

EDUCATION VOTES '08



Now that you are registered to vote ...

Polling places and locations

Most South Carolina polls in each precinct are open from 7a.m. until 7p.m. on Election Day. The name of your precinct can be found on your voter registration certificate/card. To obtain more information about your voting location, contact your local voter registration office. Poll watchers representing political parties, ballot measures, or candidates are allowed to observe elections at the polls only if they wear proper identification and present proper written certification. For more information, contact the local election commission or the South Carolina Election Commission.

It is illegal to hand out or display any political material within 200 feet of the entrance of a polling place on Election Day. The counting of ballots after the polls close is open to the public.

Voting Booths Policies

Only one voter is allowed to vote at a time.

A voter is allowed three minutes to vote using a voting machine.

Husbands and wives cannot vote together in the same booth.

Assistance in casting a ballot is allowed only if the voter is physically handicapped, illiterate or blind.

Access for disabled voters

South Carolina's plan for implementing the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), emphasizes the importance of implementing a uniform statewide electronic, touch screen voting system. This system is easy to use, secure and accurate. It is designed to enable disabled persons to vote more easily.

Disabled voters should notify a poll worker upon entering the polling place. He or she will facilitate the voting process.

For more information, visit: www.scvotes.org or www.state.sc.us/scsec.

Change of address

The registration form can also be used for change of address or other modifications to your voter registration information. For instance, if you move to a new county, you must re-register. If you move to a

new precinct within the same county, you must update your address change at your local Board of Voter Registration office.

Provisional ballots

If the validity of your voter registration is challenged for some reason, you may cast a provisional ballot. After a hearing to determine the validity of your voter registration, your ballot may or may not be challenged. If you suspect that someone is casting a vote improperly, you may challenge that voter by immediately contacting a poll worker. The voter will then be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.

Why would a voter be challenged?

Challenges are rare but a voter may be challenged for a number of reasons including: failure to present proper identification when registering to vote by mail or if someone challenges the validity of a voter's listed address.

Provisional ballot hearings

As required by Section 7-13-830 of the 1976 SC Code of Law, the county Board of Canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all ballots challenged. All parties concerned should be notified of this hearing.

Provisional ballot status

If you have voted a provisional ballot, you may determine the status of your ballot by following either of the following steps:

- Go to SC election Commission Website at www.state.sc.us/scsec
- Click on the Provisional Ballot Status link
- Follow the instructions on the page
- Contact the SC Election Commission for information about toll-free access.

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If a vote is challenged

If you are a challenged voter, you are entitled to be present at the hearing overseen by the county Board of Canvassers. You are entitled to be represented by legal counsel and to present evidence on your behalf.

If a voter was challenged for not providing proper identification when registering to vote by mail, that voter must provide proper identification prior to or at the provisional ballot hearing for the vote to be counted.

If you are the challenger

If you are the challenger, you must be present at the provisional hearing to present evidence and/or witnesses in support of your challenge. Prior to the hearing, you may present written evidence to the county election commission in support of your challenge. If you take none of these steps to support your challenge, the vote will be counted.