



News Release

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ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS IN VIRGINIA

~ Virginia Meets Important Military and Overseas Ballot Deadline ~

RICHMOND, VA – Absentee voting has started for the November 5, 2013 general election in all of Virginia's 133 localities. The State Board of Elections (SBE) reports that all of Virginia's localities have met the deadlines to send absentee ballots to overseas and military voters within 45 days of the general election. Virginia's election officials have now met the 45-day absentee ballot mailing deadline for overseas and military voters for the past six primary and November general elections.

Forty-five localities are taking advantage of a new service offering by SBE for military and overseas voters. The system is known as LiveBallot, and was developed by Democracy Live in partnership with Microsoft. These localities can direct their overseas and military voters to the LiveBallot site, where the voter can access and mark his or her ballot. The voter then prints off the completed ballot and returns it via mail to the appropriate locality for counting. The service offering has been made available as part of a grant from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP).

Friday, September 20, 2013 marked the beginning of the absentee voting process for Virginia voters. In order to vote absentee, voters must be registered to vote in Virginia and meet one of the eligibility requirements listed on the Virginia absentee ballot application. The absentee application and additional information about absentee voting is available on the State Board of Elections website at www.sbe.virginia.gov.

Eligible voters may cast their absentee ballot by mail or in-person at their local registrar's office. Applicants must list a qualifying reason for voting absentee. Absentee applications being mailed or faxed to the general registrar's office must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29th. Absentee applications may be completed in person at the general registrar's office no later than Saturday, November 2nd.

You must be registered to vote in Virginia in order to apply to vote absentee. The deadline to apply to register to vote in Virginia for the November 5, 2013 election is October 15th. Virginia residents are encouraged to check their registration status and polling place on the State Board of Elections website at www.sbe.virginia.gov, by calling their local registrar's office, or by calling the State Board of Elections toll free at 1-800-552-9745. Individuals may also update their registration or apply to register to vote online at SBE's website.

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