



Virginia NOW (the Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women) is a statewide feminist advocacy organization advancing women's rights and social justice for all. Chapter locations: Alexandria, Arlington, Vienna Area, Charlottesville, Rockbridge County, Fredericksburg, Montgomery County, Richmond, & Williamsburg, with individual members all across Virginia.

Senate Bill Sheet: Voting Rights

Election Ethics and Voting Rights—SUPPORT

SB 677 Absentee voting; persons eligible to vote absentee in person.

Introduced By: Sen. Janet Howell (D-Reston)

Allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse for not voting in person on Election Day. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

SB 688; SB 820 Voter identification; accepted forms of identification.

Introduced By: Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria); Sen. George Barker (D-Alexandria)

Adds to the list of accepted forms of identification for purposes of voting valid student photo identification cards issued by any private school located in the Commonwealth or by any public or private school or institution of higher education located in any other state or territory of the United States. Amends § 24.2-643, of the Code of Virginia.

SB 691 Vote centers; pilot program.

Introduced By: Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-Bath)

Authorizes the State Board of Elections to conduct a pilot program under which one or more localities unanimously approved by the State Board would establish vote centers for use in primary elections instead of operating a polling place for every precinct in the locality. The bill requires the governing body of a locality applying to participate in the pilot program to have the unanimous consent of its local electoral board. The bill also requires the State Board to publish a report on the program by August 15 of any year in which a vote center is used. The provisions of the bill would expire on December 31, 2019

SB 708; SB 719; SB 758; SB 822 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

Introduced By: Sen. John Edwards (D-Roanoke); Sen Jeff McWaters (R-Virginia Beach); Sen George Barker (D-Alexandria); Sen John Miller (D-Newport News)

Entitles persons age 65 or older on the day of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

SB 746 Absentee ballots; extends deadline for mailing to voters.

Introduced By: Sen. John Watkins (R-Midlothian)

Extends the deadline by which the electoral boards are required to make available printed ballots to be used for absentee voting from 45 days to 60 days prior to the election. By reference, this measure extends the deadline by which the general registrars are required to send out absentee ballots. Amends § 24.2-612, of the Code of Virginia.

SB 747 Absentee voting; application for ballot.

Introduced By: Sen. John Watkins (R-Midlothian)

Requires that an absentee ballot application made by mail, electronic or telephonic transmission to a facsimile device, or other means be made no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth day prior to the election in which the applicant is applying to vote absentee. Current law requires the application be made no later than the seventh day prior to the election.

SB 824 Bipartisan Va. Redistricting Commission; statewide advisory referendum relating to establishing.

Introduced By: Sen. John Miller (D-Newport News)

Provides for a statewide referendum on the question of whether the General Assembly should adopt a resolution to propose an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia that would establish an independent redistricting commission to create and propose redistricting plans for House of Delegates, state Senate, and congressional districts. The results would be advisory only and are intended only to demonstrate the preference of the citizens of the Commonwealth on the manner in which electoral districts are created. The referendum would be held at the November 2015 general election.

SB 853 Elections; assistance for certain voters.

Introduced By: Sen. Barbara Favola (D-Arlington)

Allows any qualified voter who is 75 years of age or older or a person with a disability to go to the front of the line and to vote at the next available voting booth or voting system. The bill requires the chief officer of election or other designated election official to grant requests made between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. This provision applies also to central absentee voting precincts and locations in the county or city approved by the electoral board. Amends § 24.2-638, § 24.2-649, § 24.2-707, of the Code of VA.

SB 907 Absentee ballots; name and address of voter.

Introduced By: Sen. Janet Howell (D-Reston)

Provides that a voter's failure to include, in the Statement of Voter for returning a voted absentee ballot, his full name and the full address of his legal residence in VA is not a material omission and does not render his ballot void.