## Military & Overseas Citizens

Special provisions are available to make voting more accessible for military and overseas citizens. Visit **scVOTES.gov** or **FVAP.gov** for more information.

## For More Information

- See Chapter 15 of Title 7 of the S.C. Code of Laws.
- Visit **scVOTES.gov** or contact your county voter registration office.

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**South Carolina State Election Commission**
**1122 Lady Street, Suite 500**
**Columbia, SC 29201**
**803.734.9060**


SEC BSL 3025-202506

# Absentee Voting

## in South Carolina





every vote matters.
every vote counts.

**Absentee voting allows qualified voters to cast a ballot by mail or in person prior to Election Day.**

## Who Can Vote Absentee?

- Persons with physical disabilities.
- Persons sixty-five years of age or older.
- Members of the Armed Forces and Merchant Marines of the United States, their spouses, and dependents residing with them.
- Persons admitted to a hospital as an emergency patient on the day of the election or within a four-day period before the election.
- Persons with employment obligations which prevent them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.
- Persons caring for a sick or disabled person which prevents them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.
- Persons confined to a jail or pretrial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial which prevents them from voting during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.
- Persons who will be absent from their county of residence during early voting hours for the duration of the early voting period, and during the hours the polls are open on Election Day.



## How Can you Vote Absentee?

- **Step 1: Get your application.**
  - You can submit your request for an application as early as January 1 of the election year.
  - Call, visit, or send your request by U.S. mail to your county voter registration office.
  - You must provide your name, date of birth, and last four digits of your Social Security Number.
- **Step 2: Complete, sign, and return the application.**
  - Return the application by U.S. mail or personal delivery to your county voter registration office as soon as possible.
  - The deadline to return your application is 5:00 p.m. on the 11th day prior to the election.
- **Step 3: Receive an absentee ballot in the mail.**
  - Voters who have applied early will be mailed their absentee ballot approximately 30 days before the election.
  - You can track your ballot at **scVOTES.gov.**
- **Step 4: Vote, sign, and return the ballot.**
  - Be sure to sign the voter's oath and have your signature witnessed. Anyone age 18 or older can witness your signature.
  - Return your ballot to your county voter registration office or an early voting center either by mail or in-person no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
  - You must present **Photo ID** if returning the ballot in person.

Visit **scVOTES.gov** to find information about how Immediate Family Members and Authorized Representatives can make an absentee request or return a ballot for another person. All requestors are limited to five requests, in addition to their own per election.