



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Susan J. Beals
Commissioner

September 18, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin,

Pursuant to Executive Order 35, I hereby certify that the following election security procedures and measures are in place, and requisite related training of registrars has been conducted, prior to the start of early voting in the 2025 General Election.

Certification of Election Security Procedures

Ballot security

- Ballots are being tracked through every step of the process via the established chain of custody documentation procedures. Ballot chain of custody documents have been reviewed and specialized training has been provided to General Registrars and their staff members.
- Local election officials are required and prepared to reconcile the number of ballots cast against the number of voters checked into polling places and the number of ballots distributed to voters every day. Registrars and officers of election have been provided training and guidance to ensure that such reconciliation takes place and, in the event of a precinct being "out of balance," to document an explanation for the discrepancy (e.g., a situation where a ballot is spoiled and a new ballot is issued to a voter).
- Before being mailed, every absentee ballot must first be requested by a registered voter. The guidance provided to registrars and the processes established for issuing ballots in VERIS require a completed absentee application for a ballot to be issued. The voter record of every Virginian who requests an absentee ballot will be marked when the absentee ballot request is made, when the ballot is sent, and when the ballot is received back by the voter.
- Returned absentee ballots are not counted until the last four digits of the voter's Social Security Number and year of birth provided on the ballot envelope are matched to the voter's record in VERIS.

- Voters using the Same Day Registration process must complete a provisional ballot. The voter registration application to be completed by a voter using Same Day Registration is built into the provisional ballot envelope. Further, the training and guidance provided to electoral board members, general registrars, and officers of election make clear that voting via Same Day Registration is a provisional process.
- All ballots cast by voters in Virginia state elections are on paper and retained by clerks of court for 12 months following the election. Registrars have been provided training and guidance related to ballot-issuing procedures, the post-election handling of election materials, and relevant document retention schedules.

Counting Machine Testing and Certification

Localities have certified to the Department of Elections their completion of Logic and Accuracy testing for all equipment including ballot scanners and electronic pollbooks to be used for early voting, starting on September 19.

Triple Check of Election Result Accuracy

Specialized training on entering of election results has been made available to local election officials. Additionally, existing guidance documents from the Department of Elections (“ELECT”) confirm and reinforce these multi-layered checks.

Emergency Preparedness Exercise

In accordance with Executive Order 53, the Department of Elections conducted a tabletop preparedness exercise in coordination with local, state and federal partners. Held at the Fusion Center and planned in coordination with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the exercise brought together 124 stakeholders to strategize on preparing and responding to emergency situations related to elections.

Adoption of updated Virginia Voting System Certification Standard

The State Board of Elections adopted the updated Virginia Voting System Certification Standard on September 17, 2025. This new standard incorporates the United States Election Assistance Commission’s Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0 (VMSG 2.0). The new Virginia standard exceeds federal requirements by prohibiting voting systems from having wireless connectivity capability.

Certification of Accuracy of Voter Lists

Daily Updates to the Voter List

ELECT and registrars update the voter list daily based upon inputs received from various sources, including the DMV, the Virginia Department of Health, the Social Security Administration, data sharing agreements with other states, circuit courts, the Virginia State Police, the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (“NAPHSIS”), and National Change of Address (“NCOA”) confirmation mailings. These updates include:

- Adding new eligible voters.
- Removing voters who have moved in accordance with federal and state law.
- Removing deceased voters.
- Removing voters convicted of a felony or adjudicated mentally incapacitated.

- Removing individuals who declare or provide documentation indicating non-citizenship status and who do not respond to an affirmation of citizenship notice.

The annual List Maintenance Report details these efforts during the September-August timeframe each year and is due to the General Assembly on October 1.

Data Confirmation with Federal Sources

In partnership with the DMV, the validity of Social Security numbers of applicants for DMV credentials is consistently confirmed with the Social Security Administration. Further, the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program is used to verify documents indicating legal presence (i.e., non-citizenship) submitted by applicants and identify ineligible individuals for removal from the voter rolls.

Awareness Campaign for Election Security

Consistent with Executive Order 35, ELECT has provided information regarding election-related offenses to all general registrars and state agencies that register individuals to vote. ELECT created posters available to download and print listing election-related offenses and their punishments. General registrars and state agencies were directed to post the information in a conspicuous place or provide it to applicants directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan J. Beals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being more prominent.

Susan J. Beals
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Elections

Cc: The Honorable Lyn McDermid, Secretary of Administration