



Virginia Elections Conference

ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT

Provisional Ballot Handling in the Polling Place and During Canvass, Including a Review of Voter ID Best Practices



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Speakers

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Outline

- Introduction
- Provisional Ballot Overview
- Voter ID Review
- Best Practices: Before, During, & After Election
- Question & Answer Session



Provisional Ballots:

When in doubt, pass it out!



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Federal Law

- Help America Vote Act
 - Establishes right to cast a provisional ballot if
 - voter fails to provide required ID; or
 - Voter's eligibility challenged by election official.
 - Requires election officials to inform those who appear at the polling place, but whose names do not appear on the registration list, that they are entitled to cast a provisional ballot. Voters must be allowed to cast a provisional ballot, if they complete a written affirmation stating that they are entitled to vote in that jurisdiction.
 - Requires local election officials to provide written instructions to provisional ballot casters.



State Law

- Va. Code 24.2-653
 - Establishes right of those whose names do not appear on the pollbook to cast a provisional ballot.
 - Requires that all ballots cast as a result of a court order extending polling hours be considered a provisional ballot.



Provisional Ballots: The Basics

- A paper or optical scan ballot cast separately and sealed in a green envelope.
- Officers of Election determine when to grant a provisional ballot.
- Local Electoral Boards determine the status of provisional votes following Election Day.



Stats

Election	Provisional Votes	Total Vote
2016 June Dem. Primary	69	37,065
2016 June Rep. Primary	141	72,890
2016 March Rep. Primary	2,156	1,025,617
2016 March Dem. Primary	616	785,190
2015 June Dem. Primary	71	1,808
2015 June Rep. Primary	102	15,140



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When to Offer Provisional Ballots

- A registered voter has not shown the required ID
- This is the most common reason for granting a provisional ballot



YOUR PHOTO ID.



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When to Offer Provisional Ballots

- A person's registration status cannot be verified either by the election officer or the voter registrar

VOTE.



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When to Offer Provisional Ballots

- **The voter has already voted in that election**
- This may occur if the voter requested an absentee ballot and then wanted to vote in person



When to Offer Provisional Ballots

- A court orders the polls to stay open past their normal time
- This has never happened in Virginia



When in doubt, pass it out!

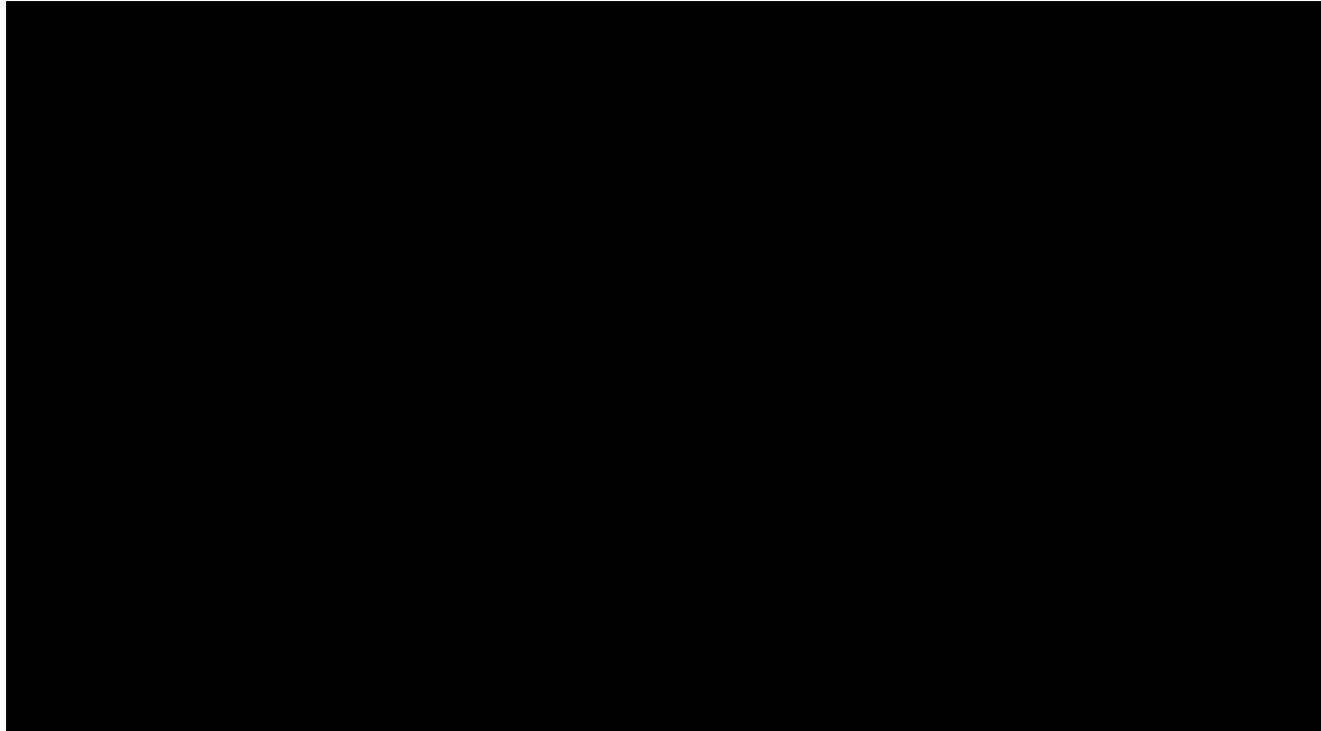
- Provisional ballots do not have to be scary!
- Ensure that your officers of election know that only a minority of voters will require a provisional ballot, and most of them likely left their voter ID at home.



Voter ID Review



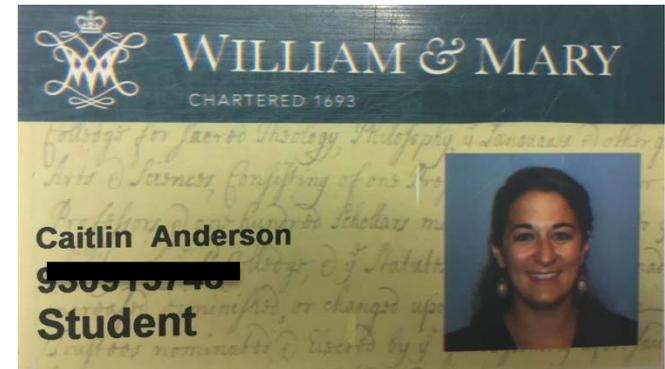
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Examples of Acceptable ID

- Free VA Voter Photo ID Card
- Photo ID Card Issued by US Government
- Student Photo ID from VA Public or Private High School
- Student Photo ID from a VA College or University



Publicity

- Let the public know that they must bring acceptable photo ID to the polls
- The Department of Elections provides numerous materials to display or send out to the public
- Don't be afraid to use social media to spread the word!



Best Practices: Before, During, & After Election



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Before Election Day

- Ensure that officers of elections know when to offer a provisional ballot
- Publicize that voters must bring a valid photo ID with them



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During

- If it appears that a voter is at the wrong polling place, direct them to the correct polling place and encourage them to go vote there.
- If the voter is unwilling or unable to go to the polling place indicated in VERIS, their Provisional Ballot may not be counted.



After

- Input provisional ballot information into VERIS
- ***VERIS is our friend!***



Election Night Provisional Results

[Home](#) > [Election Results](#) > [Election Night Provisional Counts](#)

Election:

2016 June Democratic Primary ▼



Locality:

YORK COUNTY

Non-Registered Provisional	No ID Provisional	Other Provisional	Total
0	0	0	0

Save and Refresh Totals



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Election Night Provisional Results



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Provisional Vote Totals

11/23/2016 10:54 AM

[Home](#) > [Election Results](#) > [By Precinct](#)

Election: 
Locality: YORK COUNTY
Precinct / CAP:

Member Senate of Virginia - 001

Candidate Name	Ballot Name	Party	Total Votes
Mason, Taylor	T. Monty Mason	Democratic	<input type="text" value="0"/>
SIMONDS, SHELLY	Shelly A. Simonds	Democratic	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Write-In			<input type="text" value="0"/>
Overvotes			<input type="text" value="0"/>
Total Votes			<input type="text" value="0"/>

Save and Refresh Totals



Provisional Vote Totals



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Provisional Turnout



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Provisional History (voter credit)

Election:*

2016 June Republican Primary ▼

Show All 

Absentee:

Provisional (Absentee):

Provisional (Non-Absentee):

Primary Ballot:*

Poll Worker Interest:

Comments:

Save

Clear

Cancel



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Provisional History (voter credit)

- After all provisional ballots are determined, the information must be input into VERIS to apply voting credit.
- If the voter does exist and is registered in VERIS, the registrar must either apply manual voting credit or enter that the ballot was not counted and the reason why the ballot was not counted.



Provisional History (voter credit)

- If the ballot was not counted, the system will automatically generate the necessary correspondence to be issued to the voter, which will include the reason entered for why the ballot was not counted.



Provisional History (voter credit)

- If the provisional voter is not in the system, the registrar should process the voter registration application that was required to be provided to the voter on election day.
- After entering the voter application into VERIS, the registrar should enter whether the provisional ballot was counted or not, and issue the appropriate correspondence.



Provisional History Absentee (voter credit with reasons)

Name: STENBJORN, PAUL ERICH
Residence Address: 4869 Bonnie Brae Rd ✓verified
North ChesterfieldVA23234-3705
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Election:* 2016 June Republican Primary Show All ⓘ

Absentee:

Provisional (Absentee): Voted:

Reason Cast:*

- Absentee Ballot - Never Received
- Absentee Ballot - Lost
- Marked Already Voted
- Absentee Ballot - Returned Damaged or Spoiled
- Absentee Ballot - Returned Unused
- ID Required
- Absentee Ballot - Poll Book
- Absentee Ballot - Poll Open Late
- Other

Republican



Provisional History Absentee (voter credit with reasons)

- Count provisional ballot if voted absentee ballot from the voter was not received and the voter is otherwise qualified
- Note in VERIS what happened to the absentee ballot



After: Voters Without ID

- Voters who cast provisional ballots have until **noon** on the Friday after the election to provide a copy of the required ID.
- The electoral board or general registrar can contact a voter who casted a provisional ballot to remind them to provide valid ID by Friday at noon.



After: Voters Without ID

- A voter can apply for a Voter Photo ID Card after voting. The voter can then submit the Temporary Identification Document before Friday at noon.



Election Day is November 8!
Keep up the hard work!



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