



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester's Director of Elections and General Registrar Explains Integrity of the Voting Process

With Election season in full swing, Bobbi Morgan, Gloucester's Director of Elections and General Registrar, said the mission of her office is to ensure the integrity of the electoral process by maintaining accurate and current voter registration records used in elections.

With all voters now eligible to participate in Absentee by Mail and Early Voting, Morgan said the process is the same it has always been for Absentee Voting. The only thing that has changed is that now, any registered voter can participate in Absentee by Mail and Early Voting. "The steps aren't new," Morgan said. "It's very secure."

For security purposes, each application and returned ballot envelope is looked at by hand in the Elections and Voter Registration office. Each ballot is checked to make sure it matches with the state Department of Elections' database. This database is linked to other official voter databases across the country to ensure the voting roster is kept accurate. Also, research is done to ensure that the voter is not deceased, not a felon, not mentally incapacitated and is still a resident of Gloucester County.

Finally, each Absentee voter must fill out an application for a ballot to be mailed to them. Their application is checked in the state database to ensure they are eligible to receive a ballot. As an additional layer of security, each ballot cast thru the Ballot Drop Box must be sealed in the provided envelope with the voter's statement; name, address and signature that is checked and verified with the state database report.

Those who are interested in identifying whether or not their ballot has been received can visit the Virginia Department of Election's website at

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/absentee>.

As far as options and procedures for participating in the November 3, 2020 General Election, Morgan said:

- The last day to get registered or make changes to your voting information is Oct. 13. In-person Early Voting will begin Sept. 18, which is the earliest ballots will be available. Voters can register online by visiting <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.
- In-person Early Voting will be held Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Sept. 18 to Oct. 31 at the Elections and Voter Registration office located at 6467 Main Street. Early Voting will also take place Saturdays, Oct. 24 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Absentee ballots can be dropped into the Elections and Voter Registration Ballot Drop Box located behind County office building number one, located as 6467 Main Street, Gloucester, Virginia 23061. The Drop Box is monitored by security cameras 24-7 and is available 24 hours a day. To apply to vote absentee, visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.
- Voting in-person at normal polling locations will be available from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Election Day. An acceptable ID is required.

Morgan said it is important to note that once you request an Absentee Ballot, you are marked as already voting in this election. If you decide not to vote using your Absentee Ballot, return the ballot unopened in the pre-addressed envelope before Elections Day, by using the Ballot Drop Box or bringing it to the polls on Election Day.

Full voting information and procedures are available by visiting the Elections and Voter Registration website at <https://www.gloucesterva.info/349/Elections-and-Voter-Registration> or by calling the office at 804-693-3659.

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