



# Preparing for the 2020 Presidential Election

*a presentation to the*

York County Board of Supervisors  
Tuesday, August 4, 2020

*by the*

General Registrar/Director of Elections

# What this presentation will cover

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The 2020 Session of the General Assembly passed many changes to Virginia's election laws.

This presentation will focus on only five of them, how they affect York County, and how York County is preparing to meet these new requirements.

York County is also addressing security concerns and ensuring the health and safety of voters and election officials during a pandemic.

# Changes to Election Laws

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Election law changes covered in this presentation:

1. No-excuse absentee voting.
2. Annual/Permanent absentee list.
3. Voter identification requirements.
4. Deadline for returning an absentee ballot.
5. Notification of denial of voter registration.

# Other Concerns Affecting Elections

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There are other concerns affecting our preparation for elections this year:

- Increased physical security and cybersecurity protocols for the administration of elections
- Addressing health and safety precautions arising because of the pandemic

# No-excuse absentee voting

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## What was the change?

Allows any voter to vote absentee in person or by mail without providing a reason.

# No-excuse absentee voting

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## What is the impact on York County?

- York County is likely to have a large increase in by-mail or in-person absentee voters. In North Carolina in 2016, 66% of all votes cast for President were absentee ballots.
- If we extrapolate this to York County in 2016: we would have had 22,500 absentee ballots cast, an increase of 500% over our actual number of absentee ballots (3,644 absentee ballots).

# No-excuse absentee voting

## How is York County preparing?

- Hiring additional staff
- Intensive training
- Purchasing a high-speed scanner



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# No-excuse absentee voting

## How is York County preparing?

- Maintaining two locations for in-person voting:

Washington Square Shopping Center (Grafton)  
5322 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Yorktown, VA



# No-excuse absentee voting

## How is York County preparing?

- Maintaining two locations for in-person voting:

Victory Village Shopping Center (Lightfoot)

6614 Mooretown Rd., Suite A, Williamsburg, VA



# No-excuse absentee voting

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## How is York County preparing?

- Purchasing hardware and software to process in-person absentee voters



# Annual / Permanent Absentee List

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## What was the change?

- Beginning on July 1, 2020, all voters may apply for an absentee ballot annually, and they will get all ballots for which they are qualified for that calendar year.
- Beginning July 1, 2021, the Permanent Absentee List goes into effect. Voters can apply for each election, or they can be on ongoing status to receive ballots for all elections in the future.

# Annual / Permanent Absentee List

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## What is the impact on York County?

- We anticipate having a large number of voters designate themselves to be on the Annual (and then Permanent) Absentee List.
- This will mean that for every election (including primary and special elections), we will likely have a large number of absentee ballots that will be mailed automatically.

# Annual / Permanent Absentee List

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## How is York County preparing?

- Hiring additional staff
- Purchasing a high-speed scanner
- Will be requesting more funds in future fiscal years to mail absentee ballots to voters on the Annual/Permanent Absentee List

# Voter Identification Requirements

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## What was the change?

- Beginning on July 1, 2020, voters are no longer required to have a *photo* ID.
- Instead, voters must have one of the IDs listed in state law, or else they will have to complete an ID Confirmation Statement or provisional ballot.

# Voter Identification Requirements

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## Acceptable voter IDs:

- Voter confirmation documents you received after you registered to vote
- Virginia DMV-issued Driver's License or Identification Card
- Valid United States Passport

# Voter Identification Requirements

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## Acceptable voter IDs (cont'd):

- Any ID card issued by the US, Virginia, or a local Virginia government
- Any student ID card issued by a US university or community college
- Valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia

# Voter Identification Requirements

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## Acceptable voter IDs (cont'd):

- Employer-issued photo ID card
- Any current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with your name and address
- An ID Confirmation Statement



# Voter Identification Requirements

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## What is the impact on York County?

This will require changes to training of election officials.



# Voter Identification Requirements

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## How is York County preparing?

We will train election officials to follow the law regarding allowable IDs and alternative forms of identification.

# Deadline for Returning an Absentee Ballot

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## What was the change?

Beginning with the November 3, 2020, election, ballots that are postmarked by Election Day, and that are received by noon the third day after the election, must be counted.

# Deadline for Returning an Absentee Ballot

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## What is the impact on York County?

- We are likely to have a large number of ballots that will be coming in after Election Day that have to be counted.
- We will need staff and equipment for this.
- We will not have complete preliminary results on Election Night and may not until the following week.

# Deadline for Returning an Absentee Ballot

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## How is York County preparing?

- Hiring additional election officials and staff
- Purchasing a high-speed scanner

# Notification of denial of voter registration

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## What was the change?

As of July 1, 2020, the Registrar's Office is required to notify applicants of a denial of voter registration within five days “in writing and by email or telephone if such information was provided by the applicant.”



# Notification of denial of voter registration

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## What is the impact on York County?

This will require additional staff time to contact applicants whose voter registration applications have been denied.



# Notification of denial of voter registration

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How is York County preparing?

We will use staff to make these contacts.

# Increased Security Requirements

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The Electoral Board and the County's IT department have been cooperating to ensure York County meets the security requirements that have been adopted by the State Board of Elections.

# Pandemic Preparations

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- The Department of Elections and York County staff have been very helpful in ensuring that we have sufficient PPE, hand sanitizer, and disinfectants for the polling places.
- We are continuing to evaluate ways to maintain health and safety in our office and at the polling places.

# Questions

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If citizens, members of the Board of Supervisors, or County Administration have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Registrar's Office.

Phone: 757-890-3440

Email: [registrar@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:registrar@yorkcounty.gov)