

working for a
radically
hopeful
future

why voting matters

All of the decisions about how your community is shaped - including how tax dollars are spent, how we respond to harm, where to fill a pothole or where to build a sidewalk, what school safety looks like, and more - are decisions made by the officials you vote into office.

Ask your elected officials where they stand on issues like:
protections for sexual and domestic violence,
living wages for all,
racial justice,
sensible gun laws,
access to healthcare,
affordable housing,
and safety and justice.

When you raise your voice with others in your community, you have POWER:
the power to create a new vision for your community,
to support candidates who share your vision and your values,
to vote those candidates into office,
and to hold them accountable when they get there.

Lift your voice. Lift your world.
Vote the first Tuesday in November!

BUILDING **thriving**
COMMUNITIES

A project of Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Step 1: Make sure you're registered to vote

You must be registered by the second Tuesday in October (21 days before Election Day)

- **Check your voter registration here and confirm its accuracy:**

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.

- If you're eligible to vote and are not yet registered, be sure to register by the second Tuesday in October so you can vote in the upcoming election.
- If you're ineligible to vote because of a felony conviction and want to start the process of restoring your voting rights check here: <https://solutions.virginia.gov/RestorationOfRights>

Step 2: Make a plan to vote

- **Mail-in voting: traditionally known as "absentee voting."**

- Anyone registered to vote in Virginia is eligible to request an absentee ballot, and can do so here: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>
- There will be an option to have your absentee ballot mailed to a different address than the one where you are registered. Once you request your absentee ballot, they will begin to be mailed out 45 days before Election Day (mid-September).
- Though the deadline to request an absentee ballot is 8 days before the election, request it early to avoid any delay in postal service or other circumstance that may prevent you from receiving your ballot on time. Mail your absentee ballot it as soon as possible to make sure your voice is heard!
- Instead of returning your ballot by mail, you can also return your sealed absentee ballot to your local registrar's office or other designated location (stay tuned for more information regarding ballot drop boxes in Virginia!)

*Note: Traditionally, absentee ballots require a witness signature before being returned. If you are unable to safely have a witness present, this requirement is waived.

- **In-person early voting, also known as "in-person absentee voting."**

- Anyone registered to vote in Virginia is eligible to vote early in person at your local registrar's office or other designated early voting location. This begins 45 days before Election Day and goes until the Saturday before Election Day. Contact your local registrar here to determine your options for in-person early voting:

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>

- **In-person voting at your polling location on November 3 between 6am-7pm.**

- Virginia no longer requires a photo-ID to vote, but bringing one with you will help get you through the process quickly. Other acceptable forms are your voter registration card, employee-issued photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, or other government document that lists your name and the address where you are registered. If you are unable to bring any of these forms, you may sign a sworn statement confirming you are who you say you are and then cast your ballot.

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Step 3:

Encourage everyone you know to vote as well!

- Advocates hold so much information and often serve as community hubs for dispersing valuable resources and even for changing individual behavior. Simply making voting information, like important deadlines, myth-busting about how to access absentee ballots or vote safely during COVID, etc. are valuable and impactful strategies for helping to ensure survivors and their communities participate in upcoming elections.
- Your agency (or you personally) can share images on social media, leave materials in shared shelter and advocacy spaces, include education on voter access as part of your ongoing staff or board meetings, and utilize other campaign materials from the Building Thriving Communities Toolkit!

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