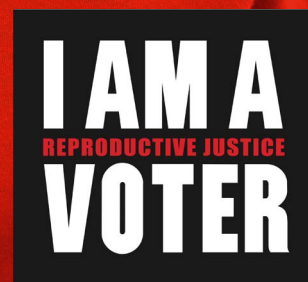


BE A REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE VOTER.



**TRUST BLACK WOMEN TO MAKE PERSONAL DECISIONS
THAT ARE BEST FOR US AND OUR FAMILIES.**

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 5.



f @ BLACKWOMENSRJ
BLACKWOMEN.VOTE

VIRGINIA 2024 VOTING GUIDELINES

This Voter Guide is intended to be used solely for educational purposes and is not meant to support or oppose any candidate or political party. Any use of this Voter Guide should be for 501(c)(3)-compliant purposes only. This Voter Guide shall not be used for any partisan, political, or electioneering activities by any organization or individual.

Your Plan to Vote should include answers to the following questions:

AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS at <https://vote.civcnation.org/register/iamarjvoter/> to ensure that you have not been purged from the voter roll in your state.

Voter Registration Deadlines:

- > Online registration deadline: Monday, October 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.
- > Register by mail deadline: Must be postmarked by Friday, October 25, 2024
- > In-person registration deadline: October 15, by 5 p.m.

HOW WILL I VOTE?

Early Voting:

Early voting in Virginia begins Friday, September 20.
Early voting in Virginia ends Saturday, November 2.

Absentee/Mail-in Voting:

Any registered voter can apply for an absentee-by-mail ballot without a reason.

- > **Online:** Use the elections department's Citizen Portal, or email or fax a completed application to your registrar's office.
- > **By mail:** Download and complete an application, then mail it to your registrar's office. You can also call your registrar's office to request an application.
- > **In person:** Complete and return an application to your registrar's office.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 25.

You may apply for an emergency absentee ballot if hospitalization, illness, or the death of an immediate family member caused you to miss the absentee application deadline or keeps you from voting at the polls.

Use an absentee ballot tool to prepare your application.

Find your local election office to drop off or mail your absentee ballot application.
All local election offices will accept mailed or hand-delivered forms.

Request your absentee or mail-in ballot as soon as possible and return it immediately. We are recommending you mail your ballot in NO LATER than 3 weeks before November 5 to ensure that your vote is counted.

Please contact your local election office if you have any further questions about the exact process.

Return your absentee ballot by mail or in person:

- > **By mail:** Mail your completed ballot to your local registrar's office in the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided. Your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day (Tuesday, November 5), and received no later than noon on Friday, November 8.
- > **In person:** Hand-deliver your ballot to your registrar's office or any polling place within your county or city before 7 p.m. on Election Day. Other ballot drop-off locations may be available in your county or city. Check with your registrar for other ballot drop-off locations.

Track your ballot by entering your information into Ballot Scout or, if you live in Fairfax County, BallotTrax. Voters in Prince William County also can track their ballot using BallotTrax.

In-Person Voting on Election Day: If you are voting in person on November 5, make a plan that allows time for longer lines than usual. Stay in line until you vote, no matter what time it is, and no matter what anyone tells you. If you are in line when the polls close, you are still entitled to vote.

Find your registrar's office or a nearby satellite polling location, map out your route to get there, including parking, and (whenever possible) go vote with other members of your community. Wear comfortable shoes and bring snacks and water. If you need more information about your polling location, contact your registrar's office.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can cast a ballot after polls close if you were in line before 7 p.m.

HOW TO VOTE IN VIRGINIA

To register in Virginia, you must:

- > Be a resident of Virginia (a person who has come to Virginia for temporary purposes and intends to return to another state is not considered a resident for voting purposes)
- > Be a U.S. citizen
- > Be 18 years old (any person who is 17 years old and will be 18 years of age at the next general election shall be permitted to register in advance and also vote in any intervening primary or special election)
- > Not be registered and plan to vote in another state
- > Not currently declared mentally incompetent by a court of law
- > Not have been convicted of a felony; if you have, your right to vote must have been restored

Find more information on voting rights restoration

Check Your Voter Registration Online: You can look up your voter registration record and verify that your information is correct using <https://weall.vote/iamarjvoter>

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO VOTE IN VIRGINIA?

In-Person Voter ID Requirements

If you are voting in person in Virginia (including voting early), you must provide either an acceptable form of ID or sign an ID Confirmation Statement at the polls.

Acceptable forms of ID:

- > Voter Card you received when you registered to vote
- > Virginia DMV-issued driver's license or identification card
- > Valid U.S. passport
- > Any ID card issued by the U.S., Virginia, or a local Virginia government
- > Valid student ID card issued by a U.S. university or community college
- > Valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia
- > Employer-issued photo ID card
- > Any current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with your name and address
- > An ID confirmation statement

View a more detailed list of acceptable IDs.

You can vote in person on Election Day from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. at your assigned polling place. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will still be allowed to vote.

Voters Without ID or Not Found in Registry on Polling Day: Any registered voter who does not possess one of the abovementioned forms of ID may sign an ID Confirmation Statement. A voter who does not bring an acceptable ID to the polls or does not sign an ID Confirmation Statement will be offered a provisional ballot.

A voter who arrives at the polling place without an acceptable form of identification, or who refuses to sign an ID Confirmation Statement, will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification or sign and submit an ID Confirmation Statement so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification or sign and submit an ID Confirmation Statement to the local electoral board. Voters may submit a copy of their ID or ID Confirmation Statement via fax, email, or in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID or signed ID Confirmation Statement must be delivered to the electoral board by noon on the Friday following the election, or the provisional ballot cannot be counted. A Friday postmark will not be sufficient if either of these are not delivered to the electoral board by noon on Friday.

The written notice given to the voter will provide the necessary information, including email, fax, and address where the ID or ID Confirmation Statement should be delivered.

For more information on Virginia Provisional Ballot: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/training/Intro-to-Provisional-Ballots.pdf>

COVID protections: Most voting locations will be equipped with PPE and social distancing guidelines. Check with your County Clerk for more information.

Polling locations and times may vary during Early Vote and Election Day. Check with your County Clerk and Secretary of State for information, including locations and times.

RECENT VOTING CHANGES IN VIRGINIA

- > Witness signatures are no longer required on absentee ballots under a 2023 law. Instead, registered voters must include the last four digits of their Social Security number and their birth year. You may use your voter ID number if you do not have a Social Security number.
- > A 2024 law requires that voters are notified of any changes to their polling place within 30 days of an election. Previously, the law only required 15 days. If a polling place changes, a notice must be posted at the previous location. The deadline for a request to vote by mail to be received by is Tuesday, October 29, 2024.

HOW IS MY COMMUNITY VOTING?

Share Your Plan to Vote with your family, friends, and community. Help them develop a Plan to Vote. Support each other and vote together, no matter how you vote. Send in your ballots on the same day, vote early together, or plan on getting in line as a community on November 5.

IMPORTANT DATES

- > Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
- > The deadline to request a ballot by mail for absentee voting is Friday, October 25, at 5 p.m.
- > The early voting period runs from Friday, September 20, 2024, to Saturday, November 2, 2024, but dates and hours may vary based on where you live.

See <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/> for additional information.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Virginia Secretary of State:
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>
- Virginia ACLU Resources
<https://www.acluva.org/en/get-help/links-other-resources>
- State General Election Races:
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>

BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ISSUES

COST OF LIVING: The cost of living is a major concern for Black women voters in Virginia, with 89% of respondents indicating that lowering the cost of living and inflation is extremely or very important when thinking about getting out to vote. Economic pressures such as rising housing costs and the increased cost of essential goods create significant challenges for Black women as they strive to provide for their families and maintain financial stability. These economic difficulties are deeply connected to reproductive justice, which emphasizes the right to have children, or not to have children, and raise children in safe and supportive environments. When the cost of living is burdensome, it limits the ability of Black women to exercise these rights freely, making it critical to address economic issues as part of the broader fight for reproductive justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

RACISM / RACIAL JUSTICE: Racism and racial justice are pressing issues for Black women voters in Virginia, with 60% of respondents reporting that they have experienced racial and gender bias within the healthcare system. This discrimination not only hinders their access to quality healthcare, but it also perpetuates systemic inequalities that undermine their well-being and autonomy. Reproductive justice is fundamentally linked to racial justice, as it calls for the right to live in a society free from discrimination, where Black women can make decisions about their bodies and families without fear of bias or inequity. Addressing systemic racism is essential to ensuring that Black women in Virginia can fully exercise their reproductive rights and achieve true justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

HEALTHCARE: Healthcare is a top concern for Black women voters in Virginia, with 85% of respondents emphasizing the importance of increasing access to mental healthcare as a critical issue when thinking about getting out to vote. Additionally, 60% of Black women have experienced racial and gender bias in the healthcare system, which exacerbates their challenges in receiving equitable care. These healthcare concerns are closely tied to reproductive justice, which advocates for the right to health and bodily autonomy, free from discrimination and bias. Ensuring that healthcare is accessible, affordable, and free from prejudice is crucial for Black women in Virginia to make informed and empowered decisions about their reproductive lives, making healthcare equity a vital component of reproductive justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to prompt candidates to address the key concerns of Black women voters in Virginia while emphasizing the importance of reproductive justice in policy platforms.

- How will you address the rising cost of living in Virginia to ensure that Black women and their families can afford stable housing and essential services, recognizing that economic security is crucial for making informed reproductive choices?
- What specific steps will you take to combat racial and gender bias in Virginia's healthcare system, ensuring that Black women receive equitable and quality care that is essential for their reproductive health and overall well-being?
- How do you plan to expand access to affordable healthcare, including mental health services, for Black women in Virginia, ensuring that they can make empowered decisions about their reproductive lives without facing barriers due to cost or discrimination?
- What actions will you take to promote racial justice in Virginia, understanding that addressing systemic racism is critical to ensuring that Black women can live in safe, supportive environments and make reproductive choices free from discrimination?
- Given the importance of accessible reproductive healthcare, how will you ensure that Black women in Virginia have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and their futures without facing barriers or restrictions?

YOUR RIGHTS

It's illegal to intimidate voters and a federal crime to "intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote as she may choose."

What to do if you experience voter intimidation:

- Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español).
Asian/Pacific Islander Language: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)
Arabic: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)
- Report intimidation to your local election officials. Their offices will be open on Election Day.