

# ABSENTEE VOTING

## IN SOUTH CAROLINA

*Absentee Voting allows qualified voters to cast a ballot prior to election day.*

### Reasons to Vote Absentee

- ⦿ Age 65 or older
- ⦿ On vacation outside county of residence on election day
- ⦿ Physically disabled (includes illness or injury)
- ⦿ Attending a person who is sick or disabled
- ⦿ Employment prevents you from voting on election day
- ⦿ Students, their spouses, and dependents living outside their county of residence
- ⦿ Members of the U.S. Armed Forces or Merchant Marines, their spouses, and dependents
- ⦿ Serving with the American Red Cross or United Service Organizations serving with the U.S. Armed Forces outside their county of residence
- ⦿ Governmental employees, their spouses, and dependents living outside their county of residence
- ⦿ U.S. citizen living outside the U.S.
- ⦿ Jury duty on election day
- ⦿ In jail awaiting trial or disposition of arrest
- ⦿ Serving as election official, poll manager, or poll watcher on election day
- ⦿ Admitted to the hospital as an emergency patient within four days of an election
- ⦿ Death or funeral in the family within three days of an election
- ⦿ Do not want to vote on Saturday for religious reasons (Saturday elections only)

### Absentee In Person

Begins approximately 30 days before an election. Vote absentee in person at your county voter registration office or satellite location (if available) until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. You will be asked to provide Photo ID:

- ⦿ S.C. Driver's License

- Includes standard license and REAL ID
- ⦿ S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles ID Card
  - Includes standard ID card, REAL ID, and SC Concealed Weapons Permit
- ⦿ S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- ⦿ Federal Military ID
  - Includes all Department of Defense Photo IDs and Veterans Affairs Benefits Card
- ⦿ U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport ID Card

If you do not have one of these Photo IDs, your county voter registration office will provide a free Voter Registration Card with Photo.

### Absentee By Mail

- ⦿ **Step 1: Get Your Application.**
  - [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov) (requires a printer).
  - Call or email your county voter registration office to be mailed an application.
- ⦿ **Step 2 Complete, sign and return the application** to your county voter registration office as soon as possible by email, mail, fax, or personal delivery.
  - You should return your application at least two weeks before election day.
  - The deadline to return your application is 5:00 p.m. on the fourth day prior to the election. **WARNING:** Applying late puts your ballot at risk of not being returned by the deadline.
- ⦿ **Step 3 Receive an absentee ballot in the mail.** Voters who have applied early will be mailed their absentee ballot approximately 30 days before the election.
- ⦿ **Step 4 Vote and return the ballot** to your county voter registration office either by mail or personal delivery. Be sure to sign the voter's oath and have your signature witnessed.
  - Ballots must be received by the county voter registration office by 7:00 p.m. on election day.
  - To help ensure timely delivery, mail your ballot no later than one week prior to election day.

Visit [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov) to see when your application and ballot was issued and returned.

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### Military and Overseas Citizens

Special provisions are available to make voting easier for military and overseas citizens.

- ⦿ Start by getting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov) and submitting it to your county voter registration and elections office.
- ⦿ After applying your military and overseas voter status will remain in effect through December 31st of the year following the date you apply, unless you want it to end sooner.
- ⦿ Military and overseas voters can receive and return ballots by mail, fax or email. Indicate on your application your preferred method of communication.
- ⦿ Forty-five days prior to every election, your county voter registration office will send you your ballot by your preferred method of communication.
- ⦿ Military and overseas citizens can also use the Electronic Voting Accessibility Tool (EVAT) available at [scVOTES.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov). Access, mark and print your ballot without having to wait for it to be sent to you.
- ⦿ Your ballot can be returned to your county voter registration and elections office by mail, email, fax or in person. Ballots that are faxed, emailed or delivered in person must be received by the office no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day. Mailed ballots must be mailed no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day and received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before certification (one or two days after election day depending on the type of election).

Visit [scVOTES.gov/military-overseas-citizens](https://www.scvotes.gov/military-overseas-citizens) or [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov) for more information.

### For More Information

For more voter registration and election information contact your county voter registration and elections office or visit: [scVOTES.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov).

**Ask your county voter registration and elections office for literature on any of the following topics:**

- ⦿ **Voting in South Carolina**
- ⦿ **Voter Registration in South Carolina**
- ⦿ **Access for All Voters in South Carolina**
- ⦿ **South Carolina's Paper-Based Voting System**

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