

Absentee Voting allows voters to cast a ballot prior to election day. Absentee voting can begin as early as January 1 of the election year, however, ballots are usually available beginning approximately 30 days prior to an election.

### Reasons to Vote Absentee

- ⦿ On vacation outside county of residence
- ⦿ Age 65 or older
- ⦿ Students living outside their county of residence and their spouse or dependents
- ⦿ Members of the military or Merchant Marine and their spouse or dependents
- ⦿ United States citizen residing outside the U.S.
- ⦿ A person with a disability or a person attending a person with a disability
- ⦿ For employment reasons
- ⦿ Jury duty on election day
- ⦿ In jail awaiting trial
- ⦿ Serving as a poll watcher/manager
- ⦿ Governmental employees living outside county of residence and their spouses and dependents residing with them
- ⦿ Admitted to the hospital as an emergency patient within four days of an election
- ⦿ A death or funeral within three days of an election

### Absentee Voting at the County Voter Registration Office

You may vote absentee in person until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

You will be asked to provide one of the following types of photo identification:

- ⦿ S.C. Driver's License
- ⦿ S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles ID Card
- ⦿ S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- ⦿ Federal Military ID
- ⦿ U.S. Passport

### Absentee Voting by Mail

A Photo ID is not required to vote absentee by mail.

- ⦿ **Step 1** Get an absentee application online at [scVOTES.org](https://scVOTES.org) or request an application form from your county voter registration and elections office by phone, mail, email or fax. Applications may also be requested by a member of the voter's immediate family or an authorized representative.
- ⦿ **Step 2** Complete and sign the application and return it to your county voter registration and elections office as soon as possible and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election.
- ⦿ **Step 3** You will be mailed an absentee ballot.
- ⦿ **Step 4** Vote the ballot following ballot instructions and return it to your county voter registration and elections office no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. You may return the ballot personally or by mail. You may also have another person return the ballot for you, but you must first complete an authorization to return absentee ballot form, available from your county voter registration and elections office.

### Military and Overseas Citizens

Special provisions are available to make voting easier for military and overseas citizens. Start by getting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at [FVAP.gov](https://FVAP.gov) and submitting it to your county voter registration and elections office.

Military and overseas citizens can send and receive voting materials by fax and email. Federal law requires absentee ballots to be sent to military and overseas citizens at least 45 days prior to an election.

Military and overseas citizens can also use the Electronic Voting Accessibility Tool (EVAT) available at [scVOTES.org](https://scVOTES.org). EVAT allows voters to access, mark and print their ballots. The ballot must be returned to the voter's county registration and elections office by mail, fax, or email by 7:00 p.m. on election day. You can visit [scVOTES.org](https://scVOTES.org) or the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website [FVAP.gov](https://FVAP.gov) for more information.