

Election News

Voting in June Primary Elections

All voters are eligible to vote absentee in the June Primary and Runoff elections. Governor Henry McMaster signed into law legislation passed by the General Assembly that authorizes any voter to vote absentee in any election in June 2020. This provision expires on July 1, 2020 and does NOT apply to any election after that date.

As a safer alternative, we strongly encourage voting by mail or you may vote absentee in person, or at the polls. However, we are practicing social distancing at the Voter Registration office and at the polling places, which may cause long lines. The voting process will move slower as a result of following the recommended CDC guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you would like to vote by mail, please contact the Voter Registration & Elections office as soon as possible at 803-541-1060 so we can mail you an application to get your ballot for the June elections. The Primary election will be conducted on June 9, 2020. Any necessary runoff election will be conducted on June 23, 2020.

To get your absentee application online, you **must** be able to **print** your application or save your application for printing later. You can only get your application online once. The application must be mailed to the Voter Registration & Elections office, P. O. Box 668, Barnwell, SC, OR delivered to the office located at 367 Fuldner Road, Barnwell, SC.

Requirements to Challenge a Ballot

Poll managers, any voter, and any qualified watcher may challenge the vote of a person who may be known or suspected not to be a qualified voter. A challenge may also be made if you have good reason to believe the person has already voted or has become disqualified for any cause. Challenges of ballots cast in person in the absentee precinct and at the polling place on election day must be made prior to the voter casting the ballot. No challenges can be made after that time. All challenges must be addressed to poll managers and not directly to voters. Challenges of absentee by mail ballots must be made prior to separating the ballot from absentee return envelope, which can begin as early as 9:00 a.m. on the day preceding the election. Challenges in the absentee precinct are very rare because the voter has the opportunity to make address changes or otherwise correct his voting record with election officials before casting an absentee ballot. If a challenged voter casts a provisional ballot, the challenger must appear or produce evidence at the provisional ballot hearing to sustain the challenge; otherwise, the ballot will be counted. See S.C. Code sections 7-13-810 and 7-13-830.