



GOVERNMENT MATTERS

E-NEWS OF NOTE FROM GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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Early Voting Has Started in Virginia – Here’s What You Need to Know About the Election

We Virginians don’t get a break from the election cycle during odd-numbered years. And 2023 is no exception – next month’s general election is a critical one in which all seats in the state General Assembly are on the ballot. Party control of both the state House and Senate will be up for grabs, and many local offices – like county supervisors and school board members – will also be elected.

Early voting started in late September, so [here are some voter deadlines, followed by a high-level election overview and candidate resources](#). We encourage you to get informed and to participate – voter education is more important than ever with the significant redistricting changes this year.

Key Virginia Voting Dates

- **Registration Deadline*: Monday, October 16, 2023**
You can register, check your status, or update your info [here](#).
**Voters may register after this date, through Election Day, and vote with a provisional ballot.*
- **Election Day: Tuesday, November 7, 2023**
Polls are open on Election Day from 6 A.M. - 7 P.M.
- **Other Voting Dates**
Since the COVID pandemic, Virginia has instituted much more flexibility in terms of early voting and registration.
 - First day of in-person early voting at your [local registrar's office](#): Friday, September 22
 - Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot via mail: Friday, October 27
 - Voter registration offices open for early voting: Saturday, October 28
 - The last day of in-person early voting at your [local voter registration office](#): Saturday, November 4 at 5:00 p.m.

2023 General Election Overview

With no statewide executive races on the ballot, control of the Virginia General Assembly is taking center stage in 2023 as all 140 seats are up for reelection. Both legislative chambers have been closely divided in recent years – Democrats currently control the Senate (22-18) and Republicans the House (49-46 with five vacancies); however, recent redistricting changes for 2023 have made things rather unclear heading into the election.

Back in 2020, voters created a specific redistricting commission to draw legislative maps every ten years; however, the commission did not reach a consensus, 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 the state: incumbency was not taken into effect whatsoever in the redrawn and renumbered districts.

The new lines forced a wave of early retirements, inspired moves to new districts, and set up intra-party primaries and conventions. Nearly 25 percent of Senators and 20 percent of Delegates decided to retire – one estimate indicated the General Assembly is losing around 600 years of legislative experience to this factor. Additionally, six incumbents lost their seats in the June primary election.

As a result of all these changes, political pundits are hard-pressed to forecast the election outcome – whether legislative control by Democrats, a “trifecta” for Republicans (controlling both houses along with the governor’s office) or some form of a split General Assembly. Regardless, one certainty is that there will be many new faces in Richmond at the start of the 2024 legislative session.

Candidate Information

Here are a few resources for finding out more about your specific candidates– again every House and Senate district has been redrawn and renumbered.

- For an overall view of your candidates and district, click [here](#).
 - Type in your address, it will show “Current” and “**New in 2024” for the state delegate and state senator tabs – use “click to view boundary” to view the old/new district maps.
- The Virginia Department of Elections has a page with candidate lists [here](#).
 - There are three links for the November 7, 2023 – General Assembly (use the district numbers from the legislator finder above), Local Office (by county) and local referendums.

One Final Resource

[The ERIE Action Network](#), our co-branded website with the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), includes a variety of voter resources found [here](#).