



Charleston County News Release

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Voting Office Open on Saturday, Jan. 12 and 19, for Absentee Voters

In addition to regular business hours, Charleston County's Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office will be open Saturday, Jan. 12, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 19, from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Voters may cast their absentee ballots during normal office hours, which are 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. However, on Saturday, Jan. 12, the office will be open to give voters additional hours to vote absentee in the Democratic or Republican Presidential Preference Primaries.

The deadline for casting an absentee ballot in person will be Friday, Jan. 18, for the Republican Presidential Preference Primary and Friday, Jan. 25, for the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary.

On Saturday, Jan. 19, the office will be open due to the Republican Preference Primary. Voters who wish to cast absentee ballots for the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary may also do so during this time.

Charleston County's Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office is located at 4367 Headquarters Road in North Charleston.

Voters who need to receive their absentee ballot by mail can call (843) 744-8683 or submit their request by e-mail to absentee@charlestoncounty.org. In order for the ballot to be mailed, each voter must complete an application for the absentee ballot no later than four days prior (Tuesday) to the election they wish to participate in. All absentee ballots must be returned no later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election to be counted.

Voters must qualify using one of 18 reasons to cast a vote using the absentee method. To find out if you qualify to vote as an absentee, call (843) 744-VOTE (8683). You can also visit <http://vote.charlestoncounty.org> for information on absentee voting, district maps, ID card requirements, voter registration, the election process, etc.

The following people are eligible to vote absentee:

- Students, their spouses and dependents residing with them outside their county of residence
- Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- Persons serving with the American Red Cross or with the United Service Organizations who are attached to and serving with the Armed Forces
- Employment: Those persons who are required by their employment obligations to be absent from their county of residence or at their place of employment in their county of residence on election day during the hours the polls are open and who will be unable to vote in person
- Persons with physical disabilities
- Governmental employees, their spouses and dependents residing with them who are out of their county of residence on election day during the hours the polls are open
- Persons with a death in the family or persons attending a funeral within a three-day period before the election

- Persons on vacation (who by virtue of vacation plans will be absent from their county of residence and unable to vote in person)
- Poll managers, certified poll watchers, County Registration Board members and staff, and County Election Commission members and staff working on election day
- Overseas citizens
- Persons attending to a sick or physically disabled person
- Persons serving as jurors in state or federal court on election day
- Persons admitted to hospital as an emergency patient on the day of an election or within a four-day period before an election
- Persons 65 years old or older
- Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial
- Persons who because of religious reasons cannot vote on Saturday (ONLY applies to Presidential Preference Primaries held on Saturday)

Visit the Charleston County Web site at www.charlestoncounty.org for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.