

Voting FAQ

There have been many changes to the voting laws this year, so it's not surprising that folks have lots of questions and concerns. In this most consequential of election years, we all want to be certain that our ballots are counted.

To ensure you get accurate answers to your questions, to correct misinformation that we've heard, and to make your voting experience as safe and efficient as possible, we're getting the information you need directly from our local registrars. Answers to the questions we've received so far are provided below.

If you have a question you don't see listed here, let us know at democrats@wjccdem.com or call our hotline at 833-757-3367. We'll get the answer, let you know, and add it to our FAQs.

Voter registration

Q. When is the last day to register to vote in the November election or to update my voting information?

A. Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Q. Where can I register or update my information?

A. You can register or update your information online at the [citizen portal](#). Have your Virginia driver's license number and social security number handy. You may also call your registrar, but please be mindful of how busy they are now! In James City County the number is 757-259-4949, in the City of Williamsburg the number is 757-220-6157, and York County the number is 757-890-3440.

Paper registration forms are available at registrars' offices. Call the WJCC Dems hotline at 833-757-3367 to have a registration form delivered to you.

Ways to vote

Q. What are the different ways to vote in the November election?

A. There are three ways to vote in the November election.

1. You can vote before Election Day with an absentee ballot for which you have applied and that has been mailed to you by your registrar;
2. You can vote early in person until October 31; or
3. You can vote on Election Day, November 3, which is now a state holiday. Polls are open from 6am until 7pm.

Details about each method are provided below.

Voting early in person

Q. When and where can I vote early in person?

A. You can vote early in person on weekdays from September 18 through October 30, and on the two Saturdays before the election (October 24 and October 31). Voting locations and hours depend on the locality in which you vote.

If you live in **James City County**, you can vote early in person at the James City County Vote Center located at the JCC Recreation Center at 5301 Longhill Rd. Voting hours are 8am to 5pm.

If you live in the **City of Williamsburg**, you can vote early at the Williamsburg Municipal Building at 401 Lafayette St. Voting hours are 8am to 4:30pm.

If you live in **York County**, you can vote early at the registrar's offices at the Victory Village shopping center at 6614-A Mooretown Road or the Washington Square shopping center at 5322 George Washington Memorial Highway. Voting hours are 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and 9am to 5pm on Saturday October 24 and Saturday October 31.

Q. Is curbside voting available for early in person voting?

A. Yes, curbside voting is available at all early voting locations.

Q. How do I vote early in person?

A. *It's just like voting on Election Day!* At the voting location, an election officer will ask your name and residence address, and ask you to provide an acceptable form of identification. If the election officer finds that you are qualified to vote, you will be given a ballot and directed to a booth to mark your ballot. Once your ballot is marked, you will feed it into the ballot counting machine.

Q. What are acceptable forms of identification?

A. An ID with your photo is no longer required (unless it's an employer-provided ID). You may use your voter registration card, driver's license, passport, utility bill, student ID, or other document showing your name and address. If you do not have an acceptable form of ID, you may vote if you sign a confirmation statement indicating that you are who you claim to be.

Q. When is my early voting ballot counted?

A. Your early voting ballot will be counted on Election Day.

Q. Can I decide to vote in person after I have requested an absentee ballot?

A. Yes but you cannot use your absentee ballot to vote in person. Instead, you will need to go through the process of returning your unopened absentee ballot and exchanging it for a new ballot at an in-person voting location. This requires a great deal of record keeping by election officials, who must retain and record all unused absentee ballots to guard against voter fraud, and it slows down the voting process for other voters.

If you appear at a voting location without the absentee ballot that you requested (either because it did not arrive or you lost it), you will be permitted to vote provisionally if you sign a statement indicating that your absentee ballot never arrived or was lost. A determination of whether your provisional ballot will be counted will be made by your local election board on the day(s) following the election.

If you appear at a voting location with an absentee ballot you have marked in error or that has been unintentionally defaced, you may vote in person with a new ballot. You must first

“spoil” your absentee ballot (i.e, fill in every oval on the ballot). The election official must then make a record of your spoiled ballot and issue you a new ballot.

Voting absentee

Q. When is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

- A. The deadline is October 23, 2020 at 5pm. If this is the voting method you choose, please don't wait -- **request your ballot NOW!**

Q. What should I do if my absentee ballot does not arrive when I expect it?

- A. Allow about 10-14 days for your absentee ballot to arrive after you request it. If it does not arrive, contact your Registrar's office. In James City County, call 757-259-4949. In the City of Williamsburg call 757-220-6157. In York County call 757-890-3440.

Q. How do I complete my absentee ballot?

- A. Open the sealed envelope marked “ballot within”, mark and refold the ballot, enclose the ballot in the envelope provided for that purpose, and seal the envelope. **Be sure to complete and sign the statement printed on the back of the envelope.** Enclose the ballot envelope within the envelope directed to the general registrar, and seal that envelope. You do not need a stamp -- postage for your absentee ballot is prepaid.

Q. Does my absentee ballot need to be witnessed?

- A. No. Having another person witness your absentee ballot is not necessary for the November 3 election.

Q. What are my options for returning my absentee ballot?

- A. You have two options: (1) you may mail the envelope directed to the general registrar or (2) deliver it to your registrar by hand to a ballot drop box in the locality where you are registered to vote.

Q. What is the deadline for mailing my absentee ballot?

- A. Your mailed ballot must be postmarked on or before November 3 and must arrive in the registrar's office by noon on November 6. But please don't wait -- vote your ballot, and mail it or deliver it by hand as soon as you get it!

Q. What is the deadline for delivering my absentee ballot by hand?

- A. You may deliver your absentee ballot by hand until 7 pm on Election Day, November 3, but please don't wait this long!

Q. When is my absentee ballot counted?

- A. If your absentee ballot is in the possession of your registrar by 7pm on Election Day, it will be counted on Election Day.

Q. Are ballot drop boxes safe and secure?

- A. Yes. In James City County, Williamsburg, and York County, ballot drop boxes are either staffed and secured after hours, or are under 24 hour surveillance.

Q. May I hand deliver my spouse's or a friend's ballot?

- A. Yes, you may deliver another person's ballot.

Q. If I deliver my ballot by hand, do I need all the envelopes?

- A. Yes, treat your ballot as though you were going to mail it -- that is, place your voted ballot in the ballot envelope, seal the ballot envelope, place the ballot envelope inside the envelope addressed to the general registrar, and seal that return envelope. Bring the entire package to the drop box.

Q. I live in James City County. Where can I hand deliver my absentee ballot?

- A. You may deliver your absentee ballot to the following drop box locations in James City County:

Starting September 18, 8am to 5pm weekdays, on the two Saturdays before Election Day (October 24 and 31), and on November 2:

JCC Vote Center, located at the JCC Recreation Center at 5301 Longhill Rd

JCC Registrar's office located at 5300 Palmer Lane

Beginning Monday, October 19, weekdays through Friday, October 30 from 8am to 5pm:

Abram Frink Community Center located at 8901 Pocahontas Trail

Williamsburg Regional Library located at 7770 Croaker Road

On Election Day every poll location will have a drop box that is accessible from 6am until 7pm.

Q. I live in the City of Williamsburg. Where can I hand deliver my absentee ballot?

- A. You may deliver your ballot to the **registrar's office** inside the Municipal Building at 401 Lafayette St. (757-220-6157). Hours are 8am to 4:30pm weekdays and the two Saturdays before the election (October 24 and 31).

Or, you may put your ballot in the **drop box** outside the registrar's office. It is accessible 24 hours a day through November 2 and through 7pm on November 3.

Drop boxes are also available at both **poll locations on Election Day** from 6am to 7pm.

Q. I live in York County. Where can I hand deliver my absentee ballot?

- A. You may deliver your ballot to one of the two **registrar's offices** located at the Victory Village shopping center at 6614-A Mooretown Rd. (Big Lots/Home Depot shopping center), and the Washington Square shopping center at 5322 George Washington Memorial Highway. Office hours at both locations are 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and 9am to 5pm on the two Saturdays before the election (October 24 and 31).

Or, you may put your ballot in the **drop boxes** at both registrar offices. Until October 31, ballot drop boxes will be available from 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and 9am

to 5pm on the two Saturdays before the election (October 24 and 31). In addition, drop boxes will be available on Monday, November 2, 2020, from 8:30am to 5pm.

Every poll location on Election Day will have a ballot drop box available from 6am to 7pm.