Voter Registration Training
Virginia Organizing is dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives.

Reach out to us if you'd like to get involved: amandadameron@virginia-organizing.org

Key Elements:

- Statewide
- Grassroots
- Non-partisan
- Intentionally anti-racist
- Center people who are directly affected

- Multi-Constituency
- Move people to take action
- Develop leaders

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Virginia Organizing especially encourages the participation of those who have traditionally had little or no voice in our society. By building relationships with individuals and groups throughout the state, Virginia Organizing strives to get them to work together, democratically and non-violently, for change.

Our Campaigns:

- Wide variety of local campaigns
- Statewide/national:
  - Health Care
  - Immigration
  - Environmental Justice
  - Criminal Justice Reform
  - Restoration of Rights
Disclaimer: Virginia Organizing is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We do not coordinate with any political party, or candidate.
**Goal for the training:** Feel more comfortable with the process and forms associated with registering voters, and applying for restoration of civic rights

Virginia Department of Elections has an online training that we highly encourage you to take if you plan to do voter registration drives. You must sign an affidavit to be registered with the department to do registration drives, or request more than 25 voter registration forms from the Registrar's office.

https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/
"Virginia law requires training and registration for some individuals and groups conducting voter registration drives. Specifically, groups and individuals that obtain 25 or more voter registration applications from ELECT or a local registrar’s office must register with ELECT or in person at the general registrar and take training (Va. Code § 24.2-416.6). Groups printing their own registration applications and engaging in registration drives are also strongly encouraged to register and receive this training."
Why get out the vote?

- June 2020 registrations are 40% less than June 2019, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.
- Turnout for local elections is low as 15%
- Only 74% of people who have gotten their rights restored are registered to vote
- Voter suppression continues to persist
New Voting Legislation

1. Individuals can now vote 45 days prior to election day without an excuse (*Sept. 19 to Oct. 31 @ 5 p.m.*)
2. Individuals are not required to show a photo ID when they show up to the polls on election day*
3. Election Day is now a state holiday to help ensure folks have time to cast their ballots
4. Automatic voter registration for individuals who access services at the DMV office, or DMV website
5. Expanded absentee voting timelines (postmarked by 7:00 p.m. on November 3, must be received by noon on the third day following the election)

*More details on next slide
New ID Procedures

- When voter arrives to polling location, they will be asked for an acceptable form of ID
  - This has been expanded to include non-photo IDs (see link below)
- If voter doesn't have an ID, they will need to sign a statement saying they are the named registered voter before they can cast their ballot
  - Folks who register for the first time via mail will not be able to provide signed statement in replacement of an ID
- If a voter does not show ID, nor signs the statement, they will be offered a provisional ballot
- All first time voters must show ID, they are not eligible to provide the written statement in replacement

SPECIAL FEDERAL ID REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN FIRST TIME ABSENTEE BY MAIL VOTERS

- For persons who registered to vote in Virginia by mail, federal law requires them to show identification (ID) when voting for the first time in a federal election if they did not send a copy of one of these IDs with their voter registration applications. Recent legislation has eliminated the differences in acceptable identification for in-person voting. Therefore, the special federal ID requirements only apply to certain absentee voters by mail who will be notified by a notice explaining the requirements sent with their absentee ballot. Voters who receive a notice about this special requirements need to include a copy of any of the following types of ID with the voted ballot:
  - A current and valid photo ID (for example a driver’s license);
  - or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that shows name and address;
  - or another government document that shows name and address (for example a voter card).
- If the voter returns an absentee ballot by mail without a copy of one of these forms of ID, the absentee ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot and counted only if the voter provides a copy of ID to the electoral board by the deadline applicable to all voters. If the voter returns an absentee ballot by mail without a copy of one of these forms of ID, the absentee ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot and counted only if the voter provides a copy of ID to the electoral board by the deadline applicable to all voters.
Voter Registration

• You can only register new voters, or update information for someone who's moved. Check their status at https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voter
  ○ You'll need first & last name, birthdate, and last four digits of their SSN
  ○ Link to citizen portal: check status, register to vote, apply to vote by mail, find polling location

• Qualifications to register to vote in Virginia
  ○ Be a U.S. Citizen
  ○ Be a resident of Virginia
  ○ Be 18 years old before election
  ○ Have rights restored
  ○ Not be registered to vote/planning to vote in another state

• Where folks can register to vote
  ○ Local registrar office
  ○ DMV (in-person or online)
  ○ Online
    - Folks with a DMV ID can submit application electronically at vote.virginia.gov
    - Folks without a DMV ID can fill out the application online, but must print it off and mail it to their local registrar

Virginia Voter Registration Application

1. [ ] ☐ YES ☐ NO * I am a citizen of the United States of America. * Full social security number ☐ None [ ] ☐ SSN was ever issued. * Gender

2. [ ] ☐ Last name Jr. Sr. II III IV (Click applicable) * First name * Middle name ☐ None * Residence address (Not be a P.O. Box). Apt # * City/Town * ZIP E-mail Phone

3. [ ] ☐ Have you ever been convicted of a felony or judged mentally incapacitated and disqualified to vote? [ ] YES ☐ NO If yes, has your right to vote been restored? [ ] YES ☐ NO

4. [ ] ☐ I am an active duty uniformed services member, spouse or dependent; or an overseas citizen. [ ] ☐ I am providing a mailing address (below) because my residence address is not serviced by the U.S. Postal Service and I am homeless. [ ] ☐ I am providing a Virginia P.O. Box (below) to protect my residence address from public disclosure because I or a household member has:

☐ An active or retired law enforcement officer, judge, U.S. or Virginia Attorney General's attorney.
☐ Been granted an order of protective order.
☐ In fear for personal safety from being threatened or stalked by another person.
☐ A participant in the Virginia Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program.
☐ Been approved to be a foster parent.

My mailing address (Complete only if you have checked a box in this section)

5. [ ] ☐ I am currently registered to vote in another state: [ ] ☐ [Indicate state of previous registration]

6. [ ] ☐ I am interested in being an Officer of Election (poll worker) on Election Day. Please provide information.

7. AFFIRMATION: I swear/affirm, under felony penalty for making willfully false material statements or entries, that the information provided on this form is true. I authorize the cancellation of my current registration and I have read the Privacy Act Notice.

* Signature

Today’s date: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

By checking this box, I affirm both that I am an individual with physical disabilities and the Affirmation Statement above. Pursuant to Article 6, § 2, of the Constitution of Virginia, individuals with physical disabilities are not required to sign the application for voter registration.

* Virginia Voter Registration Application Receipt

The application collector must submit your completed application within 10 days of or by the deadline to register for the next election, whichever comes first. You can check your voter registration status online at www.elections.gov/pace/registra. If you do not receive confirmation of your voter registration status within 10 days, contact your local voter registrar or the Virginia Department of Elections.

[ ] ☐ Name, phone and e-mail of office, group or individual receiving application Date application received

Thank you for applying to vote in Virginia!
Important to remember:

- Don't forget to give the applicant their receipt
- Alphabetize the applications, and separate voting jurisdictions before turning them in to the registrar
- Turn applications to the local registrar within 10 days, or before the registration deadline (whichever comes first)
- A approval or denial notice will be mailed to the address on the application within 14 days (call registrar if not received)
  - Applicants can check the status of their registration on the online portal
  - If the applicant is denied, encourage them to call the registrar first. Appealing the decision formally cost $10
- Don't pre-fill the application
- You can keep the applicants name, year of birth, address, & contact information. NOT their SSN.
  - Follow up with them around election time, make sure they have an election day plan
Restoration of Rights

- With your rights restored, you can:
  - Vote
  - Become a notary public
  - Serve on a jury
  - Run for public office
- After application is sent, the review process can take between 1-3 months.
  - Applicants must apply to vote after their rights are restored.
- If an individual is convicted in another state, but now lives in Virginia, call the Secretary of the Commonwealth to proceed.
- If an individual is convicted in Virginia, but now lives elsewhere, the Virginia Governor can still restore their rights. Follow application process.

Application: https://www.restore.virginia.gov/
RESTORATION OF RIGHTS

To have your rights restored or to check your restoration status visit us at http://Restore.Virginia.gov, call us at 804-822-0104, or simply complete and return this form via mail to:

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Restoration of Rights Division
P.O. Box 2154
Richmond, Virginia 23218

[Form fields including Full Legal Name, Full Name When Convicted, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Email Address, In Which Court Were You Convicted? (Check All That Apply), Are You a U.S. Citizen, Eligibility for Restoration of Civil Rights, The Civil Rights Restored Through This Process Include: Vote, Become a Notary Public, Serve on a Jury, Run for Public Office)]

Please note that the restoration of rights does not restore the right to possess a firearm. You must petition the appropriate circuit court pursuant to Virginia Code § 18.2-308.2. This is not a pardon nor does it expunge a criminal conviction.
Important Reminders for November Election

- Deadline to register to vote in the November 3 election is *October 13*
- Absentee ballot by mail application deadline is *October 23 @ 5:00 p.m.*
  - Absentee ballots returned to local general registrar’s office postmarked by: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 3, 2020. (must arrive by noon on the third day following the election.)
- Early voting must be completed by *October 31 @ 5:00 p.m.*
  - Early voting will take place at your local registrar's office
Take Action

- Connect with the people in your own contact list
- Each One Takes Ten form
- Post flyers with voter registration information
  - [https://virginia-organizing.org/register-voters/](https://virginia-organizing.org/register-voters/)
- Connect with your local organizer to develop a plan for your community
  - [https://virginia-organizing.org/staff/](https://virginia-organizing.org/staff/)
- Email Joe Szakos for a cold list of people to call
  - (szakos@virginia-organizing.org)
- Check in to our landing page for additional voter registration information and materials
  - [https://virginia-organizing.org/register-voters/](https://virginia-organizing.org/register-voters/)
**EACH ONE TAKES TEN**

Your name ____________________
Phone _______________________
E-mail _______________________

List ten people you will contact to check if they (1) are registered to vote (or need to work on getting their rights restored), (2) know where their polling place is, (3) know who is on the ballot, (4) make sure they have a plan for election day, and know the date and time their polling place will be open on election day and (5) know the process to get an absentee ballot:

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Are any of them willing to commit to work on an EACH ONE TAKES TEN campaign and contact TEN people?

Need help? Contact Virginia Organizing at (434) 984-4655 x222

[Logo: Virginia Organizing]
Voter Registration during a Pandemic

- Public Zoom registration sessions
- Including flyers or registration forms in food bank deliveries, at gas stations, other essential businesses
- Posters (at rallies or other public spaces) with QR codes that direct folks to registration site
- Social media campaigns (infographics, flowcharts, 'register to vote' sticker on Instagram)
- Vote Forward: sign up at this website to get a list of infrequent voters. You'll send them letters encouraging them to vote in the upcoming election. (Can't send until 10/17/20)
  - [https://votefwd.org/](https://votefwd.org/)
Important Contact Information

Department of Elections: (804)-864-8901
  ◦ General voter registration/voting questions

Secretary of the Commonwealth: (804)-692-0104
  ◦ Restoration of rights questions

Your Local Registrar:
  ◦ Questions about voter registration/voting in your community
  ◦ https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup
Follow along online

Facebook
@VirginiaOrganizing

Twitter
@VAOrganizing

Instagram
@vaorganizing