



Town of Vienna Elections – May 19, 2020

What You Should Know about Absentee Balloting and What to Expect at the Polls

The Town's May 5 mayoral and Town Council elections have been postponed by Gov. Ralph Northam to May 19 due to concerns related to the coronavirus emergency. In-person voting will take place from 6 am-7 pm Tuesday, May 19, in the Vienna Community Center Auditorium. However, voting via absentee ballot is strongly encouraged. (Please note that the deadline to register to vote in order to participate in the Town's 2020 elections has passed.) Here's what voters should know.

Absentee ballots

The deadline for requesting absentee ballots has been extended: The Fairfax County Office of Elections must **receive** all absentee ballot applications by 5 pm May 12.

Absentee ballot applications are available:

- at elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation
- at the kiosk at the front door of Town Hall
- by calling the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776 and requesting that an application be mailed to you.

Use the illness/disability code to request a ballot.

At this time, absentee ballots cast in the Town's elections must have a witness's signature.

Curbside absentee voting is available at the Fairfax County Government Center from 8 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday and from 9 am-5 pm Saturday, May 16. It's not required, but appreciated if you call ahead: 703-222-0776.

It's important that absentee ballots be returned to the Office of Elections, even if unmarked. Ballots are due in the Office of Elections by 7 pm Election Day. They may be "walked in" to the Office of Elections, but absentee ballots will NOT be accepted at the polling location.

If you have requested an absentee ballot but have not returned it and go to the polling location to vote, be sure to bring your absentee ballot with you. It will be "spoiled," and you will be allowed to vote at the polling location. If you have not returned it and do not bring your absentee ballot with you, you will be required to cast a provisional ballot.

What to expect at the polling location

If you choose to vote in person on Election Day, expect a slower-than-normal process. Please be patient.

Voters will be directed to enter the community center at one location and exit another. A “voters only lane” will be used to maintain a safe distance between voters approaching the community center and candidate areas.

Once inside, floor markings will indicate how voters should line up and ensure that they remain separated by six feet. An election official also will be monitoring social separation. No more than two voters at a time will be allowed in the auditorium where polling will take place.

Contact between voters and election officers will be limited as much as possible. Only two check-in stations will be set up, and ballots will be issued there. Only one vote tabulator will be used.

Election officers will wear masks and gloves. Face coverings will not be provided for voters, but they are welcome to wear their own.

Curbside voting will be available, but only one election official will be working curbside voting. A phone number will be provided to call when you arrive for curbside voting. Your “place” in line will be marked, and a ballot will be brought to you when it’s your turn.

Voters must have one acceptable **photo ID** and be in line by 7 pm in order to cast a ballot.

Additional recommendations

- Please don’t use hand sanitizer just before voting. Sanitizer soaks into and causes the ballot paper to swell, making it difficult for the tabulator to “read.” A hand-sanitizing station will be provided for voters on their way out of the polling location.
- Voters also are discouraged from using their own pens. Gel ink, too, can soak into ballots and make them difficult to read. Sanitized pens will be provided.
- Review the Town of Vienna **sample ballot** and determine how you plan to vote before arriving at the polling location.