

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

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JTS Box Number: IFES\_76  
Tab Number: 103  
Document Title: Absentee Voting in Arlington County,  
Virginia  
Document Date: 2002  
Document Country: United States --  
Virginia  
Document Language: English  
IFES ID: CE02516



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***Absentee Voting  
in  
Arlington County,  
Virginia***



***2002 Elections***

*Nov. 5*

*General Election  
U.S. Senate, U.S. House  
of Representatives,  
County Board, School  
Board*

## ***Who may vote by absentee ballot?***

Registered voters who are absent from Arlington or unable to go to their polling places on Election Day may vote absentee. Acceptable reasons include:

- Students and their spouses
- Absence for business purposes
- Absence for personal business or vacation
- Scheduled to work 11 of the 13 hours the polls are open
- Religious obligations
- Physical disability or illness, or caretaker of a confined family member
- Confinement in a correctional facility for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial
- Active duty uniformed services personnel and their dependents
- Persons residing outside the U.S. and their dependents

## ***How do I get a ballot mailed to me?***

Download the application from our web site at [www.co.arlington.va.us/voters/](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/voters/) or contact the Office of Voter Registration (703-228-3456, email [voters@co.arlington.va.us](mailto:voters@co.arlington.va.us)) and request an application. Complete the application by noting the reason you need an absentee ballot and the address to which you want the ballot mailed. Complete your residence (Arlington) address where indicated, and sign and date your application.

Return the application by mail or fax (703-228-3659) to the Office of Voter Registration. We must receive your application by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the election date in order to be able to mail a ballot to you.

*Note: If you are a first time Virginia voter and you registered to vote by mail, you may not be eligible to receive an absentee ballot by mail. The only exceptions are for students, those with physical disabilities or illnesses, active duty uniformed services personnel and their dependents, and those regularly employed overseas and their dependents. Please call the Office of Voter Registration for further details.*



## ***When will I receive my ballot?***

Ballots are mailed beginning approximately 45 days prior to the election date.

## ***How do I mark and return the ballot?***

In your ballot envelope will be ballot instructions; a sealed envelope containing the actual ballot; an envelope in which the ballot will be sealed after you mark your vote; and a pre-addressed envelope to return the marked ballot to us.

You must open the sealed ballot envelope and mark your ballot in the presence of a witness. After you have voted the ballot, place the ballot in the Marked Ballot envelope, and seal the envelope. Complete the oath or affirmation information printed on the envelope, and both you and your witness must sign the envelope. Place the Marked Ballot envelope in the pre-addressed return envelope, affix first class postage, and mail your ballot back to the Electoral Board office.

We must receive your absentee ballot by no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day in order for it to be counted.

## ***I've heard about in-person absentee voting. How does that work?***

In-person absentee voting works similarly to mail-in voting, except you actually vote on a voting machine like the ones used in the polling places. In-person voting is available at the Office of Voter Registration approximately 45 days prior to the election date. To apply, visit the office during office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and on special hours in the evenings and on Saturdays as scheduled (call 703-228-3456 for details).

You will be asked to complete an absentee ballot application, just as if you were having the ballot mailed to you. The office staff will verify your voter registration



record, then direct you to a voting machine, where you will vote a ballot exactly like the ones in your polling place on Election Day. In-person absentee voting ends at 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the election.

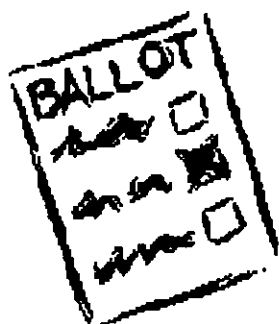
## ***What if I am hospitalized or called out of town before the election but after the absentee ballot deadline?***

Virginia law allows persons hospitalized to vote by emergency ballot as late as the Monday before the election. You must designate a representative to pick up and return your absentee ballot application and ballot by no later than 2:00 p.m. on the Monday before the election.

Persons called out of town for business purposes or due to the death or hospitalization of a family member after noon on the Saturday before the election may present themselves to vote at the Office of Voter Registration by no later than 2:00 p.m. on the Monday before the election. Please call 703-228-3456 for more details.

## ***What if I am living overseas?***

Current or former Arlington residents residing overseas either temporarily or permanently are eligible to vote in all federal elections, and may also be eligible to vote in state or local elections. Please visit our web site or call 703-228-3456 for details.



If you will be absent from Arlington or unable to go to the polls on Election Day, you can still make your vote count by voting an **absentee ballot**. Virginia's flexible absentee policies make voting in Arlington County easy and convenient. And, since Virginia law requires all absentee ballots to be tabulated on Election Day, your absentee vote really *does* count!

Please see inside for important information about voting by absentee ballot in Arlington County.

*For more information, contact:*

Office of Voter Registration  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 320  
Arlington, VA 22201-5400

tel: (703) 228-3456

fax: (703) 228-3659

TTY: (703) 228-4611

email: [voters@co.arlington.va.us](mailto:voters@co.arlington.va.us)

[www.co.arlington.va.us/voters/](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/voters/)