A dual primary is two primary elections conducted on the same day. Some supplies and procedures are different from regular elections. The instructions below cover these differences and are a supplement to the usual instructions:

**In a dual primary, officers of election must:**

* Determine in which primary election the voter wishes to vote by asking the voter:

**"Do you wish to vote in the Democratic Party Primary or in the Republican Party Primary?"**

* + The voter must somehow indicate their choice of primary to the pollbook officer(s). The officer must confirm that he or she heard the choice correctly. If the voter chooses to provide written confirmation of his/her full name and address to hand to the officer, his/her ballot choice decision may also be written. (§§ 24.2-529 -- 24.2-531, 24.2-643(B))
  + All persons qualified to vote may vote in either primary. (§ 24.2-530)
  + But, the voter may **not** vote in both primaries held on the same date, even if the desire is to vote for candidates running for different offices. (§ 24.2-530)
  + No voter may be challenged on their choice of a primary. (§ 24.2-530)
    - FAQ Help: The question must be asked and answered so that the voter will receive the ballot requested, and the pollbook(s) will be appropriately marked. State laws require separate ballots and separate paper pollbooks (if used) for each party's primary. The two primaries are two separate elections. (§§ 24.2-529 -- 24.2-532)
    - The choice to vote in a party's primary does not mean that the voter will be "registered" with that party. **Virginia does not have "party registration”.**  (§§ 24.2-101, 24.2-418)
* For paper pollbooks, each voter's name must be looked up in both parties' pollbooks at the same time, to make sure that the voter has not already voted in either primary. For each alphabetical division of the pollbook, place two pollbook officers side-by-side with the same alphabetical split of the respective pollbooks, and with separate count sheets.
* Enter the next Pollbook count number from either the Democratic Pollbook Count Sheet or the Republican Pollbook Count Sheet, as appropriate. Enter PBC in the appropriate pollbook. **Do not make any mark for the voter in the other party's pollbook.**
* Before the polls open, enter any subsequent "AB" designations by each voter’s name in either the Democratic Paper Pollbook or the Republican Paper Pollbook, as appropriate, i.e., denoting AB activity since the paper pollbook was printed.
* For electronic pollbooks, the EPB officer must select the voter’s political party selection before the voter’s name can be confirmed or “checked-in” to the dual party primary electronic pollbook.
* Emergency absentee voters from the Monday before the election should be designated in the electronic pollbooks as well.
* Provide the voter with the appropriately colored entry permit (or access card). Use a different color entry permit for each party’s primary (for example, blue for Democratic Primary and white for Republican Primary).
* The voting machine or ballot officer must ensure that the voter receives the ballot for the party requested. Specific instructions for different types of equipment and ballots can be found below.
* Officers can either prepare two Statements of Results for the Democratic Primary Election and two for the Republican Primary Election OR two Statements of Results that have both parties’ results. (§ 24.2-667)
* The fact that there are two separate elections being conducted does not require two completely separate teams of election officers, only that there be enough officers of each party to fill all of the required stations, including all divisions of both paper pollbooks or sets of electronic pollbooks.
* The officer must give the voter either the official Democratic Primary ballot **or** the official Republican Primary ballot, according to the voter's entry permit.
* The officer must direct the voter to deposit the voted ballot (for either party primary) into the ballot counter before the voter leaves the polling place.

**For Provisional Ballots:**

* The officer must enter above the “Precinct #” in the top right corner either “D” for Democratic Party Primary” or “R” for Republican Party Primary. This area is on the side of the **Provisional Ballot Envelope** that the voter is **required to complete**.
* Provisional ballot envelopes with voted ballots must be deposited into separate 1A Provisional Envelopes, one marked "Democratic Primary" and one marked "Republican Primary."
* Democratic and Republican provisional ballots must be logged onto separate Provisional Ballot Logs.
* Keeping the provisional ballots separated by political party will assist the Electoral Board in conducting separate provisional ballot meetings.

**Same Day Voter Registration:**

ELECT’s established same day voter registration procedures remain in place during a dual primary. The voter’s ballot selection will be necessary after the officer determines that the individual is not presently registered in the precinct’s pollbook.

**Uploading/Entering Credit in VERIS**

Be very careful to ensure you upload/enter credit to the correct Primary. If you accidentally upload/enter both primaries credit into the same election, or have trouble with entering each primary’s credit correctly, create a JIRA ticket so IT can help you.

**Key Points for a Quick and Happy Voter Experience**

* Two separate elections are being conducted. It is important for everyone to be aware of that. While certain aspects are not required to be kept separate, it is encouraged to proceed as much as possible with the idea of keeping the elections separate. In the end it will help ensure voters understand this concept, are recorded on the correct election, and results are entered in the correct election.
* Voters are only allowed to vote once. OOEs are asking which primary the voter wants to vote in, not which party they are affiliated with. Making sure OOEs ask the correct question can go a long way toward voter satisfaction.