



Election Update

As of May 13, 2022, election and voting laws in South Carolina have changed.

What does this mean for you?

Early Voting

- Through early voting, registered voters will be able to cast their ballot two weeks before the week of an election.
- Voters don't need a reason to vote early.
- Each county must have between one to seven early voter centers. Voters can vote at any early voting location in Charleston County.

See **Page 2** for more information on early voting.

Absentee Voting

- The deadline to return your application for an absentee ballot to the Elections Board is now eleven days prior to Election Day.
- Absentee qualifications have changed.
- You can only return five applications and five ballots, in addition to your own, per election.

See **Page 3** and **Page 4** for more information on absentee voting.

Candidates and Campaigning

- Distributing campaign literature or political posters is barred within five hundred feet of a polling place on Election Day and during the early voting period.
- Candidates may wear a label with their name and intended office within five hundred feet of a polling place that falls within the size guidelines outlined in Section 7-25-180 but must remove it if they enter the polling location.
- Beginning in 2023, candidates cannot file more than one statement of intention of candidacy or be nominated by more than one political party for a single office for the same election.
- Beginning in 2023, a candidate's name must not appear on the ballot more than once for any single office for the same election.

Penalties for Election Fraud

- Fines and penalties for election fraud have increased.



Early Voting FAQ

What is early voting?

Early voting is an opportunity for any registered voter to cast their ballot two weeks before the week of an election.

Who can early vote?

Any registered voter is eligible to vote early.

How does it differ from absentee voting?

- You do not need a reason to vote early—any voter can vote within the early voting period.
- There is no mail-in option for early voting. To vote early, you will need to vote in person at designated locations.

What are the benefits of early voting?

- Shorter lines at the polls on Election Day
- Reduced burden on elections staff
- More efficient service delivery
- Increased voter turnout

Do other states have early voting?

Yes! 44 states have some form of early voting—45 including South Carolina.

How long is the early voting period?

Early voting starts on Monday two weeks before the week of the election, barring legal holidays.

When can I vote early?

Early voting days and hours differ based on election.

Statewide General Election	Monday-Saturday	8:30 AM-6:00 PM
Runoff Elections	Wednesday-Friday before the election	8:30 AM-5:00 PM
All Other Elections	Monday-Friday	8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Where can I vote early?

You can vote at any early voting center in Charleston County. To keep updated on early voting centers, visit us at chsvotes.gov or follow us on social media:



@charlestonvotes



@charlestonvotes



@chsvotes



Absentee Voting Updates

The following changes have been made to the absentee voting process:

- Completed applications for absentee ballots must be returned to the County Board of Elections no later than 5:00 PM on the **eleventh day** before Election Day.
- If you apply for an absentee ballot for yourself, the following information must be included on the absentee ballot application:
 - Voter name
 - Voter date of birth
 - Last four digits of the voter's social security number
- If you apply for an absentee ballot on behalf of someone else, the following information must **also** be provided:
 - Requestor name
 - Requestor address
 - Requestor date of birth
 - Requestor's relation to the voter
- You cannot request more than **five** absentee applications per election, in addition to your own.
- You cannot return more than **five** absentee ballots per election, in addition to your own.
- An election official must verify the name and photograph of an applicant or an applicant's authorized representative prior to accepting an absentee ballot. Accepted forms of ID include:
 - U.S. driver's license
 - ID with photo issued by a Department of Motor Vehicles or its equivalent
 - Passport
 - Military ID containing a photo that was issued by the federal government
 - South Carolina voter registration card with a photo



Absentee Voting Updates



If you qualified to vote absentee in the past, your voting options may have changed.

Voters qualified to vote absentee regardless of whether they can vote in person:

- Persons who are physically disabled
- Persons 65 years of age or older
- Members of the Armed Forces and Merchant Marines, their spouses, and dependents residing with them
- Persons admitted to hospitals as emergency patients within four days of an election or on Election Day as provided in Section 7-15-330

Voters qualified to vote absentee only if they are unable to vote in person during the early voting period and on Election Day:

- Persons with employment obligations who present written certification of the obligations to the County Board of Elections
- Persons who will be attending sick or physically disabled persons
- Persons confined to a jail or pretrial facility pending the disposition of an arrest or trial
- Persons who will be absent from their county of residence