



Frequently Asked Questions

South Carolina – General Election 2024

Last Updated: 8/26/2024

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.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

ELECTION DAY

EARLY VOTE

VOTE BY MAIL

ABSENTEE

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

ACCESSIBILITY /ASSISTANCE

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

Table of Contents

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?
2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party’s primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?
3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?
4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?
5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?
6. **DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, or online?
7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?
8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?
9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?
10. **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?

11. **LIVING ABROAD:** I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?
12. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?
13. **INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?
14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?
16. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?
17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?
18. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?
19. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?
20. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** Can I vote without providing identification?
21. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?
22. **GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?
23. **REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?
24. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS:** I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

25. **AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or something else)?
26. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need to have a reason to vote early?
27. **WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?
28. **WHERE:** Where do I vote during early voting?
29. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?
30. **ASSISTANCE:** What if I need assistance voting early in person?

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

31. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?
32. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?
33. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?
34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** Can someone assist me with filling out the application?
35. **APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?
37. **RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?
38. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?
39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or ballot?
40. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?
42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?
44. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
45. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
46. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?
47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?
48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

49. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?
50. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?
51. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?
52. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?
53. **APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?
54. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?
55. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
56. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?
57. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?
58. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?
59. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
60. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
61. **LOST OR SPOILED:** What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?
62. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it?
63. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?
64. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

65. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?
66. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?
67. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?
68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?
69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?
70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?
71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

- 72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?
- 73. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?
- 74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?
- 75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do? (Also see info in the [Election Day Voting](#) section above).

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

- 76. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
- 77. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?
- 78. **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?
- 79. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?
- 80. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?
- 81. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT (Anything that is particular/unique about voting in this state that is not captured elsewhere in the document.)

- 82. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

In order to vote, South Carolina law requires one must first register to vote at least 30 days prior to the election. To be eligible to register in South Carolina you **MUST**:

- be a United States citizen
- be at least eighteen years old on or before the next election
- be a resident of South Carolina in the county and precinct in which you are registering
- not be under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent
- not be confined in any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
- have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws **OR** if previously convicted, have served the entire sentence, including probation or parole, or have received a pardon for the conviction.

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?

Yes, any registered voter can vote in the primary election. South Carolina does not have registration by political party. During primaries, you can only vote in one party's primary.

During a primary election, if more than one primary is being held, and because a registered voter can only vote in one party's primary, a poll worker is permitted to ask which party's primary you intend to vote.¹

3. **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.

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

Voters can register [online](#) or check the status of their registration 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 registration and elections offices](#).

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

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

If a voter is registering to vote online, they will need either a valid S.C. Driver's License or DMV ID. If a voter has moved, they must first [update their residence address with DMV](#). 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.

6. **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 for the general election is at least 30 days prior to the general election (by 5:00 p.m. on **October 4, 2024**, unless the county board holds weekend hours); online, fax,

¹ South Carolina Election Commission, *Poll Managers Handbook (September 2022 Edition)*, https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/scec_11858_12_Sept_2022_poll_mgr_handbook_Web_06.pdf.

and email applications must also be submitted by **October 6, 2024**; and mail-in registrations must be postmarked by **October 7, 2024**.²

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.³ They can apply to register at the office of the board of voter registration and elections in the county they are voting in.⁴
- If a person becomes old enough to vote after the voter 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.⁵

7. SAME DAY: [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

No, you must register at least 30 days prior to the election. See [Question 6](#).

8. 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.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)	Moved from a different state
Yes. The Voter can vote at their same polling place upon oral or written affirmation of the change of address including by filling out a change of address	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; ⁷ or 2) the voter can go to their previous polling place and vote a provisional ballot containing only federal, state,	<p>If a voter moved to a different county in South Carolina more than thirty days prior to the general election they must register to vote in their new county at least 30 days prior to the general election (by October 6, 2024).⁹</p> <p>If a voter moved to a new county less than thirty days prior to the general election (after October 6, 2024) a voter has two options to vote a "failsafe ballot:" 1) voters can go to the</p>	<p>If a voter moved to South Carolina more than thirty days prior to the general election (by October 6, 2024) the voter can register to vote in South Carolina. See Questions 3-6.</p> <p>If the voter moved to South Carolina within thirty days of the general election (after October 6, 2024) , they cannot register to vote in South Carolina because they missed the state's voter registration deadline. However, if a voter moved to South Carolina</p>

² See South Carolina Election Commission, *2024 Election Calendar*, <https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Election-Calendar-scVOTES-2024-06-04-1.pdf>.

³ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-150.

⁴ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-150.

⁵ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-180.

⁷ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-7-440(B).

⁹ S.C. Code 1976 §§ 7-5-150, 7-7-440(B).

<p>form at the poll.⁶</p>	<p>countywide and municipality-wide offices after completing change of address form.⁸</p>	<p>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.¹⁰</p>	<p>after the registration deadline, federal law permits the voter to vote for President and Vice President (if they are on the ballot) only in their state of former residence. That voter should contact their former voting office to request a ballot for the President and Vice President in that situation.</p> <p>If a registered voter of a South Carolina county moves to another state within 30 days of the election (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.¹¹</p>
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9. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily. How 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.”¹²

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

⁶ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-440(A).

⁸ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-440(B).

¹⁰ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-440(B).

¹¹ 42 U.S.C. § 10502(e).

¹² S.C. Code 1976 § 7-1-25.

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. However, see [Question 10](#) for students.

10. 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?

Students can register to vote where they live while attending college. This can be either their college dormitory address (including a student P.O. Box if that is where the student receives mail) or the address the student intends to return to when not in school (e.g., the family home).¹³

If you are currently attending classes remotely from 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.¹⁴

11. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or 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.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?

Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

Yes, unless: (1) you are currently incarcerated for the crime for which you have been convicted; (2) you have been convicted of a felony and are still serving your sentence or are on parole or probation; or (3) you were convicted of a violation of election laws and you have not fully completed your sentence.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

¹³ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-1-25.

¹⁴ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-1-25.

¹⁵ South Carolina Election Commission, Register to Vote, <https://scvotes.gov/voters/register-to-vote/>.

¹⁶ South Carolina Election Commission, Register to Vote, <https://scvotes.gov/voters/register-to-vote/>.

¹⁷ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120(B).

Misdemeanor convictions do not prevent a voter from voting in South Carolina unless they involve violations of election laws or the individual is no longer incarcerated while serving their misdemeanor sentence.¹⁸

13. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?

Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

If you are incarcerated as a result of being convicted of (or pleading guilty to) a crime, you cannot vote.¹⁹

If you are in jail or pretrial facility pending trial or disposition of arrest, you can vote by absentee ballot.²⁰

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

If a voter's registration has been challenged, the polling place manager must explain why the voter's registration has been challenged. A challenge to a voter's registration does not mean that the voter cannot vote. The voter still has the right to request and fill out a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will then be kept separate and will not be counted until the commissioners of election determine that the voter's registration is valid.²¹

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. HOURS: When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.²²

16. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

You can find your voting location here:

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

17. TIME OFF WORK: Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?

Employers in South Carolina are not required to give voters time off to vote. However, it is unlawful in South Carolina to terminate a person's employment for exercising their right to vote.²³

18. CLOSING: What if the polls close when I am already in line?

¹⁸ S.C. Code 1976 Section 7-5-120(B).

¹⁹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120(B).

²⁰ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120(B); South Carolina Election Commission, *Absentee Voting*, <https://scvotes.gov/voters/absentee-voting/>

²¹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-830.

²² S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-60.

²³ S.C. Code 1976 § 16-17-560.

Anyone in line at 7:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.²⁴

19. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

When voting in person, voters will be asked to show one of the following Photo IDs at their polling place:

- SC Driver's License
- SC Department of Motor Vehicles ID Card
- SC Voter Registration Card with Photo
- Federal Military ID
- US Passport

IF A VOTER DOES NOT HAVE ONE OF THESE PHOTO IDs:

Voters can get a free Photo ID from their county voter registration and elections office or their local DMV office.

- If a voter has already registered to vote, they can go to their county office, provide their date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security Number. Then, they will have their photo taken. Click here for Attire and Appearance Guidelines for the Photographs.
 - If a voter is not yet registered, they need to register to vote first. Voters can register and have their photo taken on the same day. Voters can obtain additional information about voter registration in South Carolina from the South Carolina Election Commission's website at this [link](#).
- To learn how to get a DMV ID card, voters can call or visit their local DMV office or visit this [link](#).

IF A VOTER FORGETS TO BRING THEIR PHOTO ID TO YOUR POLLING PLACE:

A voter may vote a provisional ballot that will count only if they show their Photo ID to the county voter registration and elections office prior to certification of the election (usually Thursday or Friday after the election).

IF A VOTER CAN'T GET A PHOTO ID:

A voter can bring their non-photo voter registration card with them to the polling place. They may vote a provisional ballot after signing an affidavit stating they have a reasonable impediment to obtaining Photo ID. A reasonable impediment is any valid reason, beyond their control, which created an obstacle to obtaining a Photo ID. Some examples include:

- a disability or illness
- a conflict with their work schedule
- a lack of transportation
- a lack of a birth certificate
- family responsibilities
- a religious objection to being photographed
- any other obstacle they find reasonable

²⁴ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-850.

This ballot will count unless someone proves to the county board of voter registration and elections that they are lying about their identity or about having the listed impediment.

To vote under the reasonable impediment exception, a voter should:

1. Inform the poll managers that they do not have a Photo ID and could not get one.
2. Present their current, non-photo registration card.
3. Sign the affidavit provided by the poll managers stating why they could not obtain a Photo ID.
4. Cast a provisional ballot that will be counted unless the county board of voter registration and elections has reason to believe the affidavit is false.²⁵

20. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

IF A VOTER FORGETS TO BRING PHOTO ID TO THEIR POLLING PLACE:

A voter may vote a provisional ballot that will count only if they show their Photo ID to the county voter registration and elections office prior to certification of the election (usually Thursday or Friday after the election).

IF A VOTER CAN'T GET A PHOTO ID:

A voter can bring their non-photo voter registration card with them to the polling place. They may vote a provisional ballot after signing an affidavit stating they have a reasonable impediment to obtaining Photo ID. A reasonable impediment is any valid reason, beyond their control, which created an obstacle to obtaining a Photo ID. Some examples include:

- a disability or illness
- a conflict with their work schedule
- a lack of transportation
- a lack of a birth certificate
- family responsibilities
- a religious objection to being photographed
- any other obstacle they find reasonable

This ballot will count unless someone proves to the county board of voter registration and elections that they are lying about their identity or about having the listed impediment.

To vote under the reasonable impediment exception, a voter should:

1. Inform the poll managers that they do not have a Photo ID and could not get one.
2. Present their current, non-photo registration card.
3. Sign the affidavit provided by the poll managers stating why they could not obtain a Photo ID.
4. Cast a provisional ballot that will be counted unless the county board of voter registration and elections has reason to believe the affidavit is false.²⁶

21. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

²⁵ South Carolina Election Commission, *Absentee Voting*, <https://www.scvotes.gov/absentee-voting>

²⁶ South Carolina Election Commission, *Absentee Voting*, <https://www.scvotes.gov/absentee-voting>

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.²⁷

- 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.²⁸
- If the county registration office responds that 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.²⁹ However, if it is later determined that the voter was at the wrong precinct, then the provisional ballot will NOT count.³⁰

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.³¹

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 a felony or 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.³²

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 are registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question #3](#).)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #3](#) and [Questions #7](#) and [8](#).)
- 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 #3](#).)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline? (See [Question #4](#).)

²⁷ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

²⁸ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

²⁹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

³⁰ S.C. Code 1976 7-13-830.

³¹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-340.

³² S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120.

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

A voter will be provided a provisional ballot for the following reasons:

- A polling place manager has a reason to believe that the voter is ineligible to vote.
- The voter’s name does not appear on the voter registration rolls.
- The voter does not have the proper Photo ID.

If a voter is provided a provisional ballot, it will not be counted on election night. The provisional ballot will only be counted upon a determination by the voter registration office that the voter was registered and able to vote. A voter can also check the status of their provisional ballot online at <https://vrem.scvotes.sc.gov/Voter/Login>.³³

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can’t vote, can I vote provisionally?

Yes. The voter still has the right to request and fill out a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will then be kept separate and will not be counted until the commissioners of election determine that the voter’s vote was valid. A voter can also check the status of their provisional ballot online at <https://vrem.scvotes.sc.gov/Voter/Login>.³⁴

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

Once a provisional ballot has been filled out, it will be kept separate and will not be counted until the commissioners of election determine that the voter’s vote was valid. If a voter is given a provisional ballot, they must also be given written instructions on the time and place of the provisional ballot hearing where such determination will be made. A voter can also check the status of their provisional ballot online at <https://vrem.scvotes.sc.gov/Voter/Login>.³⁵

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state defined as: Voting at an Early Voting Center Before Election Day³⁶)

25. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

South Carolina has in-person early voting (which replaces the state’s former in-person absentee voting). Voters are not required to have an excuse to vote in-person during early voting. (See [Question 26.](#))³⁷

³³ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-710; S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820; S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-830.

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/scec_11854_10_Voting-in-SC_8.5x11_Web_2023_01.pdf

³⁷ *Id.*

Photo ID rules apply for in-person early voting. (See [Question 19.](#)) You can find the locations and times of early voting polling places at: <https://www.scvotes.gov/early-voting>

26. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No reason is required for in-person early voting.³⁸

27. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Early voting begins two weeks before the general election (on Monday October 21, 2024) and ends on Saturday November 2, 2024 (early voting is closed on Sunday October 27, 2024). The hours for in-person early voting are between 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.³⁹

28. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

Any voter can visit an early-voting location in their county and vote like they would at their polling place on Election Day. Locations and times of early voting polling places will be listed at: <https://www.scvotes.gov/early-voting> .

29. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

The identification requirements are the same as for voting on Election Day. A Photo ID is required to vote and it must be valid and current.⁴⁰ 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 A VOTER DOES NOT HAVE ONE OF THESE PHOTO IDs:

Voters can get a free Photo ID from their county voter registration and elections office or their local DMV office.

- If a voter has already registered to vote, they can go to their county office, provide their date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security Number. Then, they will have their photo taken.
- Please click [here](#) for the attire and appearance guidelines for the photographs.
 - If a voter is not yet registered, they need to register to vote first. Voters can register and have their photo taken on the same day. Click [here](#) to learn more about voter registration in South Carolina
- To learn how to get a DMV ID card, voters can call or visit their local DMV office or visit scdmvonline.com.

IF A VOTER FORGETS TO BRING THEIR PHOTO ID TO YOUR POLLING PLACE:

³⁸ S.C. Code 2022 §7-13-25.

³⁹ See South Carolina Election Commission, *2024 Election Calendar*, <https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Election-Calendar-scVOTES-2024-06-04-1.pdf>

⁴⁰ [Absentee Voting - SC Votes - South Carolina Election Commission](#)

A voter may vote a provisional ballot that will count only if they show their Photo ID to the county voter registration and elections office prior to certification of the election (usually Thursday or Friday after the election).

IF A VOTER CAN'T GET A PHOTO ID:

A voter can bring their non-photo voter registration card with them to the polling place. They may vote a provisional ballot after signing an affidavit stating they have a reasonable impediment to obtaining Photo ID. A reasonable impediment is any valid reason, beyond their control, which created an obstacle to obtaining a Photo ID. Some examples include:

- a disability or illness
- a conflict with their work schedule
- a lack of transportation
- a lack of a birth certificate
- family responsibilities
- a religious objection to being photographed
- any other obstacle they find reasonable

This ballot will count unless someone proves to the county board of voter registration and elections that they are lying about their identity or about having the listed impediment.

To vote under the reasonable impediment exception, a voter should:

1. Inform the poll managers that they do not have a Photo ID and could not get one.
2. Present their current, non-photo registration card.
3. Sign the affidavit provided by the poll managers stating why they could not obtain a Photo ID.
4. Cast a provisional ballot that will be counted unless the county board of voter registration and elections has reason to believe the affidavit is false.⁴¹

30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?

Voters with physical disabilities, that are blind, or those that are unable to read or write may receive assistance with voting early in person. A voter receiving assistance must inform a poll manager that they require assistance. Voters may be assisted by anyone other than their employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their union. If a voter is unable to access the polling place or stand in line and wait to vote either due to a disability or due to being 65 or older, they may vote in their vehicle. If the voter is voting in their vehicle, only the voter may be in the vehicle unless they are entitled to assistance. Polling place managers also have printed voting instructions available for voters that are deaf or hard of hearing.⁴²

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

⁴¹ [Absentee Voting - SC Votes - South Carolina Election Commission.](#)

⁴² South Carolina Election Commission, *Voters with Disabilities*, <https://scvotes.gov/voters/voters-with-disabilities/>.

31. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

No, voters will not automatically be sent a ballot in the mail. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

32. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

33. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

35. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

36. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

37. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

38. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

39. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

40. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

41. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

42. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

43. DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT: What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

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

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

45. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

46. LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT: What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

47. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

48. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Not applicable. South Carolina has no separate vote-by-mail process other than its absentee voting process. See [Questions 49-64](#) below.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

49. ELIGIBILITY: Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

The following voters are eligible to vote absentee:

- Persons with employment obligations which prevent them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on election day.
- Persons attending a sick or physically disabled person which prevents them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on election day.
- Persons confined to a jail or pretrial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial which prevents them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on election day.
- Persons who will be absent from their county of residence during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on election day.
- Persons with physical disabilities.
- Persons sixty-five years of age or older.
- Members of the Armed Forces and Merchant Marines of the United States, their spouses, and dependents residing with them ([Learn more about procedures related to Military and Overseas Citizens](#)).
- Persons admitted to a hospital as an emergency patient on the day of the election or within a four-day period before the election can have a family member apply for and deliver a ballot to them.⁴³

However, nobody should feel pressured into voting absentee over voting in person. Additionally, the only people who can return an absentee ballot are the voter themselves, an immediate family member, or an authorized representative (see Question 53 for more details).

50. 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 the voter's county voter registration office by 5:00 p.m. on the 11th day prior to the

⁴³ [Absentee Voting - SC Votes - South Carolina Election Commission.](#)

election. Voters can begin applying for absentee ballots for all 2024 elections on January 1, 2024.⁴⁴ For the 2024 general election, the deadline is 11 days prior to general election day, which is October 25, 2024 by 5:00 pm.⁴⁵ The state advises submitting the request for an application as soon as possible to allow for adequate time to return the ballot.⁴⁶

Voters admitted to a 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 for and deliver an absentee ballot to them. Voters should contact their county election office for further information.⁴⁷

51. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?

When requesting an absentee ballot, the requirements are as follows:

- You can submit your request for an application as early as January 1 of the election year.
- Call, visit or send your request by U.S. mail to your [county voter registration office](#).
- You must provide your name, date of birth and last four digits of your Social Security Number.
- You will be mailed an application.
- Find more information below on how Immediate Family Members and Authorized Representatives can request a voter's application.⁴⁸

If a voter is returning the ballot by mail, they do not need identification. If they are returning the ballot in person, they will be asked to show one of the following:

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

52. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

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 for and deliver a ballot to them.⁴⁹

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

Absentee ballot applications should be returned by U.S. mail or personal delivery to either the voter's county voter registration and election office or an early voting center. Ballots must be received by 7:00

⁴⁴ South Carolina Election Commission, 2024 Election Calendar, <https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Election-Calendar-scVOTES-2023-12-4-updated.pdf>.

⁴⁵ See South Carolina Election Commission, 2024 Election Calendar, <https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Election-Calendar-scVOTES-2024-06-04-1.pdf>.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ South Carolina Election Commission, *Absentee Voting*, <https://www.scvotes.gov/absentee-voting>.

pm on election day to be counted.⁵⁰ If returning an absentee ballot via mail (rather than personal delivery), the state election commission recommends mailing the ballot at least one week prior to election day.⁵¹ A list of the county voter registration and election offices is available at this [link](#). A list of early voting locations is available at this [link](#).

Only an Immediate Family Member or an Authorized Representative (these terms are defined below) can return an absentee ballot for another voter. The voter and person returning the ballot must complete and sign the [Authorized Returnee form](#). The ballot must be returned in person at the voter's [county registration and election office](#) or an early voting center in the voter's county of residence (mailing is NOT allowed). The person returning the ballot must present the Authorized Returnee form and Photo ID when returning the ballot return envelope.

- Acceptable Photo IDs:
 - Driver's license issued by a state within the United States
 - Another form of identification containing a photograph issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or its equivalent by a state within the United States
 - Passport
 - Military identification containing a photograph issued by the federal government
 - South Carolina voter registration card containing a photograph of the voter.
- Returnees are limited to five returns in addition to their own per election.
 - Returning more than five ballots for other voters is now a felony crime punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine or five years in prison, or both.

An "immediate family member" includes a voter's spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.

An "authorized representative" is defined as someone who is a registered voter with permission to act on behalf of a voter who is unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability resulting in their confinement in a hospital, sanatorium, nursing home, or place of residence, or is unable because of a physical handicap to go to their polling place or because of a handicap is unable to vote at their polling place due to existing architectural barriers that deny them physical access to the polling place, voting booth, or voting apparatus or machinery. Such "authorized representatives" must sign an oath that he meets the requirements of being an Authorized Representative by completing the [Authorized Representative form](#). A candidate, a member of a candidate's paid campaign staff, or a campaign volunteer may not serve as an Authorized Representative unless the person is a member of the voter's immediate family.⁵²

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

General voter registration status can be seen here: [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov)

There is no easy way to check absentee ballot application statuses. Voters can contact their local voter registration and election office. Contact information is available at this [link](#).

Absentee ballot return status can be checked at this [link](#).

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

55. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

Voters can contact their local voter registration and election office. Contact information can be found at this [link](#).

56. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Place the ballot in the "ballot herein" envelope and place the "ballot herein" 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. The new witness requirements which went into effect on July 1, 2022 state that the oath, a copy of which is required to be sent to each absentee ballot applicant and is required to be returned with the absentee ballot applicant's ballot, shall be signed by the absentee ballot applicant and witnessed by a person who is at least eighteen years of age. The oath shall be in the following form:

"I hereby swear (or affirm) that I am duly qualified to vote at this election according to the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, that I have not voted during this election, that the ballot or ballots with which this oath is enclosed is my ballot and that I have received no assistance in voting my ballot that I would not have been entitled to receive had I voted in person at my voting precinct."⁵³

If you are returning the ballot by mail, you do not need identification. If you are returning the ballot in person, you will be asked to show one of the following:

- 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.

57. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of that voter's union.⁵⁴

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

Voters can return their ballot to their county elections and registration office or an early voting center either by mail or personal delivery. It must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. The state election commission advises mailing your ballot as soon as possible, and at least a week before the deadline. A list of the county voter registration and election offices is available at this [link](#). A list of early voting locations is available at this [link](#).

⁵³ S.C. Code 2022 § 7-15-220A.

⁵⁴ S.C. Code 2022 § 7-13-770.

Military and overseas voters returning their ballot by mail must mail their ballot by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. These ballots will be accepted until November 7 at 5:00 p.m.⁵⁵

59. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

South Carolina does not allow voters to return voted absentee ballots to drop boxes. Voted absentee ballots may be delivered in person to the voter's county elections and voter registration office.⁵⁶

60. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

You can have another person return your absentee ballot. A voter can authorize a member of their "immediate family" or an "authorized representative," to return the return-addressed absentee ballot envelope for him to an election official during office hours at the main office of the county board of voter registration and elections or to an election official during office hours at an early voting center.⁵⁷

An "immediate family member" who can be authorized by a voter to return their voted absentee ballot to their county voter registration and elections office means: the voter's spouse, parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, and mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, and daughters-in-law.⁵⁸

An "authorized representative" who can be designated by a voter to return their voted absentee ballot to their county voter registration and elections office means: a registered elector who, with the voter's permission, acts on behalf of a voter unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability resulting in their confinement in a hospital, sanatorium, nursing home, or place of residence, or a voter unable because of a physical handicap to go to their polling place or because of a handicap is unable to vote at their polling place due to existing architectural barriers that deny him physical access to the polling place, voting booth, or voting apparatus or machinery. Voters cannot designate a candidate or a member of a candidate's paid campaign staff or volunteers reimbursed for the time they expend on campaign activity as an "authorized representative" of a voter.

A voter who authorizes a member of their immediate family or an authorized representative to return the absentee ballot in the official absentee ballot return envelope for them must complete an authorization form prescribed by the State Election Commission that must be turned in by the immediate family member or authorized representative at the time the ballot is returned. The applicant must sign the form, or in the event the applicant cannot write because of a physical handicap or illiteracy, then the applicant must make their mark on the form and have the mark witnessed by someone designated by the applicant. The authorization form can be found at [this link](#).

The acceptable forms of ID which must be presented by an immediate family member or authorized representative returning the absentee ballot on the voter's behalf include a valid and current:

- driver's license issued by a state within the United States;

⁵⁵ South Carolina Election Commission, *Military & Overseas Citizens*, <https://scvotes.gov/voters/military-overseas-citizens/>

⁵⁶ S.C. Code 2022 § 7-15-385.

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ S.C. Code 2022 § 7-15-310.

- another form of identification containing a photograph issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or its equivalent by a state within the United States;
- passport;
- military identification containing a photograph issued by the federal government; or
- South Carolina voter registration card containing a photograph 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.

Note: Returning more than five ballots for other voters (in addition to their own ballot) is now a felony crime punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine or five years in prison, or both.⁵⁹

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

Voters can contact their local voter registration and election office for additional information. Contact information is available at this [link](#).

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

Voters can contact their local voter registration and election office for more information. Contact information is available at this [link](#).

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

If a voter has already voted and returned an absentee ballot, they are not able to vote again on Election Day. If a voter has requested an absentee ballot, but has not returned their absentee ballot, they may vote on Election Day using a provisional ballot. This ballot will count if the voter has not returned an absentee ballot and is otherwise qualified. If a poll worker claims a voter has already returned an absentee ballot, but this is not the case, a voter should insist the record is not correct and the poll worker must allow the voter to vote a provisional ballot.⁶⁰

64. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: *Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?*

South Carolina no longer has in-person absentee voting. In-person absentee voting has been replaced by in-person early voting. See, How to Vote: Early Voting, [Questions 25-30](#), above.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

65. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What should I do?

Contact your local county voter registration and elections office. Contact information is available at this [link](#).

⁵⁹ S.C. Code 2022 § 7-15-385G.

⁶⁰ South Carolina Election Commission, *Poll Managers Handbook (September 2022 Edition)*,

https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/scec_11858_12_Sept_2022_poll_mgr_handbook_Web_06.pdf.

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

A voter in line at the polling place by 7:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.⁶¹

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

A voter should contact their local county voter registration and elections office.

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

Campaigning is illegal inside the polling place.

It is unlawful to distribute any type of campaign literature or place any political poster within 500 hundred feet of an entrance to a polling place on election day.⁶² Candidates and campaign staff may campaign *verbally* within the 500-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 within the 500-foot area. Candidates are allowed to wear a badge no larger than 4.25” x 4.25” featuring only the candidate’s name and office sought.

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 a voter feels threatened or intimidated by a pollster, they should report it immediately to the poll manager and/or to 1-866-Our-Vote.

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

South Carolina does not have any explicit prohibitions on what voters can wear at the polling place. Voters cannot use cameras inside of the polling place.⁶³

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Polling place managers must remain impartial at all times and cannot engage voters about their political beliefs. Polling place managers may wear patriotic colors but they may not wear any clothing that shows a political preference for any party, candidate, or issue. No one (including polling place managers) can use wireless communication devices or cameras inside the polling location, or any mechanical or electronic means of recording images or sound unless necessary to conduct official polling location duties.

⁶¹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-850.

⁶² S.C. Code 2022 § 7-25-180.

⁶³ South Carolina Election Commission, *Poll Managers Handbook (September 2022 Edition)*,

https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/scec_11858_12_Sept_2022_poll_mgr_handbook_Web_06.pdf.

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

If a voter feels unsafe, or uncomfortable outside of the polling place, they should report it to the polling place managers and to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE.⁶⁴ Voter intimidation includes all attempts to threaten or coerce voters. This includes, but is not limited to physically blocking an entrance to a polling place, verbally threatening voters, and pretending to be an election official.

South Carolina allows registered voters to volunteer as poll observers and poll watchers on election day. However, poll observers and poll watchers may not interfere with the conduct of the election, argue with voters, make physical contact with voters, or verbally harass or intimidate voters in the polling place. Candidates and their representatives may campaign within 500 ft of the entrance of the polling place but cannot intimidate voters, or interfere with the election process.

72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should 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 at the meeting of the county board of canvassers is nine days after general election day (on November 14, 2024).⁶⁵ You should be given a written notice when you cast your provisional ballot telling you the exact time and place for the hearing.

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.⁶⁶

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

No sheriff, deputy sheriff, policeman or other officers may come within a polling place unless summoned to a polling location by a majority of the managers of election or if the individual is at the location to

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ See South Carolina Election Commission, *2024 Election Calendar*, <https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Election-Calendar-scVOTES-2024-06-04-1.pdf>.

⁶⁶ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-830.

vote. Any manager of election can make an affidavit against such sheriff, deputy sheriff, policeman or other officer for their arrest.⁶⁷

Additionally, it is unlawful under South Carolina law to “threaten[], mistreat[], or abuse[] a voter with a view to control or intimidate him in the free exercise of their right of suffrage.”⁶⁸ Voter intimidation is also unlawful under federal law.⁶⁹

If a voter feels threatened or intimidated while in line to vote or are in the polling place, they should report it immediately to 1-866-Our-Vote and/or to the poll manager. Voters should avoid engaging with the person(s) participating in the threatening and intimidating actions. Any voter in immediate danger of physical injury or other serious harm should contact law enforcement for assistance.

74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn’t on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

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.⁷⁰

- 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.⁷¹
- If the county registration office responds that 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.⁷² However, if it is later determined that the voter was at the wrong precinct, then the provisional ballot will NOT count.⁷³

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.⁷⁴

A voter may be disqualified from voting if they:

- Have been declared mentally incompetent by a court,

⁶⁷ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-160; South Carolina Election Commission, *Poll Managers Handbook (September 2022 Edition)*, https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/scec_11858_12_Sept_2022_poll_mgr_handbook_Web_06.pdf.

⁶⁸ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-25-80.

⁶⁹ See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. § 594 (it is a crime to intimidate, threaten, or coerce a person, or attempt to do so, “for the purpose of interfering with” that person’s right “to vote or to vote as he may choose); 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(1)(A)(it is a crime to by force or threat of force” willfully injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person because he or she is voting or has voted or “in order to intimidate” anyone from voting).

⁷⁰ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

⁷¹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

⁷² S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-820.

⁷³ S.C. Code 1976 7-13-830.

⁷⁴ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-340.

- Are incarcerated while they are completing their sentence upon a criminal conviction (misdemeanor and felony convictions), or
- Are convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws. If a voter was previously convicted of a felony or 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.⁷⁵

Note that persons convicted of a misdemeanor offense are only disqualified from voting due to the conviction during the time they are incarcerated while serving their sentence. Once a person convicted of a misdemeanor has been released from incarceration, they become eligible to register and vote even if they are continuing to serve probation or complete other terms of their misdemeanor sentence.

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 are registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question #3.](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #3.](#))
- 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 #3.](#))
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline? (See [Question #6.](#))

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

See info in the [How to Vote: Election Day](#) Section.

Voters should ask why they were offered a provisional ballot. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot, or failsafe ballot, only when:⁷⁶

- the voter moves from one address to another within the same precinct but hasn't completed a change of address form, the voter can vote a provisional ballot - the voter can vote a full ballot at the precinct once the change of address form is complete;
- the voter moves from one precinct to another within the same county, but goes to the previous polling place and hasn't completed a change of address form, the voter can vote a limited, failsafe ballot;
- the voter moves from one South Carolina county to another within 30 days of an election, but goes to the previous county and hasn't completed a change of address form, the voter can vote a limited, failsafe ballot;
- the voter moves from one state to another after the deadline to register to vote in a presidential election in the new state of residence, the voter can vote an absentee ballot containing only the president;
- the voter does not have the required Photo ID but is able to sign an affidavit stating that he or she has "a reasonable impediment to obtaining Photo ID;"⁷⁷ or

⁷⁵ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-5-120.

⁷⁶ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-830.

⁷⁷ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-710.

- the voter who was issued an absentee ballot decides to vote in person during early voting or on election day.⁷⁸

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. Each voting place must have a number of failsafe ballots, or ballots containing only the races for federal, statewide, countrywide, and municipal-wide offices.⁷⁹

Voters may check the status of their provisional ballot on the South Carolina Election Commission's website at this [link](#).

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

76. **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.⁸⁰ A voter can ask a precinct official for help in using the voting system.⁸¹

77. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

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 requirements⁸²:

- 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.

⁷⁸ S.C. Code 2022 § 7-15-430A

⁷⁹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-430.

⁸⁰ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-1810.

⁸¹ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-1810.

⁸² S.C. Code 1976 § 7-7-990.

Finally, precinct workers must allow elderly (age 65 or older) or disabled voters who are unable to 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.⁸³

78. 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?

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 or 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.⁸⁴

79. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance because of an inability to read or write English is entitled to have a poll worker or 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, enter the voting booth with the voter and mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot.⁸⁵

80. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

Any voter who, because of physical handicap, age (65 or older), or recent diagnosis of COVID-19, 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.⁸⁶ Curbside voting does not require a SC Department of Motor Vehicle disabled placard or license plate.

Voters should go to their designated polling place, find the curbside voting sign and park in the designated space. Two poll managers should come out to assist the voter. Voters will be able to vote on the machine from their car. Managers must monitor the curbside parking area in intervals of no more than 15 minutes. Note that no person other than the voter is permitted in the vehicle in which the voter is casting their ballot unless the voter is entitled to assistance.⁸⁷

81. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Yes. The Election Laws do not restrict voters from bringing any guides, notes, or other materials with them into a voting booth.⁸⁸ This includes taking marked sample ballot into the voting booth. Voters may not allow a marked sample ballot to be seen by others in the polling place.⁸⁹

⁸³ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-771.

⁸⁴ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-770(A).

⁸⁵ S.C. Code 1976 § 7-13-770(A).

⁸⁶ <https://www.scvotes.gov/voters-disabilities>

⁸⁷ See South Carolina Election Commission, *Poll Managers Handbook (September 2022 Edition)*, https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/sccec_11858_12_Sept_2022_poll_mgr_handbook_Web_06.pdf.

⁸⁸ See, e.g., S.C. Code 1976 §§ 7-13-730, 7-13-740, 7-13-760.

⁸⁹ See South Carolina Election Commission, *Poll Managers Handbook (September 2022 Edition)*, https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/sccec_11858_12_Sept_2022_poll_mgr_handbook_Web_06.pdf.

However, voters may not use cell phones, tablets, or cameras in the voting area.⁹⁰

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. **QUESTIONS:** 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. You may also contact the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE for information.

⁹⁰ See South Carolina Election Commission, *Poll Managers Handbook (September 2022 Edition)*, https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/scec_11858_12_Sept_2022_poll_mgr_handbook_Web_06.pdf.