



Understanding Primaries

Presented by:

Jean Felix, Director

and

Wendell Roberson, CERA, Deputy Director

Board of Voter Registration and Elections

of Beaufort County



AGENDA

- **Our Board**
- **How to Register to vote**
- **Who can Register to vote**
- **Upcoming Elections**
- **What makes Open Primaries Different**
- **Candidate Filing**
- **Sample Ballots**
- **Early Voting**
- **Absentee Process**
- **New Precincts/Locations**
- **Poll Workers**
- **Contact Us**

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag. The top left corner shows the blue field with white stars, while the rest of the image is dominated by the red and white stripes of the flag, which appear to be waving or draped across the top.

Mission of the Board

The mission of the Board is to ensure every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote and participate in fair and impartial elections with the assurance that every vote will count.



Board Composition

- **Nine members appointed by Governor**
 - **Beaufort County Legislative Delegation recommends**
- **Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary are selected by the Board**
- **Must be certified by SC Election Commission**
- **Director serves at pleasure of Board**
 - **Primary advisor to Board**
 - **Represents Board, manages day-to-day operations including staffing, budgeting and public relations**
 - **Primary liaison between Board and County Council**



How to Register

- **Online**
 - Requires S.C. Drivers License or DMV ID
 - If you have moved, you must first update your residence address with DMV.
- **By mail, email or fax**
 - Download application (SCVotes.gov) and return to VR office
- **In person**
 - **Voter Registration Office**
 - **Main Office: 15 John Galt Rd. Beaufort, SC 29906**
 - **Bluffton Office: 4819 Bluffton Pkwy. Bluffton. SC 29910**

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes, positioned in the upper left corner and extending across the top.

Who Can Register?

- **Must be 18 years of age on or before the date of the election**
 - **If eligible to vote in a General Election (Nov)--- the voter is eligible to vote in the Statewide Primary (June)**
 - **Must be registered 30 days prior but no more than 120 days prior**
- **Must be a U.S. citizen**
- **Must be South Carolina Resident**
- **Must be resident of the precinct in which applicant is applying to vote**
- **Register no later than 30 days prior to an election**



Voter Disqualification

- **Mentally incompetent as adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction**
- **Serving a prison term resulting from conviction of a crime**
- **Convicted of a felony or offense(s) against election laws**
 - **Disqualification can be removed by service of sentence or pardon, include all parole and probation served**

Voter Registration Card

You are now registered to vote in the State of South Carolina. Your official notification of registration is attached. To vote at your polling place, you must present one of the following types of identification:

- * S.C. Driver's License
- * ID Card issued by S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- * S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- * Federal Military ID
- * U.S. Passport

Congr	Senate	House	County Council	School	Munic	Township
01	46	118	09	09	086	058

Joseph A Zokan
51 Colcock St
Bluffton, SC 29910

STATE OF S.C. VOTER REGISTRATION NOTIFICATION

COUNTY: BEAUFORT
PRECINCT: Bluffton 1A

REG. NO: 406599788

REG. DATE: 10/23/2013

Zokan, Joseph A
51 Colcock St
Bluffton, SC 29910

SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR

FOLD HERE

SEX: Male

RACE: White

DOB: 1/9/1960

VOTE AT:

Bluffton Library
120 Palmetto Way

Marie S. Smalls

COUNTY / STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL

Sample

Voter Registration Card w/ Picture

You are now registered to vote in the state of South Carolina. Your official notification of registration is attached. To vote at your polling place, you must present one of the following types of photo identification:

- * S.C. Driver's License
- * ID Card issued by S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- * S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- * Federal Military ID
- * U.S. Passport

Congr	Senate	House	County Council	School
02	24	084	04	03

This stub along with the attached notification may be used as a VOTER REGISTRATION CARD with PHOTO
To use as a photo ID, DO NOT DETACH STUB.



Sample

STATE OF S.C. VOTER REGISTRATION NOTIFICATION

COUNTY: AIKEN
PRECINCT: Carolina Hts 10

REG. NO: 024096578

REG. DATE: 2/1/2010

Dortch, Yolanda S
1036 Todd Ave
North Augusta, SC 29841

SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR

FOLD HERE

SEX: Female

RACE: Black/AA

DOB: 3/5/1978

VOTE AT:

American Legion Post 232

6070 Broadcast Drive

COUNTY / STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL

Plastic Voter Reg Card W/ Photo

S.C. Voter Identification Card

NAME: Allison Jones

REG. NO: 321234567



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



Upcoming Elections

- **May 12, 2026**
 - **School Board District 9 Special Election**
 - **Early Voting: April 27 – May 8 (Mon – Fri)**
 - **8:30 am. – 5:00 a.m.**

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Location</u>		<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bluffton 6B	Bluffton High School		Bluffton 7A & 7B	May River High School
Bluffton 1B & 5E	Bluffton Library		Palmetto Bluff	Palmetto Bluff POA Mtg Rm
Bluffton 2E	Bluffton Middle School		Buckwalter 2	Parkside Amenity Center
Bluffton 1C & 5D	Bluffton Rec Center		Bluffton 1A	Red Cedar Elementary School
Bluffton 5C	First Zion Baptist Church		Bluffton 1D	Rotary Community Center
Daufuskie	Jane Hamilton School		Bluffton 2C	The Barn at New Riverside



Upcoming Elections

- **June 9, 2026**

- **Statewide Primaries (Partisan)**

- **Governor**
- **Secretary of State**
- **State Treasurer**
- **Attorney General**
- **Comptroller General**
- **State Superintendent of Education**
- **Commissioner of Agriculture**
- **U.S. Senate**
- **U.S. Representative, Dist. 1**
- **House District**
 - 118, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124
- **Probate Judge**
- **Sheriff**
- **County Auditor**
- **County Treasurer**
- **County Council District**
 - 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11



Upcoming Elections

- **June 9, 2026- Statewide Primary**
 - **Early Voting: May 26 – June 5, 2026 (Mon – Fri)**
 - **8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
 - **Runoff (if any): June 23, 2026**
 - **Runoff Early Voting (if any): June 17 – 18, 2026 (Wed – Thurs)**



Open Primaries

- **June 9, 2026 Statewide Primary**
 - “In which party’s primary would you like to vote?”
 - **If a race does not have a candidate in your party running, that race will not show up on your ballot**
- **Example: 2022 Statewide Primary Sheriff’s Race**
 - All Candidates that filed were from the Republican Party
 - Voters who voted in the Democratic Primary did not have the Sheriff’s race on their ballot



Upcoming Elections

- **November 3, 2026- General Election**
 - **General Election (Partisan)**
 - **All the seats that were on the ballot in the June Primary**
 - **General Election (Non-Partisan)**
 - **School Board Districts:**
 - 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10
 - **Beaufort Soil/water Con District (2 seats)**
 - **Beaufort City Council (2 seats)**
 - **Hilton Head Mayor**
 - **Hilton Head, Ward:**
 - 2, 4, 5
 - **Hilton Head Public Service District Commissioner**
 - 1, 3B, 4A
 - **Fripp Island Public Service District Commissioner D and F**
 - **Hardeeville City Council (2 seats)**



Upcoming Elections

- **November 3, 2026 General Election**
 - **Early Voting: October 19 – October 31, 2026 (Mon – Sat)**
 - **8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
 - **Runoff (if any): November 17, 2026**
 - **Runoff Early Voting (if any): Nov 12 - 13, 2026 (Thurs – Fri)**



Deadlines to Register

- **In Person**

- **School Board District 9 Special Election**

- April 10 by 5:00 p.m.

- **June Primary**

- **May 8 by 5:00 p.m.**

- **November General**

- October 2 by 5:00 p.m.

- **Online, email or fax**

- **School Board District 9 Special Election**

- April 12 by 11:59 p.m.

- **June Primary**

- **May 10 by 11:59 p.m.**

- **November General**

- October 4 by 11:59 p.m.

- **Mail**

- **School Board District 9 Special Election**

- Postmarked by April 13

- **June Primary**

- **Postmarked by May 11**

- **November General**

- Postmarked by October 5



Candidate Filing

- **Partisan Candidate Filing (Statement of Intention of Candidacy)**
 - **General Election- Noon, March 16 – Noon, March 30**
 - **Special Election- Noon, 3rd Friday following vacancy**
 - **Filing Fees- 1% of Entry level salary (Statewide/County)**
- **Location**
 - **Federal, Statewide, and multi-county offices- SEC**
 - **State Senate & State House of Representative- SEC/County of residence**
 - **Countywide or less- County Board**



Candidate Filing (Cont.)

- **Nonpartisan/Municipal (Statement of Intention of Candidacy)**
 - **Municipalities- Set filing periods (60 days before election)**
 - **Nonpartisan Special Election- 45 days prior to election date**
 - **13th Tuesday following vacancy**
 - **Partisan Candidates- 75 days prior to election date**
 - **Others: School Board, Public Service Districts, other non-partisan entities**
- **Location**
 - **Municipalities- City Hall**
 - **Public Service Districts- PSD Commission**
 - **School Board- County Board**



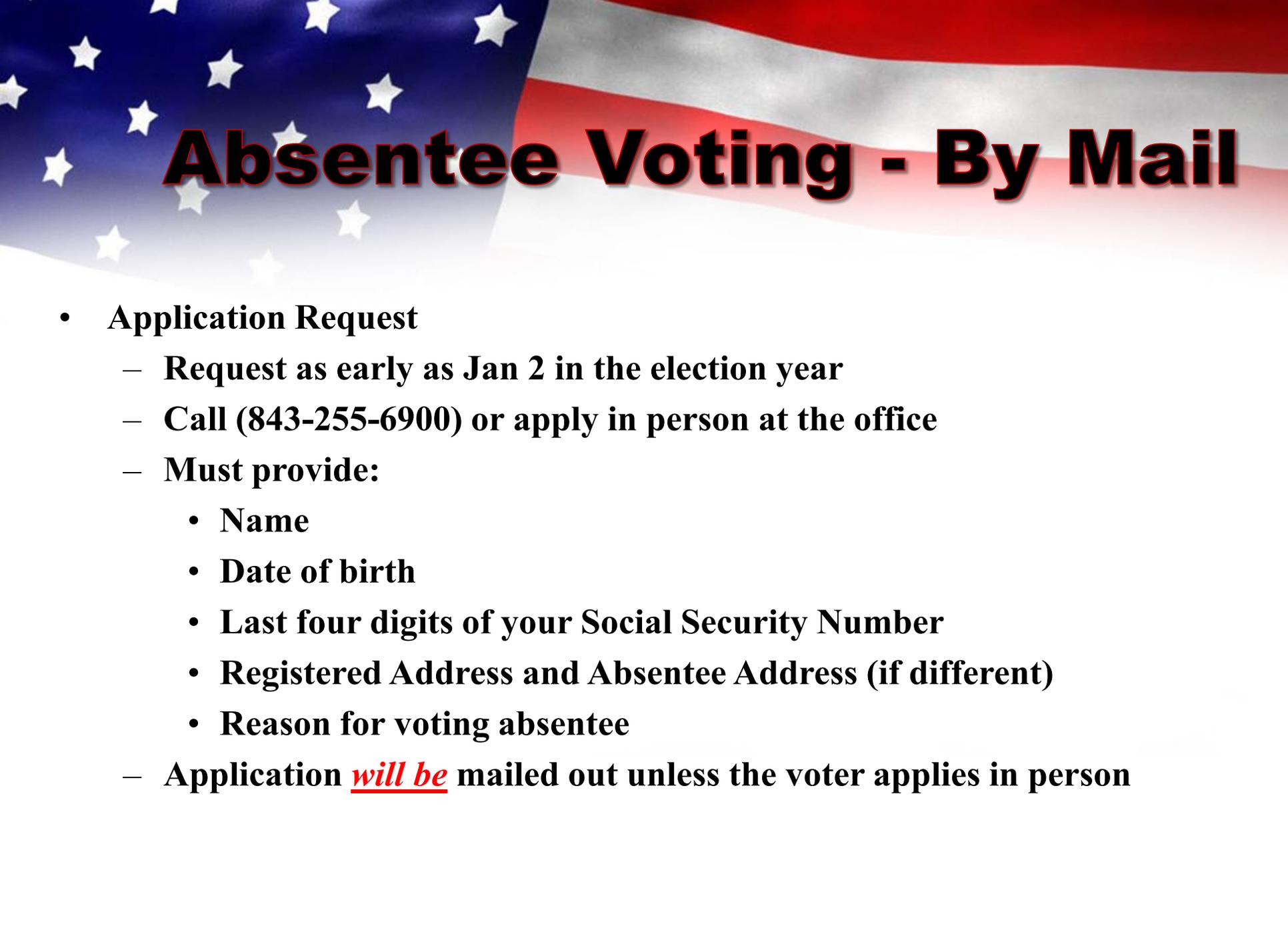
Candidate Filing (Cont.)

- **Write-In Candidate**
 - No form
 - Notify County Board in writing of intent
 - Blank space will appear on ballot for write-ins
 - Not allowed for Presidents
- **Fusion Candidate**
 - No longer allowed- Effective January 1, 2023
 - Act 150 of 2022

SC Now Has Early Voting

- **2 weeks prior to Election Day**
- ***FOUR* Early Voting Centers (EVC)**
 - Beaufort (TCL- Building 10)
 - Bluffton (Bluffton Library)
 - Hilton Head (USCB Campus)
 - St. Helena Island (St. Helena Branch Library)
- **Any registered voter can vote at any EVC**
 - General: Mon – Sat, 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 - All others: Mon – Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Change of address' can be done on site**





Absentee Voting - By Mail

- **Application Request**
 - Request as early as Jan 2 in the election year
 - Call (843-255-6900) or apply in person at the office
 - **Must provide:**
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Last four digits of your Social Security Number
 - Registered Address and Absentee Address (if different)
 - Reason for voting absentee
 - Application ***will be*** mailed out unless the voter applies in person

Absentee Voting - By Mail

Registered
Voter



County Election
Office



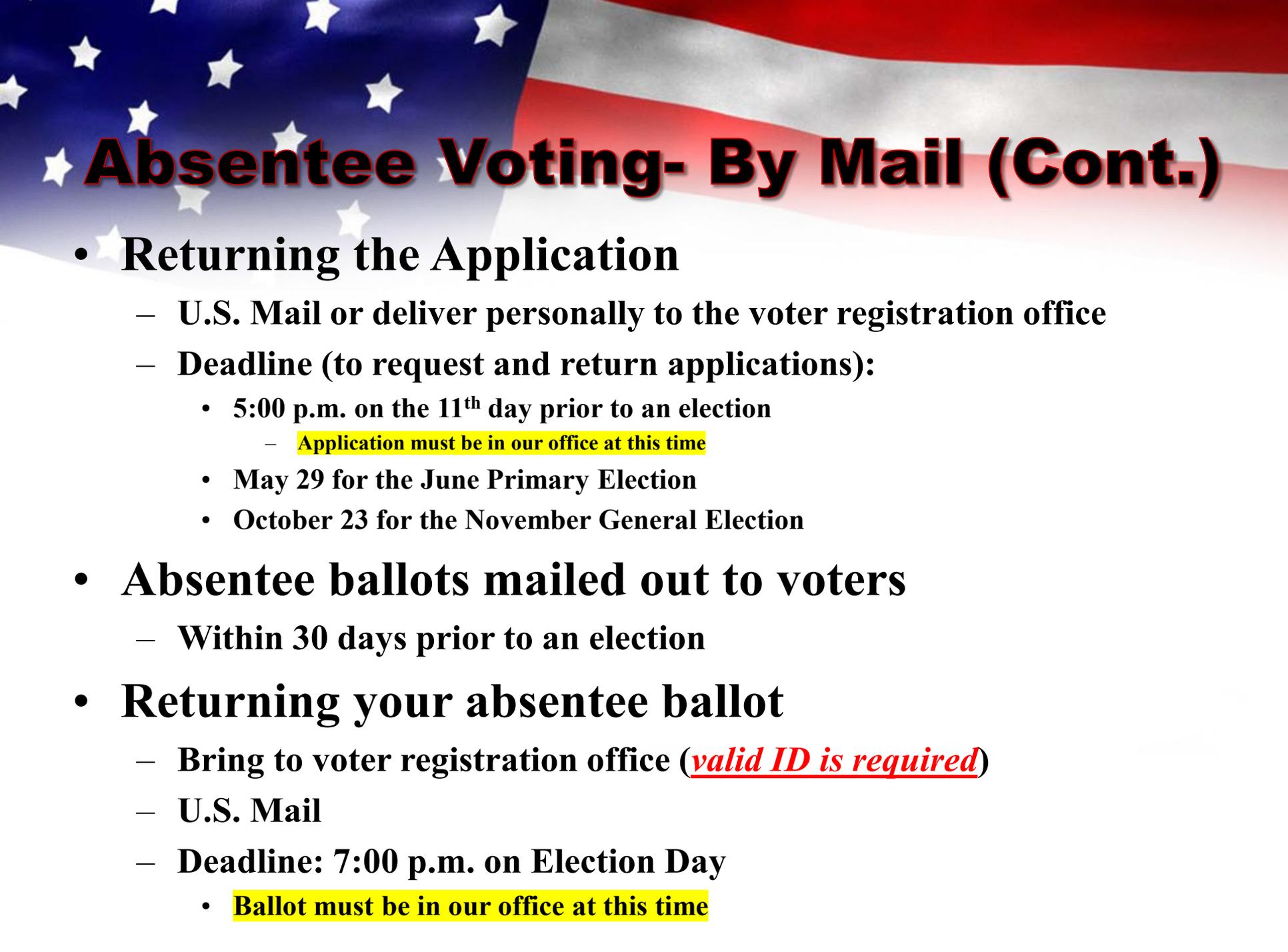
Voter requests application

Application sent to voter

Application returned

Ballot sent to voter

Voter returns ballot



• Absentee Voting- By Mail (Cont.)

- **Returning the Application**
 - U.S. Mail or deliver personally to the voter registration office
 - **Deadline (to request and return applications):**
 - 5:00 p.m. on the 11th day prior to an election
 - **Application must be in our office at this time**
 - May 29 for the June Primary Election
 - October 23 for the November General Election
- **Absentee ballots mailed out to voters**
 - Within 30 days prior to an election
- **Returning your absentee ballot**
 - Bring to voter registration office (**valid ID is required**)
 - U.S. Mail
 - **Deadline: 7:00 p.m. on Election Day**
 - **Ballot must be in our office at this time**



New Precincts

- **8 New Precincts in Beaufort County**

- **Beaufort: 2**

- **Lady's Island 2D - David Smith Community Center**
- **St Helena 1D - Dataw Community Center**

- **Bluffton: 6**

- **Bluffton 2F - The Barn at New Riverside**
- **Bluffton 4F – St Gregory the Great Parish Life Center**
- **Bluffton 7B – May River High School Athletic Foyer**
- **Moss Creek 2 – Moss Creek Bostwick Pavilion**
- **New River 3 – Mill Creek Amenity Center**
- **Riverbend 2 – Okatie Elementary School Gymnasium**

- **Hilton Head: 0**

- **Sun City: 0**

- **Pros**

- **Less voters per location**
- **Shorter lines**

- **Cons**

- **Need new polling locations**



New Locations

- **New Polling Locations**
 - **Garden Oaks Apartments**
 - **Burton 2D**
 - **Past Location: Love House Ministries**
 - **Battery Creek High School**
 - **Burton 1B**
 - **Past Location: Robert Smalls Leadership Academy**
 - **The Barn**
 - **Bluffton 2C and 2F**
 - **Past Location: May River High School**
 - **Bluffton High School**
 - **Bluffton 4B and 4E**
 - **Past Location: Hilton Head Christian Academy**
 - **Waterside at Pepper Hall**
 - **Bluffton 4A**
 - **Past Location: St Gregory the Great Parish**

We are still in need of more polling locations

- **Must meet ADA requirements**
- **Call our office at 843-255-6900 if you know of a location that could be used**

Poll Workers

- **Paid**
 - \$60 Pre-Election Brief
 - \$75 for Election Day
 - \$100 Additional Stipend
 - Total: \$235
 - Clerks are paid \$295
- **Requirements**
 - Registered to vote in Beaufort County
 - At least 16 years of age
- **Registration**
 - Application
 - Complete in-person training
 - Payroll paperwork
- **Apply at: <https://beaufortsc.easypollworker.com/home>**



Contact Us

Phone: (843) 255-6900

Fax: (843) 255-9429

Email: vote.beaufort@elections.sc.gov

Physical Address: 15 John Galt Rd
Beaufort, SC 29906

Mailing Address: P.O. Drawer 1228
Beaufort, SC 29901-1228

You can also



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- 15 John Galt Rd, Beaufort, SC, United States, South Carolina
- (843) 255-6900
- vote.Beaufort@elections.SC.gov
- beaufortcountysc.gov/vote
- Open now
- See Beaufort's About Info



Questions?



*On behalf of the Board of Voter
Registration and Elections of
Beaufort County,*

Thank you!!!