



# GOVERNMENT MATTERS

E-NEWS OF NOTE FROM GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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## Virginia Primary Voting Starts Soon – Here's a Quick Primer

As always, we Virginians get no rest from the election cycle during odd-numbered years. And 2023 is an important one at the state level here – all legislative seats in our General Assembly are on the ballot with control of both the House and Senate up for grabs.

The primary date is not until Tuesday, June 20, but the first day of in-person early voting starts tomorrow, May 5. **For all of our Virginia employees, see the \*VIRGINIA VOTER RESOURCES\* section below for some key deadlines and information to educate yourself on candidates.** We encourage you to get informed as you participate in the electoral process – self-education will be more important than ever with numerous recent redistricting changes.

### OVERVIEW OF THE 2023 VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Party control of the Virginia General Assembly is now narrowly split – the Senate is controlled by Democrats (22-18) and the House by Republicans (52-48). The 2024 legislature should have many new faces due to the redistricting process. In 2020, voters had created a Redistricting Commission to draw legislative maps every ten years; however, the Commission did not reach agreement, resulting in two Special Masters and the Supreme Court of Virginia taking over the process. This set the stage for a major change to redistricting in Virginia: incumbency was not taken into effect whatsoever in the newly redrawn and renumbered districts.

In the House of Delegates, 44 out of 100 delegates, many of the same party, were grouped into the same district. In the state Senate, 19 out of 40 senators were initially drawn in together. The new lines have forced a wave of early retirements, inspired moves to new districts, and set up intra-party primaries and conventions. It's expected that each chamber could turn over a quarter or even more of its members before next January's regular session.

#### Note on Primary Elections

In the June primary, about a quarter of House seats and almost half of Senate seats will hold primaries for one or both parties. This [Board of Elections document](#) (as of 4/21) shows those districts that will hold General Assembly primaries. Note that two Republican Senate districts (2 and 10) are holding delegate conventions instead of primary elections to choose candidates.

**\*VIRGINIA VOTER RESOURCES\***

#### Key Deadlines/Dates for Primary Voters

- **Primary Election Day: Tuesday, June 20, 2023**
  - Polls are open on Election Day from 6 A.M. - 7 P.M.
  - Last day\* to [register to vote](#): Tuesday, May 30.

- Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: Friday, June 9.  
\*Voters may register after this date, through Election Day, and vote using a provisional ballot.

- **Other Voting Dates:**

*Note that since the COVID pandemic, Virginia is providing more flexibility for registration and early voting than in the past.*

- First day of in-person early voting at your [local registrar's office](#): Friday, May 5.
- All voter registration offices (same link above) open for early voting: Saturday, June 10.
- The last day of in-person early voting: Saturday, June 17 at 5:00 p.m.

### **Find Out about Your Candidates**

*Here are a couple resources for finding out more about your specific candidates in the primary and general elections – again every House/Senate district has been redrawn and renumbered.*

- For an overall view of your candidates and your district, go here:
  - <https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/index.php/legislator>
  - Type in your home address, it will show “Current” and “New in 2024” for the state delegate/senator tabs – then “Click to View Boundary” to see the difference.
- The Virginia Department of Elections has official primary candidate lists here (scroll down to the “June 20, 2023 Primary Elections” section): <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/>

### **One More Resource**

Finally, ERIE’s national trade association, APCIA, has a website that will help facilitate your registration and provide information about the candidates. Please visit this link for more information: <https://voiceofamericasinsurers.org/apciavotes/>