

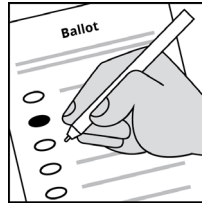
## Virginia Election Process



### Step 1. Voter Registration

To register to vote, submit a voter registration application in paper or in our online Citizen Portal. General Registrars review and verify the information on the application and enter it into the Virginia Election Registration and Information System (VERIS).

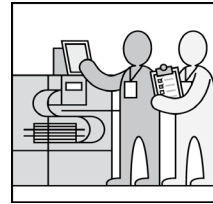
Election Law § 24.2-417



### Step 2. Mail Ballot Request and Voting

In Virginia, registered voters can choose to vote by mail, early in person, or in person on Election Day. To vote by mail, voters are first required to submit an application for an absentee ballot or can apply to be placed on a permanent absentee list of voters.

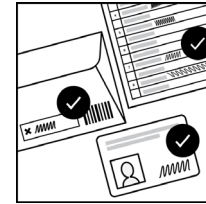
Election Law § 24.2-701 & 703.1



### Step 3. Ballot Preparation & Election Equipment Testing

After the qualification of candidates, General Registrars coordinate with their vendors for the production of ballots. After the ballot is approved by ELECT, General Registrars test election equipment.

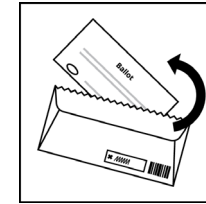
Election Law § 24.2-613 & 633



### Step 4. Start of Early Voting

All voters with approved absentee applications are mailed ballots 45 days prior to the election. In-person early voting also begins.

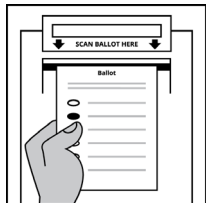
Election Law §24.2-701.1, 701.2, & 612



### Step 5. Preprocessing

Starting 7 days before the election, General Registrars are required to run all mailed ballots received through a machine without initiating ballot count totals.

Election Law § 24.2-709.1

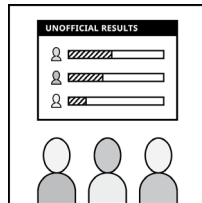


### Step 6. Election Day

General Registrars scan and count all the valid votes to determine the results of each contest in the election.

In Virginia, General Registrars tabulate in-person ballots at the poll sites where the vote was cast.

Election Law § 24.2-643



### Step 7. Unofficial results

General Registrars begin publishing unofficial results after the close of polls on Election Day.

Results are unofficial until after all ballot return deadlines have passed and after General Registrars have counted every valid ballot received.

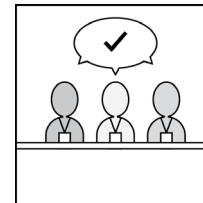
Election Law § 24.2-709  
Find unofficial results on [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov).



### Step 8. Risk Limiting Audit

Audits are a normal check and balance that is part of every election. We use audits to confirm that election equipment accurately interpreted and tallied voters' ballots, that the outcome of the election reflects how voters voted, and that election workers followed procedures.

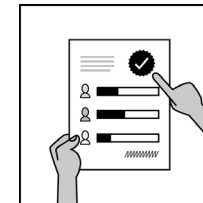
Election Law § 24.2-671.2



### Step 9. Canvass

After all valid ballots have been counted, the Electoral Board reviews the election results, resolves discrepancies, and verifies the outcome of the election.

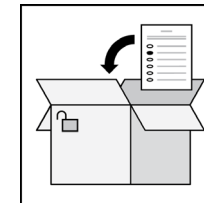
Election Law § 24.2-671 & 672



### Step 10. Certification of Official Results

After the Electoral Board reviews and verifies the outcome of the election, official election results are certified by the local Electoral Board and submitted to the state.

Election Law § 24.2-675



### Step 11. Ballot Storage

General Registrars securely store all paper ballots and other records as part of the official record for 24 months. We store ballots that include federal contests for 24 months. We are not allowed to open the boxes during this time. After 24 months, the ballots are destroyed.

