

Proposed Legislation Related to Voting and Elections

This resource is a non-exhaustive list of bills relating to voting and/or elections introduced in the Virginia legislature. These summaries are presented for information only. The inclusion of any proposed bills on this list does not constitute an endorsement by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®

- **HB28:** This bill restricts the Department of Elections (DOE) from doing voter registration list maintenance 90 days prior to primary and general elections but does not preclude requests by voters to update their registration. Additionally, it extends the amount of time the local registrar has to remove ineligible voters once notified by the DOE and gives individuals 28 days, instead of 14, to respond to cancellation notices. SB52 is a companion bill.
- **HB41:** This bill revises the procedures for removing electoral board members and registrars due to neglect, misuse, or incompetence in performing duties, strengthening the authority of the State Board of Elections (SBOE). The goal of this bill is greater oversight and accountability.
- **HB78:** This bill pertains to local elections and obligates the electoral board to certify an election or face corrective actions that includes but is not limited to fining the individual, removal of the board member, and the SBOE may finalize the certification. The goal of this bill is to limit opportunities for election denial.
- **HB82:** This bill extends the time for the receipt of absentee ballots, for voters to fix absentee ballot issues, and to provide proof of identification for provisional ballots to 5 p.m. on the third day after an election. This bill gives voters a greater opportunity to have ballots counted and considers mail delays. SB 58 is a companion bill.
- **HB111:** This bill restricts when a general registrar may cancel a voter's registration and tightens the rules around acceptable data sources for voter list maintenance. Additional provisions in the bill prevent cancellation of registration for active-duty military and other people living temporarily outside of the US. One goal of this bill is to lower the likelihood of improper removals but will potentially make voter list maintenance slower.
- **HB168:** This bill pertains to localities previously under court-ordered remediation. It increases the potential for more equitable elections and mitigation of voter dilution. SB51 is a companion bill.
- **HB212:** This bill strengthens protections for election officials and broadens the definition of intimidation or hindrance of duties. The offense is considered a Class 5 felony. The goal of this bill is to cover a wider set of threatening behaviors and increase the legal risk should these behaviors occur.

- HB234: This bill requires the DOE to issue standardized identification badges to local electoral board members, and they must be worn while performing official duties on Election Day. It pairs this requirement with a financial penalty to electoral board members for lack of compliance. This bill improves security and reduces confusion for poll workers, potentially enhancing public trust.
- HB235: This bill allows the creations of “super precincts” for areas where large populations exist and would combine multiple districts into a single polling location. The goal of this bill is to improve election day efficiency, including but not limited to long lines, overcrowding, staffing shortages, and bottlenecks. This is a new model for the state.
- HB493: This bill requires the DOE to provide internet-based voting for citizens with visual impairments, print disabilities, and other covered voters. This bill significantly expands accessible voting options and reduces reliance on older assistive technologies. Concerns exist for cybersecurity risk.
- HB640: Eliminates the process by which any voter could challenge, in a polling place on the day of an election, the right of any other voter to cast a ballot. The bill also eliminates the process by which any three voters could challenge a voter's registration before the general registrar. Challenges are possible by filing a petition with the circuit court of the county or city where the voter is registered. This bill may potentially lower the risk of intimidation and sets clear expectations for legitimate challenges.
- HB773: Expands opportunities for voters to correct mistakes on absentee ballots and applications, increasing the likelihood that more ballots are counted.
- HB774: This bill is related to HB773 but extends the language to include provisional ballots. When this occurs, it is possible a sub will be created that merges the language of the two bills.
- HB868: This bill aims to protect the integrity of elections and the voters’ ability to make informed decisions by increasing transparency around artificial or manipulated media in political advertising. It does not prevent the use of manipulated media but requires its disclosure and imparts legal and financial penalties to those who violate the disclosure requirements. The goal of this bill is to be a deterrent to AI-generated deceptive content and provide greater transparency to voters.
- HB963: This bill places a constitutional amendment on the 2026 ballot to make voting a fundamental right, automatically restoring voting rights to people with felony convictions upon release, and modernize mental-capacity disenfranchisement standards. The goal of this bill is to eliminate post-release

barriers, streamline voter list processes, and expand the electorate. SB162 is a companion bill.

- HB964: This bill is similar to HB963. It requires automatic restoration of political rights upon release from incarceration for individuals convicted of felonies and establishes a coordinated process to ensure they can register to vote immediately upon release. It also updates Virginia's rules on mental-capacity disenfranchisement by replacing the "mentally incompetent" standard with a narrower test focused on a person's capacity to understand the act of voting. This bill depicts a major shift towards automatic rights restoration, reducing reliance on gubernatorial discretion. It provides greater access, improves reintegration, and addresses longstanding disparities among historically marginalized communities.
- HB965: This is related to HB964. It automatically restores the political rights of individuals convicted of felonies upon release from incarceration, requires corrections agencies to transmit release information to the Department of Elections, and modernizes Virginia's disenfranchisement rules by replacing the "mentally incompetent" standard with a narrower test based on a person's capacity to understand the act of voting. HB964 describes "what" should happen while HB965 describes "how."
- HB967: This bill revises multiple provisions of the Voting Rights Act of Virginia by clarifying legal standards for evaluating voter suppression and vote dilution claims, providing courts with explicit guidance on what factors they may and may not consider, expanding who may bring a lawsuit under the Act, and lowering population thresholds that trigger minority language accessibility requirements.
- HB982: This bill is similar to HB868 as it pertains to manipulated media. The focus of HB982 is narrower and more targeted. SB141 is a companion.
- HB1131: This bill requires picture identification and the last four digits of the social security number to vote and repeals the option to allow a voter without identification to vote by signing a sworn statement. It also requires a voter to provide justification when voting with an absentee ballot by mail. This bill restricts access to absentee voting and eliminates the permanent absentee list. It will potentially have disproportionate effects on low-income, elderly, disabled, and voters with limited transportation. SB544 is a companion bill.
- HB1213: This bill requires a name, full address, date of birth, and last four digits of the social security number to vote without identification. While it preserves the non-ID voting options and strengthens fraud safeguards, the voter must provide

additional documentation at the time of voting, and it also raises privacy concerns. This could increase the time at the polling location. SB526 is a companion bill.

- SB438: This bill requires localities to offer in-person absentee voting on the second Sunday before all elections, for at least eight hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The goal of this bill is to extend access to voters with inflexible schedules or transportation barriers. While some localities have Sunday voting, this bill would extend it to all localities. It improves access and has bipartisan operational benefits by allowing all parties to plan outreach efforts and reduce Election Day congestion.