

ABSENTEE GO-TO GUIDE

2026 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3

What is absentee voting?

- Absentee voting allows qualified voters to cast a ballot by mail prior to Election Day.

Who can vote absentee?

- Only voters who have a qualifying reason can vote absentee.
- Common qualifying reasons can be:
 - Having a physical disability.
 - Being age 65 and older.
- For a full list of qualifying reasons, visit our absentee voting page on [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov).

Step 1: Get your application

- You can submit your request for an application as early as **January 1** of the election year.
- Call, visit, or send your request by U.S. mail to your county voter registration office.
 - You must provide your name, date of birth, and last four digits of your Social Security Number.
 - You will be mailed an application.

Step 2: Complete, sign, and return the application

- Return the application by U.S. mail or personal delivery to your county voter registration office as soon as possible.
- The deadline to return your application is **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23**.
- You will receive your absentee ballot in the mail after your application is returned.

Step 3: Vote and Return your Absentee Ballot

- Carefully mark your ballot.
- Place the ballot in the "ballot here-in" envelope and place the "ballot here-in" envelope in the return envelope.
- Be sure to sign the voter's oath and have your signature witnessed.
- Anyone age 18 or older can witness your signature. A notary is not necessary.

- Return your ballot to your county voter registration office or an early voting center either by mail or personal delivery.
- You must present your Photo ID when returning the ballot in person.
- Acceptable Photo IDs include:
 - Driver's license issued by a state within the United States.
 - Another form of Photo ID issued by the DMV or its equivalent by a state within the United States.
 - US Passport.
 - Military Photo ID issued by the federal government.
 - South Carolina voter registration card containing a photograph of the voter.
- Ballots must be received by your county voter registration office by **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3**.
- Ballots returned by mail should be mailed no later than **one week prior to Election Day** to help ensure timely delivery.
- Visit [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov) to find information about how immediate family members and authorized representatives can make an absentee request or return a ballot for another person. All requestors are limited to five requests in addition to their own per election.

How can I track the status of my absentee request?

- Check the status of your absentee request and track your ballot online at [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov). You can also contact your county voter registration office for updates regarding your absentee ballot.

Military and Overseas Citizens

- Special provisions are available for military and overseas citizens.
- Go to [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov) or [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov) for more information.

every vote matters.
every vote counts.

scVOTES.gov

To be eligible to register, you must be:
A U.S. Citizen | S.C. Resident | 18 years or older