

10 Ways to Assure Your Absentee Ballot Will Be Counted

1. Assure that you are registered to vote at your current residence address before the registration deadline for the election. For most elections, the registration deadline is 22 days before the election date. Call 703.228.3456 to check your registration status.
2. Submit an Absentee Ballot Application well in advance of the election, if possible. If you know you will be absent or unable to go to the polls, try to submit your absentee application by about two months before the election.
3. Apply for your ballot. Most voters should use the Virginia Absentee Ballot Application. If you are in the armed forces or a citizen residing overseas, you should use the Federal Post Card Application.
4. As soon as you receive your ballot package, open it and review the contents carefully. Read the voting instructions before you unseal your ballot.
5. In the presence of a witness, open the sealed “Ballot Within” envelope.
6. Mark your ballot, review your selections carefully, and then fold and seal it in the “Marked Ballot” envelope enclosed with your ballot package.
7. In the presence of a witness, complete the affirmation section printed on the “Marked Ballot” envelope. Be sure both you and your witness sign and date the envelope where indicated.
8. Enclose the “Marked Ballot” envelope in the pre-printed return envelope enclosed.
9. Affix first-class postage to the envelope (or return it via commercial courier, such as FedEx, UPS, or DHL).
10. Return your ballot in ample time for the Electoral Board to receive it by no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.