

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye!! Calling all Virginians!!

This is an important election year for VA. The Governor, LG, AG, and all 100 seats in the House of Delegates are up for election.

If you know of any 17-year olds who will be 18 by the next General Election day (November 7th, 2017) please take note of the important information below. These 17-year old can register to vote now AND participate in the Primary on June 13th -- even though they're still 17!! They just need to be 18 by November 7th. Here is the link to the VA Department of Elections website on how to register to vote & what the criteria for eligibility are. The easiest and most efficient way is Online, of course, where they can go ask their parents for their SS# in the privacy of their home. <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/.../how-to-regis.../index.html>

The deadline to register to vote is 22 days before the polling date. It will be May 22nd for the June 13th Primary and October 16th for the November 7th General Election.

There are a few important things to be very mindful of where HS & College Students just registering to vote for the first time need to bear in mind. These things can make or break the success of their first voting experience. Remember, successfully registering to vote is just 1 part of the equation. We also want them to actually then go out and vote AND have their votes be counted!

1. The address they enter will determine the polling station they vote at AND they CANNOT be registered at 2 different addresses. Therefore, if they will be going away to college, they will have to decide where they want to be registered at. IF they use their home address (i.e. their parents' house) then they will either have to return home to vote OR do mail in Absentee voting. <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/.../absentee-vot.../index.html>

There is a specific procedure and deadline for doing Absentee mail-in so they need to make sure they know how this is done in advance. Some HS kids have never bought a stamp or know how to do snail mail before they go off to college!! Not kidding!

2. Whichever way they chose to register, make sure they go in to check the status of their VR online before the deadline to make sure everything is correct and in order. <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>  
They don't want the disappointment of being turned away from their polling station because something went wrong & they were not properly registered.
3. Young people move around a lot after HS. They must remember to update their change their address if they want to be able to vote where they live. There are several ways you can do this. See here: <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/.../view-your-in.../index.html>
4. The only time you need your SS# is when you register to vote. When you go to vote VA requires a photo ID. Here is where you can find information about acceptable photo IDs: <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/.../photo-ids-re.../index.html>

You can peruse the VADoE website for more detailed information on all things to do with elections & voting in the state of VA. And feel free to copy & paste this post far and wide.  
Successful voting for all first-time voters out there this year!

With thanks to the author:

Alison Symons, LWVFA