B).

<sup>7</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-440(B).

<sup>8</sup> S.C. Code 1976 §§ 7-5-150, 7-7-440(B).

<sup>9</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-440(B).

<sup>10</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1(e).

<sup>11</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-1-25.

<sup>12</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-1-25.

<sup>13</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-1-25.

<sup>14</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120(B).

<sup>15</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120(B).

<sup>16</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120(B); *see also* <https://www.scvotes.gov/absentee-voting> (explaining that “[p]ersons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial” can vote by absentee ballot).

<sup>17</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

<sup>18</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

<sup>19</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

<sup>20</sup> S.C. Code 1976 7-13-830.

<sup>21</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-340.

<sup>22</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120.

<sup>23</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-15-330.

<sup>24</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-710.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.scvotes.gov/node/235>

<sup>28</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-710.

<sup>25</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-710.

<sup>26</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-17-510.

<sup>27</sup> S.C. Code. 1976 § 7-17-10.

<sup>30</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-15-430.

<sup>31</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-60.

<sup>32</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-850.

<sup>33</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-710.

<sup>34</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-710.

<sup>35</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-17-510.

<sup>36</sup> S.C. Code. 1976 § 7-17-10.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.scvotes.gov/node/235>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.scvotes.gov/node/235>

<sup>39</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-1810.

<sup>40</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-1810.

<sup>41</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-7-990.

<sup>42</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-771.

<sup>43</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-770(A).

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.scvotes.gov/voters-disabilities>

<sup>45</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-25-180.

<sup>46</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-830.

<sup>47</sup> 18 U.S. Code § 592

<sup>48</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-25-80.

<sup>49</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

<sup>51</sup> S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-830.

<sup>52</sup> See, <https://www.scvotes.org/south-carolina-poll-managers-handbook> at page 37 (January 2020 Edition).