



# 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.

<b>Statewide General Election</b>	Monday-Saturday	8:30 AM-6:00 PM
<b>Runoff Elections</b>	Wednesday-Friday before the election	8:30 AM-5:00 PM
<b>All Other Elections</b>	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](http://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