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Election Administration at the State Level

Rob Wolfe
Field Services Manager
April 8, 2026

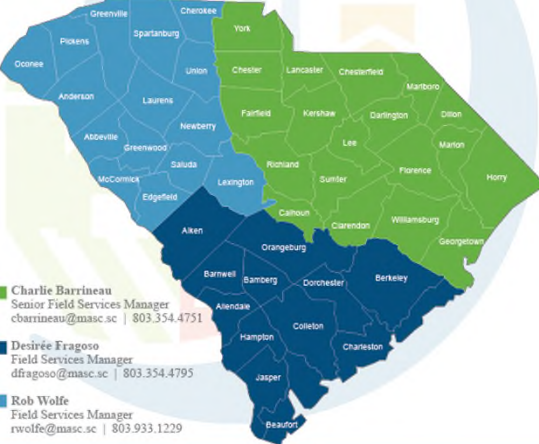
@muniassnsc | www.masc.sc





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Field Services Managers



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Pillars of Civility



Be as eager
to listen as to
speak.

Concentrate on
what you have
in common, not
what separates
you.

Act as you
would expect
someone to act
in your home.

Make your case
on merits, not
on what people
want to hear.

Your time is
valuable. So is
everyone else's.
Respect it.

Ask questions
to learn. Answer
questions with
respect.

Concentrate
on facts, not
theories.

Ask "what will
persuade people
in this room?" not
"what will make a
great tweet?"

Make your point
about the issue,
not the person.



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State Election Commission

- Founded as an Independent State Agency in 1969
- Five commissioners serve four year terms, must include one from each major political party.
- Meets monthly.
- Executive director hired by the commissioners upon the advice and consent of the State Senate.



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State Election Commission

- State Board of Canvassers
 - Certifies Election Results
 - Hears Protests and Appeals
- State Board of Voting Machine Commissioners
 - Certifies voting systems for use in the state



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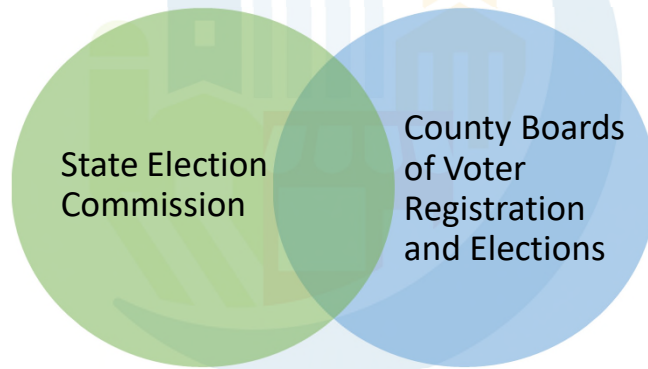
SEC Responsibilities

- Maintain statewide database of all registered voters (used for Voter Registration lists and jury rolls)
- Mandates and supports the use of a statewide voting system (cities and counties must use this system)
- Conduct Training and Certification Program
- Supervises county boards to ensure compliance with state and federal law
- Conduct a county compliance and post election audit program



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Responsibility for Elections



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County Election Boards

46 County Election Boards – One for each county

- Register voters
- Conduct candidate filing
- Prepare ballots
- Conduct absentee voting
- Determine polling places
- Hire and train poll managers



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How Elections Work in S.C.

- Voter Registration
- Precincts and Polling Places
- Candidates
- Ballots
- Voting
- Results
- Protests



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Voter Registration

Voters must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- A citizen of the United States
- Resident of SC and the county in which they wish to register
- Not confined to prison
- Not under a court order declaring mental incompetence
- Not serving a sentence (including parole or probation) for a felony conviction



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Voter Registration

How to Register

- Online at [SCVotes.gov](https://scvotes.gov)
- Submitting a form by mail, email, or fax to your county voter registration
- In person at the
 - County Election Office
 - DMV
 - Voter Outreach Events
 - Public Assistance Agencies
- May also update address through the DMV when you move



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Registering Online

Your Information

Enter your personal information as it appears on your driver's license or ID.

First Name *		DL/ID Number *	
Middle Name		Date of Birth *	mm/dd/yyyy
Last Name *		SSN *	
Suffix		Gender *	

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Continue

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Why Do I Need To Provide My Social Security Number?

Your Social Security Number is required to be provided by S.C. Code of Laws Section 7-5-185. It will only be used for official purposes. Your Social Security Number does not appear on any report produced by the State Election Commission nor is it subject to unauthorized release.



Enter your personal information as it appears on your Voter Registration card.

County *	
First Name *	
Last Name *	
Date of Birth *	mm/dd/yyyy
SSN (Last 4) *	0000

☐ I'm not a robot



Login

Association
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My Voter Info

Registered & Ready to Vote

PERSONAL DETAILS Name: Robert Wolfe Date of Birth: Gender: Male Race: White Registration Date: Registration Address:	VOTING PRECINCT Reg/Cert No. County: GREENVILLE Precinct: Sycamore Polling Location: Simpsonville Presbyterian Church 510 E Curtis St Simpsonville, SC 29681	VOTING DISTRICT US Congressional District: District 4 SC Senate District: District 8 SC House District: District 16 County Council: District 27 School District: 27 Greenville County Municipality: Simpsonville Magistrate Jury Area: Simpsonville	Questions? Update your registration information online or contact your county voter registration office. GREENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS Mailing Address: 225 S Pleasantburg Dr Greenville, SC 29607 Physical Address: 225 S Pleasantburg Dr Greenville, SC 29607 Open in Google Maps (864)467-7250 proach@greenvillecounty.org
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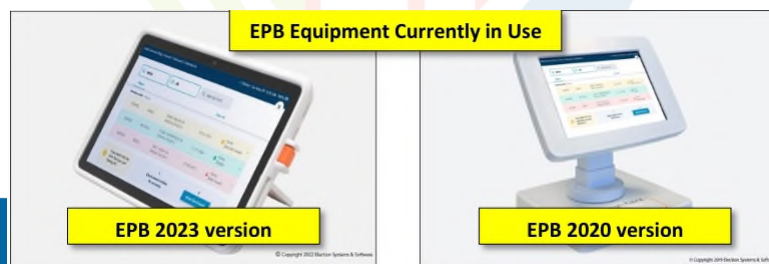
Voter Registration Quick Facts

- You must register be registered to vote at least 30 days prior to an election.
- The SEC tracks daily voter registrations (64,000 new voters registered in Q2 2026)
- As of August 31, 2026 there are 3,417,405 registered voters in South Carolina
- Voter registration is broken down by gender and age ranges.

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Voter Registration Lists

- The SEC prepares a list of all registered voters.
- Provides Electronic Poll Book (EPB) to precincts
 - Contains voter registration list
 - Verifies voter eligibility
 - Checks in voters and issues ballots
 - Paper lists are provided as backups



Voter Participation Stats

- The EPB tracks voters for voting in an election and within the statewide voter registration system
- Develops demographic statistics on voter participation
- Develops lists of voters who participated in a certain election
- Lists may be purchased by any registered South Carolina voter (SC Code 7-13-20(D)(13)).



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Precincts and Polling Places

- Each county is split into precincts
- Precincts are determined by the General Assembly
- Each one contains approximately 1,300 voters
- Each one contains a polling place where voters cast their vote
- Local election commissions determine polling places (Typically churches, public buildings, schools)



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Candidates

- Partisan candidates file in March of election year with SEC (Federal, statewide offices, multi-county offices) or county board (State Senate, State House, or County Council)
- Parties nominate candidates by primary or convention
- Independent Candidates file by petition by July 15th.
- Nonpartisan candidates file by August 15th.
- All candidates certified by August 15th.



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Ballots

- The SEC builds the voting system databases and sends to county
- The county prints the ballots and prepares the machines
- Paper ballots are ready by late September
- Voting machines are ready for polling places about one week prior to the voting period.



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Types of Ballots

- Paper Ballots are used for voting in person
 - Voters make selection on a ballot-marking device, which are then printed on the card. The ballot is cast by scanning it.
- Hand marked paper ballots are used for absentee voting
 - Voters mark selection by hand and return the ballot to be cast.



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Ballot Marking Device

- Voting machine that uses a touchscreen to make candidate selection.
- Prevents the voter from making multiple selections, and warns a voter if a selection has been left blank.
- The machine prints the ballot, the voter reviews it, and then places it in the scanner for tabulation.
- A ballot marking device is simply a printer, it does not tabulate.



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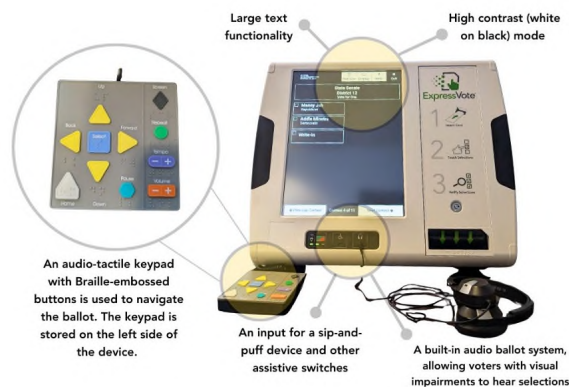
Benefits of Paper Voting

- Familiar process for voters
- Paper
 - Secure
 - Leaves an audit trail
- Accessible
 - Headsets
 - Sip and Puff Device Compatible
 - High Contrast
 - Large Text
 - Braille controller
 - Computer generated voice



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Accessible Ballot Marking Device



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DS3000 Ballot Scanner



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Ballot Auditing

- Ballots are audited to limit risk.
 - Counties hand count audits
 - Ensures that the number of ballots cast was accurately recorded.
 - Results verification audits
 - Software scans ballot images and retabulates to ensure accuracy of the results.
- Third party verification
- Audits for Statewide elections are available on scvotes.gov.



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Absentee Voting

- Absentee Voting vs. Early Voting
 - By Mail only for 8 listed reasons.
 - <https://scvotes.gov/voters/absentee-voting/>
 - Voters must request the application.
 - Return and complete application.
 - Vote and return ballot



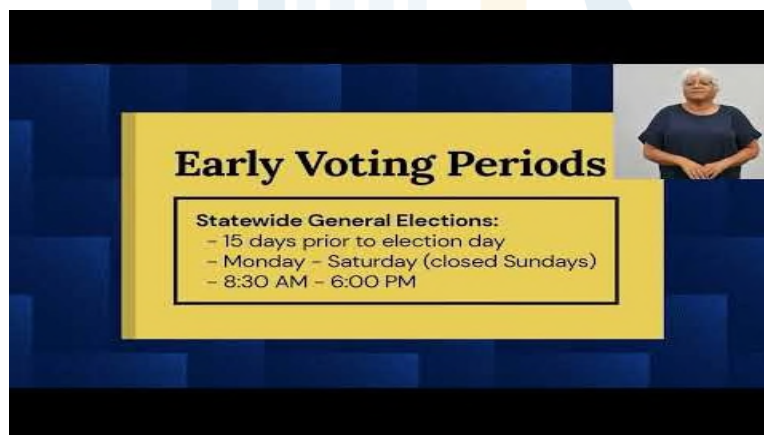
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Absentee Voting



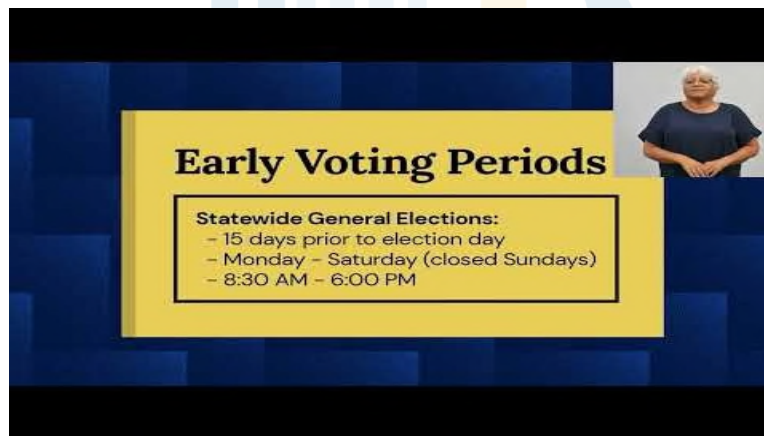
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Early Voting



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Early Voting



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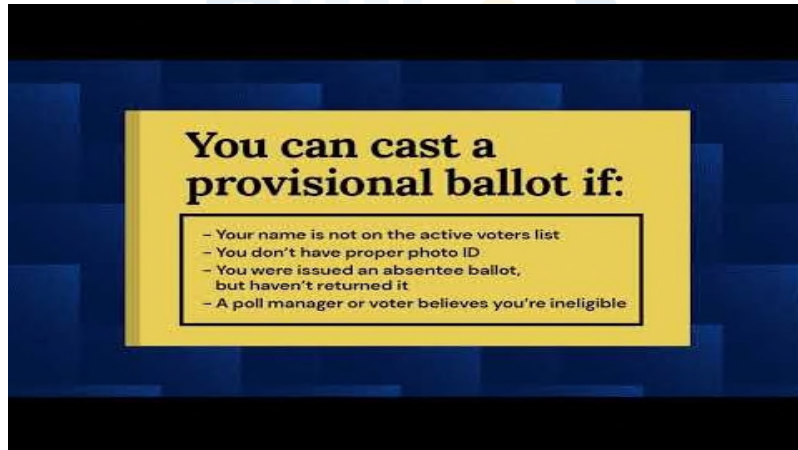
Voting on Election Day

- Voters must vote at the polling place in their precinct
- Polling places are staffed by poll managers
- Voter must show ID to vote
- Poll manager verifies eligibility
- Voter signs the poll list
- Poll manager provides voter with ballot



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Provisional Ballot



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Photo ID Requirements

- Have photo ID ready to vote
 - Acceptable forms include Driver's License, DMV ID, Military ID etc.
- If you no photo ID is available you may use your non-photo voter registration card
 - Every voter is sent this card.
 - This card allows you to sign an affidavit attesting to your identity and that you encountered an obstacle in obtaining a photo ID.



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Election Results

- Results are tallied on the precinct level and posted at the polling place

STATE SENATE DIST 46 SEND046	
(Vote for 1)	Total: 168
REP-10 CATHERINE CEIPS	150
LIB-20 GREG GRAZIANI	6
DEM-30 TERRY THOMAS	12
>Write-ins in above contest: 0	
Undervotes For Above contest: 0	
Time/Date: 19:04:27 06/19/2007	
Signature: <i>John R. K. Kiser</i>	
Signature: <i>Mary Louisa Reese</i>	
Signature: <i>Bill Reese</i>	



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Election Results

- Poll managers then deliver electronic media from polling places to the county board



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Election Results

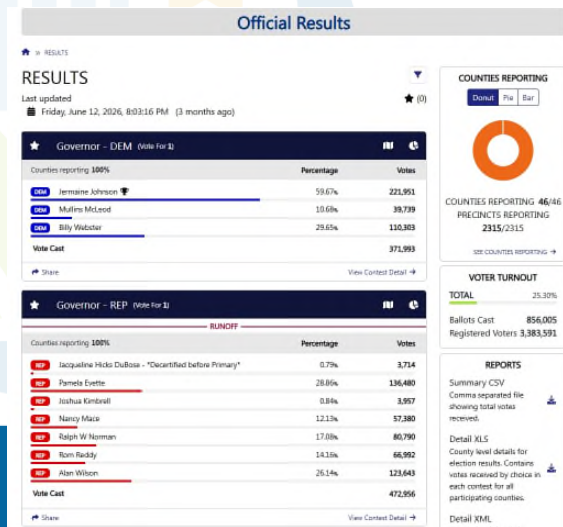
- The county board tallies all votes, and transmits results to the SEC



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Election Results

- Results are posted to the SC Votes Website (scVOTES.org)



Election Results

- Counties are required to conduct hand-count and results verification audits for federal and state elections
- Counties hold provisional ballot hearings
- Counties certify the election results
- SEC certifies the election results



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Protests

- Candidates who believe the results are not accurate or the election was not conducted properly may protest the results
- Election commission board members sit in a judicial capacity to hear and decide the outcomes of these protests
- Protests may be appealed all the way to the South Carolina Supreme Court



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Outreach

- The SEC's goal is to ensure that the public understands how to register and vote
- Ensures the public has trust in the election process.



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SCvotes.gov

SOUTH CAROLINA
ELECTION COMMISSION

[Voters](#) [Elections & Statistics](#) [Poll Managers](#) [Candidates](#) [Resources](#) [Contact](#)



**Every Vote Matters.
Every Vote Counts.**

The mission of the State Election Commission is to ensure every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote and participate in fair and impartial elections with the assurance that every vote will count!

Election Integrity in South Carolina

Download our updated resource for an overview of the processes and procedures implemented to keep elections in South Carolina accurate, secure, accessible, and credible.

[Download Report](#)

◀ 2 of 2 ▶

Popular Resources

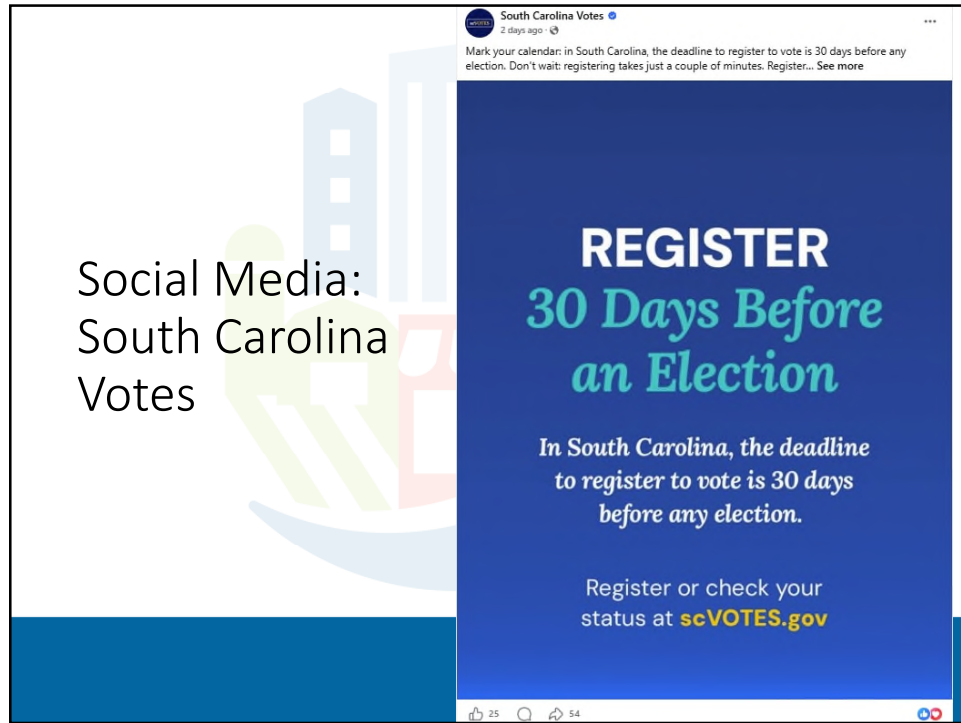
[Voter Registration](#)
[Upcoming Elections](#)

[Early Voting](#)
[Election Results](#)

[Absentee Voting](#)
[Election Audits](#)



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Voter Education Bus



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Print files for each document are available upon request. Send requests to elections@elections.sc.gov.

Brochures

Absentee Voting

Absentee Voting
in South Carolina



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE VOTE ASSISTANCE
HOW TO REGISTER

This brochure outlines the process for absentee voting in South Carolina, including eligibility, how to request and return ballots, and special provisions for military and overseas voters.

[Download Brochure](#)

All Access for Voters

Access For All Voters
in South Carolina



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE VOTE ASSISTANCE
HOW TO REGISTER

This brochure outlines accessible voting options in South Carolina, including accessible polling places, registration methods, assistance for voters with disabilities, and absentee voting to ensure all citizens can fully participate in elections.

[Download Brochure](#)

Prep for the Polls

PREP FOR THE POLLS
in South Carolina



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE VOTE ASSISTANCE
HOW TO REGISTER

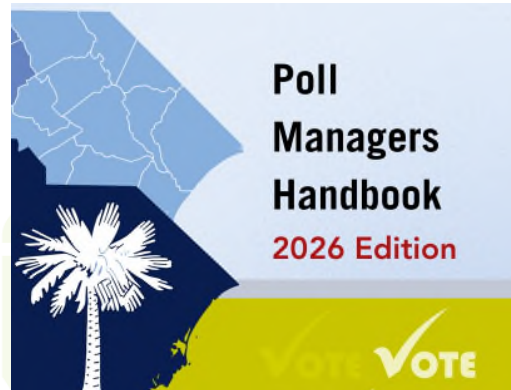
This brochure outlines the process for voting in South Carolina, including how to register or update your voter information, acceptable forms of photo ID, and the options for voting early, absentee by mail, or in person on Election Day. It also provides guidance on checking your sample ballot.

[Download Brochure](#)

Voter Outreach



 **Municipal Association of South Carolina**



<https://scvotes.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026-Poll-Manager-Handbook-FINAL-Digital.pdf>



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