So What is Absentee Voting?

When you vote absentee, you are given your ballot before Election Day. That’s why absentee voting is sometimes called early voting. Before this year, you could only vote absentee if you had a specific reason you could not vote in person. Now, anyone can vote absentee.

How Do I Vote Absentee?

You can register to vote absentee online, by mail, or in person. You can vote absentee in person or by mail. If this is your first time registering to vote, there will be a 5 day waiting period before you can request an absentee ballot.

Voting Absentee By Mail:

If you vote absentee by mail, your ballot will be mailed to you with instructions for how to fill it out. After you fill it out, you will return it by mail in the envelope provided.

When Do I Need to Request My By-Mail Absentee Ballot?

If you want to vote absentee by mail, you must request your ballot by 5pm Oct. 23, 2020.

When Do I Need to Return My By-Mail Absentee Ballot?

At the latest, your ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and it must arrive by noon, 3 days after Election Day to be counted.

Voting Absentee In-Person:

When you vote absentee in person, you go to your Local Registrar’s Office, or Absentee Satellite Site, where you will be given an absentee ballot to complete on the spot. You will fill it out and submit it right away.

What is the Last Day I Can Vote Absentee In-Person?

If you want to vote absentee in person, you must vote by 5pm Oct. 31, 2020.

Where Can I Vote Absentee In-Person?

Local Registrar’s Offices always offer in-person absentee voting. Because of Coronavirus, some localities have also opened extra locations to vote absentee in person, called Absentee Satellite Sites. If you think absentee in-person voting is a good choice for you, check with your Local Registrar’s Office to see if there are Absentee Satellite Sites near you.
Emergency Absentee Voting

If you miss the deadline to vote absentee or cannot vote in person because of a personal emergency, like being in the hospital or experiencing a death in your family, you can apply for an emergency absentee ballot so that you don’t miss your opportunity to vote.

dLCV publications are available in alternate format, upon request.

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The Protection and Advocacy System for Virginians Disabilities

This publication was prepared with 100% federal funding.
This information should not be interpreted as legal advice.