

SOUTH CAROLINA

ELECTION COMMISSION

Voting Information – General Election – November 4, 2008

Campaign Material at the Polls

The display of campaign material is not allowed within 200 feet of any entrance to a polling place on election day. This law applies to any type of visual display of campaign material, including posters, pamphlets, brochures, signs, buttons, hats, t-shirts, etc. Voters displaying campaign material who enter the 200-foot area will be asked to remove the material, cover the material, or otherwise cause the material not to be seen.

Straight Party Voting

Many South Carolina voters have received a chain e-mail containing incorrect information regarding straight party voting. The basic claim is that straight party voting does not apply to President. The information in this e-mail is based on old state law that is no longer in effect.

Straight party voting applies to President and all other partisan offices on the ballot. Straight party is the first choice a voter is presented with when voting a General Election ballot in South Carolina. If a voter chooses to vote straight party, each candidate that party has nominated for any office on the ballot is automatically selected. Voters can later change their choice for individual offices (also known as crossover voting).

You Must Show One of the Following Items at the Polls to Vote:

- Voter Registration Card *
- Driver's License
- DMV-issued ID Card

* If you registered to vote by mail, are voting for the first time, and did not submit proof of ID with your application; you may not vote with only your voter registration card. You must provide proof of ID before voting. Additional ID can be either:

- a current, valid photo ID (such as driver's license, school ID, military ID); or
- a bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, or government document showing the voter's name and address in the county.

Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Anyone in line at 7:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Where to Vote – Finding Your Precinct

Check your voter registration at [scVOTES.org](http://www.scvotes.org) (your online record will include your precinct and polling place): http://www.scvotes.org/check_your_voter_registration

If you know your precinct, look it up using the precinct locator on the front page of [scVOTES.org](http://www.scvotes.org).

Contact your county voter registration office to check your registration and the location of your polling place. County contacts: http://www.scvotes.org/how_to_register_absentee_voting

Avoiding Lines at Your Polling Place

A record number of people registered to vote leading up to this election, which could result in record turnout. Large voter turnout will produce lines at some precincts, particularly during busy times of the day. Try to avoid the busiest hours; typically 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Also, those eligible can vote absentee up until 5 p.m. on Monday, November 3rd. If you do encounter a line, please be patient and remember – it is a small price to pay to participate in our representative democracy.

Names on the Printed Voter Registration List at the Polls

When a person registers to vote in South Carolina, they remain eligible to vote for as long as they live in their county of residence, and as long as they don't become otherwise disqualified. On Election Day however, some voters may find their name is not on the printed voter registration list at their polling place. Voters should not be concerned; this does not mean they won't be able to vote.

As part of our process to keep the voter registration list accurate and manageable, we remove voters who have moved or who have not voted in many years from the list of active voters. Some voters who have been made inactive will likely go to the polls to vote on Election Day. The important thing to remember is that once you are registered in your county, you remain registered as long as you don't move out of the county, or otherwise become disqualified from voting. In such cases, poll managers call the county voter registration office to verify those voters' records and enter their names manually.

To make sure your registration is active; you can check your voter registration at [www.scVOTES.org](http://www.scvotes.org) (http://www.scvotes.org/check_your_voter_registration) or call your county voter registration office: http://www.scvotes.org/how_to_register_absentee_voting.

Absentee Voting

If you are aged 65 or older or are unable to make it to the polls on Election Day, you are likely eligible to vote an absentee ballot. For a full list of qualifications to vote absentee visit [scVOTES.org](http://www.scvotes.org): http://www.scvotes.org/south_carolina_voting_information_page. To request an absentee ballot, contact your county voter registration office.

Deadline to return absentee by mail application: 5:00 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31st (The SEC recommends applying as early as possible to ensure your ballot reaches you and is returned on time.)

Deadline to vote absentee in person: 5:00 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3rd

Deadline to return absentee ballots to county voter registration: 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 4th

EVERY **VOTE** MATTERS.
EVERY **VOTE** COUNTS.