



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
November 7, 2016

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Poll Hours: The polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. Voters in line by 7 p.m. will be able to vote.

Precincts: There are 2,434 precincts in the Commonwealth, not including central absentee precincts.

Voters can find their polling location by visiting the Department of Elections Citizen Portal at vote.virginia.gov.

Registered Voters/Turnout: As of November 7, 2016, there were 5,605,711 registered voters in the Commonwealth. This number is up from 2012 presidential election, when there were 5,428,833 registered voters.

| Year | Total Registered Voters | Total Voting Turnout | Turnout Percentage |
|------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2015 | 5,196,436 | 1,509,864 | 29.1% |
| 2014 | 5,281,011 | 2,194,346 | 41.6% |
| 2013 | 5,240,286 | 2,253,418 | 43.0% |
| 2012 | 5,428,833 | 3,896,846 | 71.78% |
| 2011 | 5,116,929 | 1,463,761 | 28.61% |
| 2010 | 5,032,144 | 2,214,503 | 44.01% |
| 2009 | 4,955,750 | 2,000,812 | 40.4% |
| 2008 | 5,034,660 | 3,752,858 | 74.5% |
| 2007 | 4,549,864 | 1,374,526 | 30.2% |
| 2006 | 4,554,683 | 2,398,589 | 52.7% |
| 2005 | 4,452,225 | 2,000,052 | 45.0% |
| 2004 | 4,517,980 | 3,223,156 | 71.4% |
| 2003 | 4,217,227 | 1,296,955 | 30.8% |
| 2002 | 4,219,957 | 1,331,915 | 39.4% |
| 2001 | 4,109,127 | 1,905,511 | 46.4% |
| 2000 | 4,073,644 | 2,789,808 | 68.5% |

**presidential election years in bold*

Historic registration and turnout numbers since 1976 can be found at <http://elections.virginia.gov/resultsreports/registration-statistics/registrationturnout-statistics/index.html>.

Ballot Order: The two major political parties appear on the ballot first, then candidates endorsed by recognized political parties, then unaffiliated candidates (independent).

The State Board of Elections determined the order in which all political party nominees appear on the ballot through a random drawing which took place at a meeting on August 30, 2016.

Ballot Contents: Each ballot will include a choice for presidential and congressional candidates, as well as two constitutional amendments. Many localities also have local elections. Voters can find what's on their ballot by visiting the Department of Elections Citizen Portal at vote.virginia.gov.

Constitutional Amendments: The General Assembly approved two constitutional amendments, which are included on the ballot. More information, including the General Assembly's explanation and full text of the amendments, can be found at <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/election-law/proposed-constitutional-amendment-2016/>.

1. **Ballot Question:** *Should Article I of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to prohibit any agreement or combination between an employer and a labor union or labor organization whereby (i) nonmembers of the union or organization are denied the right to work for the employer, (ii) membership to the union or organization is made a condition of employment or continuation of employment by such employer, or (iii) the union or organization acquires an employment monopoly in any such enterprise?*
2. **Ballot Question:** *Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to provide an option to the localities to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel who was killed in the line of duty, where the surviving spouse occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence and has not remarried?*

Electors: When a voter votes for his or her choice for President and Vice President, the voter actually is voting for the state of electors for that candidate. Virginia has 13 electoral votes (one for each congressional district, plus two at large). The names of the individual electors no longer appear on the ballot for space reasons, but the names are available on the Virginia Department of Elections website at <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/board/electoral-college/index.html>.

The elected Presidential electors will meet on December 19, 2016 to vote. Additional information about the Electoral College is available on the website of the National Archives at <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/>.

Past Presidential Elections:

Historical information for every election in Virginia since 1924 can be found at <http://historical.elections.virginia.gov/>.

How Virginia Voted in Past Presidential Elections:

| Year | Candidate | Party | Percentage of Popular Vote | Won the Election? |
|------|------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1960 | Richard Nixon | R | 52 | No |
| 1964 | Lyndon Johnson | D | 54 | Yes |
| 1968 | Richard Nixon | R | 43 | Yes |
| 1972 | Richard Nixon | R | 68 | Yes |
| 1976 | Gerald Ford | R | 49 | No |
| 1980 | Ronald Reagan | R | 53 | Yes |
| 1984 | Ronald Reagan | R | 62 | Yes |
| 1988 | George H.W. Bush | R | 60 | Yes |
| 1992 | George H.W. Bush | R | 45 | No |
| 1996 | Bob Dole | R | 48 | No |
| 2000 | George W. Bush | R | 53 | Yes |
| 2004 | George W. Bush | R | 54 | Yes |

| | | | | |
|------|--------------|---|----|-----|
| 2008 | Barack Obama | D | 53 | Yes |
| 2012 | Barack Obama | D | 51 | Yes |

Photo ID: Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification (photo ID) when voting in person at their polling place.

There are many different types of photo IDs that voters can use when they vote. All of the acceptable forms of photo ID can be used up to a year after the ID has expired. These photo IDs include:

- Valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card
- Valid Virginia DMV-issued Veteran's ID card
- Valid United States Passport
- Other government-issued photo identification cards (must be issued by US Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth)
- Tribal enrollment or other tribal ID issued by one of 11 tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Valid college or university student photo identification card (must be from an institution of higher education located in Virginia)
- Valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo
- Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business

Absentee Voting: Absentee voting allows qualified voters to participate in upcoming elections even though they may not be able to go to the polls on Election Day. Absentee voting in person begins approximately 45 days before the November general election.

There are two ways to vote absentee, either by mail or in person. A total of 615,843 qualified voters applied to cast an absentee ballot for the November 8 general election. As of November 6, 538,410 absentee ballots had been returned.

Mailed absentee ballots must be submitted by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 8, 2016.

The last day for in-person absentee voting was Saturday, November 5, 2016. A total of 352,942 qualified voters cast an in-person absentee ballot.

Absentee voting statistics are updated daily and can be found at:

<http://results.elections.virginia.gov/vaelections/2016%20November%20General/Site/Statistics/Index.html>

The Code of Virginia allows voters to cast an absentee ballot if they qualify by meeting one of 19 reasons. The full list can be found at <http://elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/>.

Voting Equipment: Throughout Virginia, there are over 5,000 pieces of voting equipment. Approximately two-thirds are Optical Scanners that use paper ballots. The remaining approximately one-third are Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) touch screen machines.

Local governing bodies have the authority to purchase and are responsible for maintaining local voting systems. The State Board of Elections certifies equipment for use in Virginia.

Voters using DRE machines may request a paper ballot under these circumstances:

- The official paper ballot is the only ballot in use in the precinct.
- The official paper ballot is used by voter voting outside the polling place pursuant to section 24.2-649 (Assistance for certain voters).

- The voter is casting a provisional ballot.
- The voter is provided an official paper ballot or copy thereof pursuant to section 24.2-642 when voting equipment becomes inoperable or otherwise unavailable.
- The official absentee paper ballot voted in accordance with section 24.2-700 (Persons entitled to vote by absentee ballot).
- A voter is provided an official paper ballot for presidential election pursuant to section 24.2-0402 (Persons moving from the Commonwealth fewer than thirty days before the presidential election).

The Virginia General Assembly this year passed legislation that prohibits localities from acquiring DRE machines for use in elections.

Provisional Ballot: This is a paper ballot that is cast separately and sealed in a green envelope. The voter must provide the information requested and sign the Statement of Voter.

Provisional ballots are not counted on Election Day; the Electoral Board will meet the day after the election to begin determining whether each provisional voter was qualified to vote. The votes of qualified voters will then be counted and included in the results of the locality. If the provisional ballot was cast due to the voter's inability to provide proper identification when attempting to vote, the voter has until noon on Monday November 14, 2016 to submit a copy of an identification document. Therefore, the results may not be available until after that time in some localities.

Provisional ballots are used:

- When a voter's name is not on the poll book, but the voter believes he or she is registered in that precinct and the registrar's office cannot be contacted to verify that the voter is registered.
- When a voter fails to provide proper identification when attempting to vote in person.
- When a voter who has sent an absentee ballot appears at their polling place and attempts to vote without providing the absentee ballot to the officer of elections.
- When the voter is listed within the pollbook as having already cast their ballot in the current election.
- When normal voting hours are extended by a court order. (*Whenever voting hours are extended, people who vote under the extension vote by provisional ballot. This has never happened in Virginia.*)

The Canvass Process: Immediately after the election, each of the 133 Electoral Boards must convene to ascertain the results of all elections held in its county or city and certify the results.

The Electoral Board meets no later than 5 p.m. on the day after the election.

The canvassing process includes:

1. Counting provisional ballots
2. Collecting vote summaries from the precincts
3. Rechecking the total number of ballots cast compared with the reported number
4. Certifying the results

State/Federal Certification: The State Board of Elections certifies the results of the presidential election. Immediately following the certification, the agency changes the classification of the election results on its website from Unofficial to Official and makes available to the public election results summaries and locality/precinct details.

The State Board of Elections will meet on November 21, 2016 to certify the results of the election.

Recounts: In Virginia, there are no automatic recounts; only the presumptive losing candidate can ask for a recount, and only in cases where the difference between the apparent winning and losing candidates is not more than 1 percent of the total votes cast for the two candidates. The petition for a recount of a presidential election shall be filed no later than 5 p.m. on the second calendar day after the State Board of Elections certifies the result of the election.

The Recount Court: As soon as the petition is filed, the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court will notify the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, who shall designate two other judges to sit with the Chief Judge. Once all votes are recounted, the court will certify the candidate with the most votes as the winner. The recount procedure is final and not subject to appeal.

Additional election information is available on the Virginia Department of Elections website at www.vote.virginia.gov.

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