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Changes Related to Legislation or Regulation

Governance

The State Board of Elections, through the Department of Elections, is now responsible for providing standardized training for officers of elections, including providing an online training option. [HB 1030/SB 574](#), Va. Code § 24.2-103.

Multiple electoral board duties are now general registrar duties (providing the Department of Elections the list of all candidates, publishing the writ of special election, etc.). [SB 382/HB 1145](#), Va. Code § 24.2-600 illustrates the majority of the changes.

Voter Registration/List Maintenance

General registrars must notify the Department of Elections when a person who was registered outside of Virginia is added to Virginia's registration system. [SB 460](#).

The voter registration application has changed, as has the requirement for providing a restoration date after a felony. [SB 420](#).

Voter Registration

Changes to the handbook are consistent with recent regulatory and form updates.

Candidate & Referenda Processing

School Board candidate ballot order should be in order of filing. [24.2-613\(C\)](#)

Campaign Finance

No significant changes made.

Central Absentee Precinct (CAP)

No significant changes.

Absentee Voting

The fax number used for absentee ballots requested by email is different: [SB 137/HB 456](#).

Managing Split Precincts

No significant changes.

Establishing & Updating a Precinct/ Polling Place

No significant changes.

Preparations for Election Day

The State Board of Elections, through the Department of Elections, is now responsible for providing standardized training for officers of elections, including providing an online training option. ([HB 1030/SB 574](#), Va. Code § 24.2-103.)



Managing Ballots

No significant changes.

Voting Equipment

The voting machines do not have to be locked up with the court during the period to request a recount if the removable media contains the results: [HB 104/SB 315](#).

Due to new legislation, DREs cannot be used after 2020. See [SB 190](#).

Election Day

A section regarding Election Pages was added. Pages can now perform more duties under [HB 205/SB 381](#).

Some duties associated with the Electoral Boards are now the responsibility of General Registrars under [SB 382/HB 1145](#).

Voters can now provide their name and address in writing instead of verbally: [HB 1223](#).

Additionally, the section regarding "I voted stickers" was removed from the chapter.

Election Offenses

No significant changes.

Emergency Procedures

No significant changes.

Accessibility

This section may change further depending upon the fate of the regulation pertaining to SBE/ELECT/Disability Law Center Access to the polling place.

In sections 16.2.7-8, DOJ language about signage was added.

This chapter was restructured to allow for better organization of information around each area of a polling place or disability, not around the governing laws.

Provisional ballots

No significant changes.

Canvassing

No significant changes.

Recounts & Contested Elections

Voting machines do not have to be locked up through the period to request a recount if the election data is stored on the removable drive: HB 104/SB 315 [HB 104/SB 315](#).



This change is noted in Chapter 12, Voting Equipment. A contest notice must be served within a specified time period: [HB 105/SB 316](#)

Files & Records

Any information regarding State Board of Elections meetings, or meeting minutes should be published online if possible, pursuant to [SB 89](#).

In addition, all files that are subject to FOIA must be available for inspection and copying, guidelines have been clarified concerning when exceptions apply and what documents may be affected.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Information about meeting minutes must be posted online (if possible). [SB 89](#).

Fiscal

No significant changes.



Chapter Reorganization

This update to the GREB Handbook reflects many changes intended to make it easier to find and use relevant information, including:

- reformatting and editing for clarity
- chapter reorganization: in some cases multiple chapters have been consolidated and/or renamed

If you are used to the old format you may find the tables below helpful in locating information in the new version.

Chapters Sorted by Old Chapter Number	
Old Chapter	New Chapter
1. State Board of Elections 2. Electoral Board 3. General Registrar 4. Officers of Election	1. Governance
5. Registrar Office Operations	23. Registrar Office Operations
6. Files & Records	20. Files & Records
7. Voter Registration/List Maintenance	2. Voter Registration/List Maintenance
8. Accessibility	16. Accessibility
9. Voter Registration	3. Voter Registration
10. Candidate & Referenda Processing	4. Candidate & Referenda Processing
11. Absentee Voting	7. Absentee Voting
13. Establishing & Updating a Precinct	9. Establishing & Updating a Precinct/Polling Place
14. Managing Split Precincts	8. Managing Split Precincts
15. Managing Ballots	11. Managing Ballots
16. CAP	6. CAP
17. Election Day Preparation	10. Election Day Preparation
18. Election Day	13. Election Day
19. Canvassing	18. Canvassing
20. Voting Equipment	12. Voting Equipment
21. Campaign Finance	5. Campaign Finance
22. Recounts & Contested Elections	19. Recounts & Contested Elections
23. Election Offenses	14. Election Offenses
26. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	21. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
27. Emergency Procedures	15. Emergency Procedures
29. Provisional Ballots	17. Provisional Ballots
30. Fiscal	22. Fiscal



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21. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	26. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
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