



Voting

In South Carolina

SOUTH CAROLINA
ELECTION COMMISSION

every vote matters.
every vote counts.



To vote in South Carolina you must be a registered voter.

Statewide elections are held in June and November every two years. Municipal, school board, and special elections are held at various times.

Voting Absentee

Absentee voting allows qualified voters to cast a ballot by mail prior to election day. You can request an application to vote absentee by contacting your county voter registration office. A full list of qualifying reasons to vote absentee can be found at [scVOTES.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov).

Voting at an Early Voting Center Before Election Day

Early voting allows for all registered voters to vote in person prior to election day. **County voter registration offices** establish up to seven early voting centers that must be open during the two-week early voting period.

You can visit any early voting center in your county during the early voting period, present your Photo ID, and vote using the voting system like you would at your polling place on election day.

Voting at the Polling Place on Election Day

Vote at your polling place located near the address where you are registered. Find your polling place at [scVOTES.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov) or by contacting your county voter registration and elections office.

Your polling place is open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on election day. Any voter in line at 7:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Assistance with Voting

Voters with disabilities and voters who are unable to read or write may receive assistance in voting. You must inform a poll manager if you require assistance.

Curbside Voting

Voters who are unable to access the polling place or stand in line to vote due to a disability or being age 65 or older may vote in their vehicle. The driver and other passengers in the vehicle are not entitled to vote curbside unless they individually meet the qualifications.

Provisional Ballots

A voter's ballot may be challenged if there is some question regarding the voter's qualifications. Voters who are challenged cast a provisional ballot. After the election, county election officials determine if a provisional ballot will be counted.



ID Requirements for Voting

When voting in person, you will be asked to show one of the following current and valid Photo IDs:

- > SC Driver's License
 - Includes standard license & REAL ID
- > SC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) ID Card
 - Includes standard ID card & REAL ID
 - Includes SC Concealed Weapons Permit
- > SC Voter Registration Card with Photo
- > Federal Military ID
 - Includes all Department of Defense Photo IDs and Veterans Affairs Benefits Card
- > US Passport
 - Includes US Passport ID Card

You can get a free Photo ID from your county voter registration office or your local DMV.

Voters Without Photo ID

If you can't get a Photo ID, bring your non-photo voter registration card with you to vote. You will be allowed to vote after signing an affidavit stating you have a reasonable impediment to obtaining Photo ID. The reasonable impediment could be a religious objection to being photographed, a disability or illness, your work schedule, lack of transportation or any other obstacle you find reasonable.

If you have a Photo ID but forget to bring it with you to vote, you may vote a provisional ballot that will not count unless you show Photo ID to the county voter registration and elections office prior to certification of the election.

Voting System

Easy-to-use touchscreen voting with a secure paper record.

- > Allows every voter to vote independently using the same equipment. Every ballot-marking device features an audio ballot and headphones, a Braille-embossed controller, and an input for a sip-and-puff switch and other assistive switches.
- > Prevents overvotes (voters can't select more candidates than allowed).
- > Warns voters about undervotes (voter missed an office or voted for fewer candidates than allowed).
- > Prevents hand-marking errors that can cause votes not to count.
- > Creates a paper record of every ballot cast. Paper ballots are used to verify election results adding an additional layer of security to South Carolina elections.
- > The voting system is NEVER connected to the internet.

For More Information

Visit **scVOTES.gov** or contact your county voter registration office for more information.

See our other voter education brochures:

- > **Absentee Voting in South Carolina**
- > **Access for All Voters in South Carolina**
- > **South Carolina's Paper-Based Voting System**
- > **Voter Registration in South Carolina**
- > **Photo ID Requirements**

Follow scVOTES on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X and LinkedIn



South Carolina Election Commission

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201
803.734.9060

