



★ VIRGINIA ★
STATE BOARD
of ELECTIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 6, 2012

For More Information:

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**Virginia State Board of Elections
Fact Sheet
THE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION AT A GLANCE**

Virginia Firsts: The first presidential election was held on Wednesday, January 7, 1789. George Washington was an uncontested candidate and received 69 of the 146 electoral votes. Virginia was one of ten states to participate in the elections; one of only four states to choose presidential electors by popular vote; and the only one to split their electors by district.

Election History:

Winner Take All System- Starting in 1800, Virginia allocated their Presidential electors on a winner take all system. In the nation's first competitive presidential election (1796), John Adams won by only three electoral votes. The Jeffersonians noted that their candidate had lost one electoral vote in his home state of Virginia and a second one in neighboring North Carolina.

Just before the 1800 election, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "election by districts would be best, if it could be general; but while 10 states choose either by their legislatures or by a general ticket [winner-take-all], it is folly & worse than folly for the other" states to fragment their electoral votes by using a district system.

Thus, Virginia changed from its district system to the winner-take-all rule, thereby ensuring Jefferson 100% of his home state's electoral votes in the 1800 election. Over a period of years, more and more states gravitated to the statewide winner-take-all rule. By 1836, all but one state had adopted the statewide winner-take-all rule. All states used the statewide winner-take-all rule between 1896 and 1972. Maine (since 1972) and Nebraska (since 1992) have used a congressional district system for allocating their electoral votes.

Separate Votes for President and Vice President- In contests prior to 1804, the electors did not vote separately for president and vice-president. Instead, the candidate who garnered the majority of the electoral vote was elected president, and the candidate with the second largest number of votes

became the vice president. The election of 1800 showed the weakness of this system. Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr each received the same number of electoral votes, and the election had to be resolved by a state delegation vote in the House of Representatives.

The adoption of the Twelfth Amendment in 1804, which required the electors to cast separate votes for president and vice president, rectified this problem. This constitutional change marked the beginning of political parties, with two persons running on the same ticket for the two different offices.

CURRENT ELECTION INFORMATION

Poll Hours: The polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If a voter is in line by 7:00 p.m. they will be able to vote.

Number of Precincts Statewide: There are 2418 precincts in the Commonwealth of Virginia, not including central absentee precincts. This represents an increase of 69 precincts from the last presidential election in 2008 in which there were 2,349 precincts.

Registered Voters: As of November 2, 2012 there are 5,428,766 registered voters in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This number is up from 2012 election which was 5,405,371. The last day to register to vote in the general election was October 15, 2012.

Any person who was 17 years old and would be eighteen years of age on or before November 6, 2012 could register in advance to vote in the November presidential election. This included the intervening primary held in February and June.

Breakdown of Recently Registered Voters:

As of November 5, 2012 the net registration gain of voters is:

Reg Voters as of 1/1/2008	Reg Voters as of 12/3/2008	Net Gain	Reg Voters as of 2/7/2012	Reg Voters as of 11/2/2012	Net Gain Since 11/5/2012
4,585,838	4,926,538	340,700	4,641,001	5,428,766	787,765

- 620,809 active registered voters range from ages 18 to 25.
- 1,178,131 of active voters range from ages 26 to 40 years old.
- 1,835,836 of active voters range from ages 41 to 60 years old.
- 676,726 of active voters range from ages to 61 to 70 years old.
- 535,416 active voters in the state of Virginia are over 70 years old.

**Summary of Virginia Registration and Turnout
Statistics November General Elections: 1976-Present**

Year	Total Registered	Total Voting	Turnout (% Voting of Total Registered)	Voting Absentee (Included in Total Voting)
2012	5,405,371			438,777
2008	5,034,660	3,752,858	74.54%	506,672
2004	4,517,980	3,223,156	71.40%	222,059
2000	4,073,644	2,789,808	68.5%	150,414
1996	3,322,740	2,468,229	74.30%	116,606
1992	3,055,486	2,582,966	84.50%	141,123
1988	2,877,144	2,231,876	77.60%	108,237
1984	2,675,641	2,180,515	81.50%	113,686
1980	2,309,181	1,881,648	81.40%	84,811
1976	2,123,849	1,716,182	80.80%	-----

* The National Voter Registration Act ("Motor Voter") was implemented in Virginia beginning in March 1996. This Act allowed voter registration forms to be submitted through Department of Motor Vehicles offices and other designated agencies, or to be submitted by mail. Prior to NVRA, most applicants had to appear in person, before a registrar, in order to register. (Uniformed and Overseas voters were exempt from the in-person registration requirement.)

How to get on the ballot: The signature requirement for independent candidates to get on the ballot varies from office to office. For national offices such as President, Vice President and U.S. Senate petitions must contain the signatures of 10,000 qualified voters, including at least 400 from each of Virginia's eleven congressional districts.

Independent candidates running for the House of Representatives must have 1,000 signatures from qualified voters of the congressional district in which the candidate is seeking election.

Party nominees (Democratic and Republican) must follow their state party plan.

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 the political party nominees (Democratic and Republican) appear on the ballot through a random drawing which took place at the Virginia State Board of Elections meeting which was held on June 26, 2012.

The order of candidates endorsed by "recognized political parties" (Independent Green, Constitution,

Libertarian and Green) was determined by a later random drawing at the Virginia State Board of Elections meeting on September 4, 2012, once their petitions were certified.

The presidential candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot.

Presidential Candidates:

Republican Party

Mitt Romney, President

Paul Ryan, Vice President

Democratic Party

Barack Obama , President

Joe Biden, Vice President

Constitution Party

Virgil Goode, President

Jim Clymer, Vice President

Libertarian Party

Gary Johnson, President

James P. Gray, Vice President

Green Party

Jill Stein, President

Cheri Honkala, Vice President

United States Senate Candidates:

Republican Party – George F. Allen

Democratic Party - Timothy M. Kaine

United States House of Representatives Candidates (*indicates incumbent):

1st District Candidates

***Robert J. “Rob” Wittman - R**

Adam M. Cook - D

–G. Gail Parker - IG

Localities with precincts in the 1st District: Caroline County, Essex County, Fauquier County, Fredericksburg City, Gloucester County, James City County, King & Queen County, King George County, King William County, Lancaster County, Mathews County, Middlesex County, Newport News City, Northumberland County, Poquoson City, Prince William County, Richmond County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, Westmoreland County, Williamsburg City and York County

2nd District Candidates

***E. Scott Rigell - R**

Paul O. Hirschbiel, Jr. - D

Localities with precincts in the 2nd District: Accomack County, Hampton City, Newport News City, Norfolk City, Northampton County and Virginia Beach City

3rd District Candidates

Dean J. Longo - R

***Robert C. "Bobby" Scott - D**

Localities with precincts in the 3rd District: Charles City County, Hampton City, Henrico County, Isle of Wight County, James City County, Newport News City, Norfolk City, Petersburg City, Portsmouth City, Prince George County, Richmond City, Suffolk City and Surry County

4th District Candidates

***J. Randy Forbes - R**

Ella P. Ward - D

Localities with precincts in the 4th District: Amelia County, Chesapeake City, Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights City, Dinwiddie County, Emporia City, Franklin City, Greensville County, Hopewell City, Isle of Wight County, Nottoway County, Powhatan County, Prince George County, Southampton County, Suffolk City and Sussex County

5th District Candidates

***Robert Hurt - R**

John Wade Douglass - D –

Kenneth J. Hildebrandt - IG

Localities with precincts in the 5th District: Albemarle County, Appomattox County, Bedford City, Bedford County, Brunswick County, Buckingham County, Campbell County, Charlotte County, Charlottesville City, Cumberland County, Danville City, Fauquier County, Fluvanna County, Franklin County, Greene County, Halifax County, Henry County, Lunenburg County, Madison County, Mecklenburg County, Nelson County, Pittsylvania County, Prince Edward County and Rappahannock County

6th District Candidates

***Robert W. "Bob" Goodlatte - R**

Andy B. Schmookler - D

Localities with precincts in the 6th District: Amherst County, Augusta County, Bath County, Bedford County, Botetourt County, Buena Vista City, Harrisonburg City, Highland County, Lexington City, Lynchburg City, Page County, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Rockbridge County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, Staunton City, Warren County and Waynesboro City

7th District Candidates

***Eric I. Cantor - R**

E. Wayne Powell - D

Localities with precincts in the 7th District: Chesterfield County, Culpeper County, Goochland County, Hanover County, Henrico County, Louisa County, New Kent County, Orange County, Richmond City and Spotsylvania County

8th District Candidates

J. Patrick Murray - R

***James P. “Jim” Moran, Jr. - D**

Janet Murphy - IG

Jason J. Howell - I

Localities with precincts in the 8th District: Alexandria City, Arlington County, Fairfax County and Falls Church City

9th District Candidates

***H. Morgan Griffith - R**

Anthony J. Flaccavento - D

Localities with precincts in the 9th District: Alleghany County, Bland County, Bristol City, Buchanan County, Carroll County, Covington City, Craig County, Dickenson County, Floyd County, Galax City, Giles County, Grayson County, Henry County, Lee County, Martinsville City, Montgomery County, Norton City, Patrick County, Pulaski County, Radford City, Roanoke County, Russell County, Salem City, Scott County, Smyth County, Tazewell County, Washington County, Wise County and Wythe County

10th District Candidates

***Frank R. Wolf - R**

Kristin A. Cabral - D

J. Kevin Chisholm - I

Localities with precincts in the 10th District: Clarke County, Fairfax County, Frederick County, Loudoun County, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Prince William County and Winchester City

11th District Candidates

Chris S. Perkins - R

***Gerald E. “Gerry” Connolly - D**

Peter M. Marchetti - IG

Joe F. Galdo, Jr. - G

Christopher F. DeCarlo - I

Mark T. Gibson - I

Localities with precincts in the 11th District: Fairfax City, Fairfax County and Prince William County

Other Elections:

There are other elections taking place in localities across the state such as: Mayor, Commissioner of Revenue, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Board of Supervisors Member, City Council Member, County Board Member, School Board Member, Town Council Member and Sheriff.

For a full list of the candidates and ballot issues in a specific locality go to <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/candidateslist.html>

Electors: When a voter votes for his or her choice for President and Vice President, the voter is actually voting for the slate 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 State Board of Elections website at: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/candidateslist.html>

The Presidential Electors elected for Virginia will meet on December 17, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. in the State Capitol to vote.

Additional information about the Electoral College is available on the website of the National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/2008>.

Presidential Election Turnouts Historically:

General Election- November 4, 2008

Office: President

Candidate	Party	Total Votes	Percentage
Obama/Biden	Democratic	1,959,532	52.62%
McCain/Palin	Republican	1,725,005	46.33%
Nader/Gonzalez	Independent	11,483	0.30%
Barr/Root	Libertarian	11,067	0.29%
Baldwin/Castle	Independent Green	7,474	0.20%
Write In		6,355	0.17%
McKinney/Clemente	Green	2,344	0.06%
Total		3,723,260	

General Election- November 2, 2004

Office: President

Candidate	Party	Total Votes	Percentage
Bush/Cheney	Republican	1,716,959	53.68%
Kerry/Edwards	Democratic	1,454,742	45.48%
Badnarik/Campagna	Libertarian	11,032	0.34%
Peroutka/Baldwin	Constitutional	10,161	0.32%
Write Ins		5,473	0.02%
Total		3,198,367	

General Election- November 7, 2000

Office: President

Candidate	Party	Total Votes	Percentage
Bush/Cheney	Republican	1,437,490	52.50%
Gore/Lieberman	Democratic	1,217,290	44.40%
Nader/La Duke	Green	59,398	2.20%
Browne/Olovier	Libertarian	15,198	0.60%
Buchanan/Foster	Reform	5,455	0.20%
Write Ins		2,807	0.10%
Phillips/Frazier	Constitution	1,809	0.10%
Total		2,737,447	

How Virginia Voted in Past Presidential Elections:

Year	Candidate	Party	Percentage of Va. popular vote	Won the Presidential 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 R. 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 H. Obama	D	53%	Yes

(2004). US Presidential Election Maps: 1860-1996. Retrieved 10/08/2008, from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/elections/maps/>.

Are You Election Ready? : The goal of the Are You Election Ready Campaign was to ensure efficiency at the polls November 6th. The State Board of Elections focused on particular objectives to accomplish this mission. The goals were to educate Virginians regarding the new Voter ID law, assist localities in recruiting election officers, educate Virginians on the importance of checking and updating their voter information, ensure qualified Virginia voters can vote absentee, ensure the vote for the disabled and assist the media in providing accurate information to the public.

The State Board of Elections launched an outreach media campaign resulting in 9,323,784 media impressions to include over 100,000 weekly impressions using social media, 73,229 e-blasts distributed, 180,000 radio impressions, and 43 media outlets that ran SBE press releases across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, Are You Election Ready materials were distributed at 32 events across Hampton Roads and Central, Northern, Southside and Southwest Virginia resulting in

372,931 impressions. During the course of the campaign, 280,000 note cards and 15,000 posters outlining acceptable identification for voting purposes were distributed to Virginia voters.

The State Board received an overwhelming amount of support this year from volunteers, corporations, public officials, and media outlets. With their help, 12,000 individuals were recruited to serve as Officers of Elections. To date, all of the localities have sufficient individuals to serve in this capacity. The following companies are participating partners in the campaign: *AARP, Altria Group, Inc., Bank of America, Erie Insurance, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, LandAmerica Financial, League of Women Voters, MWV-MeadWestvaco, Richmond Association of Realtors, Rockingham Group, Sallie Mae, State Council of Higher Education of Virginia, State Farm Insurance, U.S. Investigations Services, Ukrop's Grocery, Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia State Employees.*

Absentee Voting Overview: 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 and about 30 days before other elections.

There are two ways to vote absentee, either by mail or in person.

The deadline to submit an application to vote by absentee is Tuesday, October 30, 2012 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Applications may be received by mail, fax or as a scanned email attachment. The voter's local registrar must receive the application by the deadline.

All voted absentee ballots must be submitted as directed in the instructions with the absentee ballot by the time the polls close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 6, 2012. All absentee ballots, properly cast, will be counted.

The deadline for applying and casting an absentee ballot in-person at the voter's local registrar's office is Saturday, November 3, 2012 by close of business.

The Code of Virginia authorizes the following registered voters to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which they are qualified to vote:

Virginia allows a registered voter to vote by absentee ballot for any of the following reasons:

- Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation or while on personal business or vacation, will be absent from the county or city in which he is entitled to vote;
- Any person who is (i) a member of a uniformed service of the United States, as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1973ff-6(7), on active duty, or (ii) a member of the merchant marine of the United States, or (iii) who temporarily resides outside of the United States, or (iv) the spouse or dependent residing with any person listed in (i), (ii), or (iii), and who will be absent on the day of the election from the county or city in which he is entitled to vote. See [Absentee Voting Procedures for Overseas Personnel \(Military & Non-Military\)](#)
- Any student attending a school or institution of learning, or his spouse, who will be absent on the day of election from the county or city in which he is entitled to vote;

- Any person who is unable to go in person to the polls on the day of election because of a disability, illness or pregnancy ;
- Any person who is confined while awaiting trial or for having been convicted of a misdemeanor, provided that the trial or release date is scheduled on or after the third day preceding the election. Any person who is awaiting trial and is a resident of the county or city where he is confined shall, on his request, be taken to the polls to vote on election day if his trial date is postponed and he did not have an opportunity to vote absentee;
- Any person who is a member of an electoral board, registrar, officer of election, or custodian of voting equipment;
- Any person serving as a designated representative of a political party, independent candidate or candidate in a political party;
- Any duly registered person who is unable to go in person to the polls on the day of the election because he is primarily and personally responsible for the care of an ill or disabled family member who is confined at home; or
- Any duly registered person who is unable to go in person to the polls on the day of the election because of an obligation occasioned by his religion.
- Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for eleven or more hours of the thirteen that the polls are open (6:00 AM to 7:00 PM).
- Certain first responders who meet code definitions for law-enforcement officers, firefighters, search and rescue personnel and emergency medical services personnel.
- Any registered and qualified voter may request a mail ballot for presidential and vice-presidential electors only by writing across the top of their absentee application "request ballot for presidential electors only." A voter who votes a "presidential only" ballot may not later decide to vote the rest of the ballot. The same procedures and deadlines apply as for other absentee applications and ballots. **Please note: When completing your absentee ballot application, reason 7A should only be used by voters who have moved to another state (away from Virginia) less than 30 days before the presidential election. This reason code should not be selected by voters that do not intend to move to another state less than 30 days prior to the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election.**

This year the Virginia General Assembly added pregnant women to the list of people who are eligible to vote absentee and expanded "illness and disability" to include mental illness as well as physical illness and disabilities.

Absentee Applications Approved: As of November 5, 2012 there have been 474,031 absentee applications approved for the November election.

Absentee Ballots Received: As of November 5, 2012 the localities have received 427,938 absentee ballots.

Military and Overseas Absentee Statistics: 33,639 absentee applications have been approved from military and overseas voters. Whereas, 24,058 of those applications are from only military overseas.

Voting Equipment: Throughout Virginia there are 10,600 pieces of equipment.

90% are Direct Read Electronic and the other 10% are Optical Scanners and Automarks.

Equipment total comparisons:

Year	Registered Voters	Voting Equipment	Registered Voters Per Piece of Equipment
2012	5,428,012	10,800	512
2008	5,021,993	10,600	474
2007	4,530,149	9,807	462
2004	4,517,980	5,989	757

99 localities have added Electronic Poll Books (EPB) for ease of checking in and allowing greater efficiency and minimizing wait times and long lines. There are currently a total of 6,081 poll books being used in the state of Virginia,

Paper Ballots: The official paper ballot can be used by a voter to cast his vote in one of the following 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 24.2-402 (Persons moving from the Commonwealth fewer than thirty days before the presidential election).

Provisional Ballot: This is a paper ballot which 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 the third day following the election to submit a copy of an identification document. Therefore, results may not be available until after noon on Friday in some localities.

Provisional Ballots are used:

- When the 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 election.
- 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 this extension vote by provisional ballot. This has never happened in Virginia.*)

The Canvass Process: Immediately after the election, each of the 134 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 5:00 PM 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 and 4) certifying the results.

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

The State Board of Elections will meet to certify the results of the election on Monday, November 26, 2012.

The members of the Virginia State Board of Elections are, Chairman, Charles E. Judd, Vice-Chair, Kimberly T. Bowers and Secretary, Donald L. Palmer.

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 candidate 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 5:00 p.m. on the second calendar day after the State Board 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.

**There is additional election information on the
Virginia State Board of Elections website at:**

www.sbe.virginia.gov

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