

4 Public Education

Get Ready to Vote for Public Schools

October 4, 2023



Why Are School Board Elections so Important?

There are more than 90,000 school board members in the U.S., over 49 million students in public schools

<https://www.schoolboardschool.org/>

[What Does a School Board Member Do?](#)



Our democracy depends on you.

School board members play a vital role in your community. Their decisions will determine everything from how quickly students make up academic ground lost during the pandemic, to the kinds of wrap-around services available to address students' physical and emotional needs, to whether or not schools are safe and welcoming places for every student.

Your community's students are depending on your VOTE.



NATIONAL VOTING INFORMATION

It's a school board election year in 35 states.

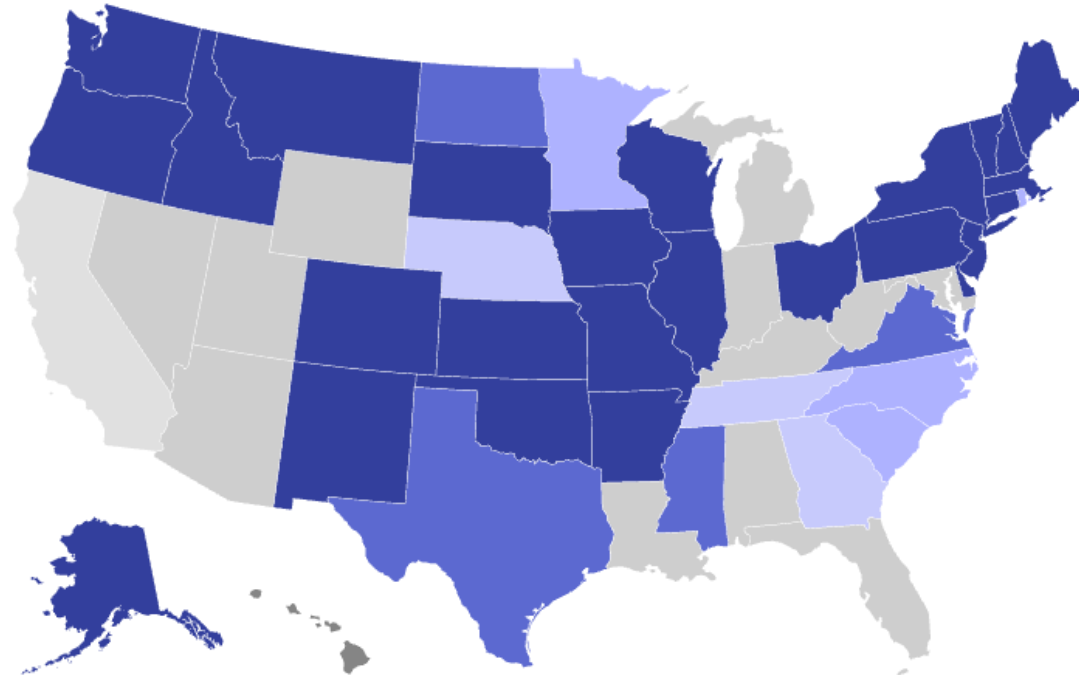
Does your school district have school board elections this year?

VISIT BALLOTPEDIA TO FIND OUT

States with regular school district board elections in 2023

This map shows the percentage of school districts in the state with school board elections in 2023

■ Yes: 90% - 100% ■ Yes: 70% - 90% ■ Yes: 5% - 20% ■ Yes: Less than 5% ■ Appointed ■ Likely none ■ No



BALLOTPEDIA

<https://www.schoolboardschool.org/election-action>

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In Virginia

2023 Virginia School Board Elections

District	Primary	General Election	General Runoff Election	Regular term length	Seats up for election	Total board seats	2017-2018 enrollment
Chesterfield County Public Schools	N/A	11/7/2023	N/A	4	5	5	60,915
Fairfax County Public Schools	N/A	11/7/2023	N/A	4	12	12	188,556
Henrico County Public Schools	N/A	11/7/2023	N/A	4	5	5	51,625
Loudoun County Public Schools	N/A	11/7/2023	N/A	4	9	9	80,606
Prince William County Public Schools	N/A	11/7/2023	N/A	4	8	8	90,562



[https://ballotpedia.org/School board elections, 2023#Virginia](https://ballotpedia.org/School_board_elections,_2023#Virginia)

[Virginia City School Board Elections Schedule \(PDF\)](#)

[Virginia County School Board Elections Schedule \(PDF\)](#)

What is your voting plan?



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Ready!

Register to vote.



Remember to check your registration information before your state's voter registration deadline. That could be up to 30 days before the election. This gives you time if you need to re-register or make changes.

Each state makes its own voting rules, including how to confirm your registration. All state election offices and many local election offices have websites with information about voting, including what's on your ballot, where your polling place is located, and how you can request a ballot in the mail. Check with your state or local elections office to get the most detailed and up-to-date information about where you vote.

Contact your local elections office if you have any questions about the identification requirement in your state, or find your state's voter registration requirements here:
<https://www.eac.gov/voters/register-and-vote-in-your-state>



Set!

Find the voting option that works for you.



Voting by mail is one way voters may participate in an election other than in-person at a voting location. This process is also called **absentee voting** in some communities. Each state has its own rules on who can vote by mail. Some states require an excuse to vote by mail, while other states automatically mail every registered voter a ballot before an election. Examples of excuses may include illness, injury, disability, traveling outside of your jurisdiction or locality on Election Day, being a college student, or serving in the military.



In-person voting typically takes place at a polling place on Election Day, but voters may have the option to vote before Election Day at a polling location, vote center, or elections office. Contact your local elections office for more information about upcoming election dates, polling hours, and in-person voting options.



Vote!

Make your plan.



Here are a few things to consider adding to your voting plan:

6 weeks before Election Day

- Check your voter registration status. If you have moved since the last time you voted, make sure your information is up to date.

4 weeks before Election Day

- Decide which voting option works best for you. If you would like to vote by mail (and you are eligible in your state), request your ballot today.

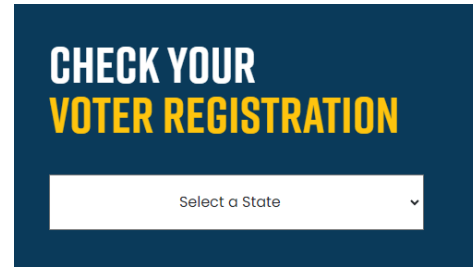
2 weeks before Election Day

- If you are not eligible to vote by mail, or if you prefer to vote in person, check with your local elections office to see if you can vote in-person before Election Day.

Election Day

- Go vote! Check with your local elections office for hours and locations.

1. Check your voter registration



Vote411.Org

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★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT of ELECTIONS

[English](#) [한국인](#) [Español](#) [Tiếng Việt](#)

Citizen Portal

Register to vote, update your current Virginia voter registration, apply to vote absentee by mail, or view your polling place, election district, absentee ballot status, and voting history.

[Register to Vote](#)

[Check registration status](#)

[Find your polling place](#)

[Apply to Vote Absentee by Mail](#)

All information entered on this page must be entered in English, failure to do so may cause a delay in processing your application.

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>



2. Learn about early voting options



Virginia- <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/early-absentee/>

Fairfax County-
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting>



3. Explore your day of options

- Where is your site

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/polling>

- How will you get there

- Schedule it into your day, put it on your calendar



4. Who is on the ballot

- What is the composition of your school board (at-large vs district) ?
- How many are up for election this year?
- Partisan vs non-partisan races-

https://ballotpedia.org/Rules_governing_party_labels_in_school_board_elections

Virginia School Board Elections:

https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_school_board_elections,_2023 AND

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/2023-november-general-election---local-candidates/>

FCPS Candidate Info:

Fairfax County Democratic Committee endorsed candidates: with links to their websites and questionnaires- <https://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/2023endorsement/>

Fairfax County Republican Committee endorsed candidates: with links to websites-

<https://fairfaxgop.org/2023-fairfaxgop-endorsed-school-board-candidates-fairfax-county/>

In Fairfax County you are voting for 4 school board members!!! Three at large and 1 Magisterial District

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Research Candidates

Candidate questionnaires- local media, PTA, community groups

Candidate Forums- League of Women Voters, local media



4 Public Education At- Large Candidate Guide: <https://www.4publiceducation.org/>

Code of Virginia: School Board Elections:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter5/section22.1-57.3/>

FCPS At-Large Candidate Forum:

Thursday, October 5th, virtual

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-candidate-forum-fairfax-county-school-board-at-large-tickets-707633489817?aff=oddtcreator>



5. Rally Your Squad

- Connect with 3-5 people
- Give them information and resources
- Ask them their voting plan

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6. Know your rights

Election day problems?

Report an election problem by calling:

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)

1-844-YALLA-US (Arabic)

[League of Women Voters- Voting Rights](#)

Virginia Voter Complaints-<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-complaints/>

Fairfax Country FAQ's- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/faq>

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7. Volunteer

Become a poll worker-

United States Elections Assistance Commission

<https://www.eac.gov/voters/become-poll-worker>

Virginia- Working at the polls

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/officer-of-elections/>

Fairfax County- Working at the polls

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/officers/new-officers>

Offer rides to neighbors, hand out sample ballots, volunteer for a campaign



8. Vote

Get a sample ballot:

Find your State and Local Election Offices- <https://www.usa.gov/state-election-office>

Virginia Department of Elections

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/>

[Fairfax County Sample Ballot PDF](#)

Fairfax County where do I vote?

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/myneighborhood/>

Virginia Find your polling place

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/polling>



9. Spread the word

- Share links and images on social media
- Forward presentation to groups
- Talk to friends and neighbors one on one



What can you do?



10. Questions?



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