

# Absentee Voting

## ***When can I apply for an absentee ballot?***

Voters can begin applying as early as January 1 to vote absentee for any election held during that same year.

## ***How do I request an absentee ballot application?***

In person, by phone (except authorized representatives) or by mail. Contact your county Board of Voter Registration in the county in which you are registered.

## ***Who can request an absentee ballot application?***

Any registered voter, member of voter's immediate family or an authorized representative.

The term "authorized representative" means a registered elector who, with the voter's permission, acts on behalf of a voter unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability resulting in his confinement in a hospital, sanatorium, nursing home, or place of residence, or a voter unable because of a physical handicap to go to his polling place or because of such handicap unable to vote at his polling place due to existing architectural barriers which deny him physical access to the polling place, voting booth or voting apparatus or machinery. Under no circumstance shall a candidate, or member of a candidate's paid campaign staff or volunteers reimbursed for the time they expend on campaign activity be considered an "authorized representative" of an elector desiring to vote by absentee ballot.

## ***When should I return my absentee ballot application?***

If applying by mail, the county Board of Voter Registration office must receive your application no later than 5:00 P.M. four days prior to the election. If you wish, you may apply and vote in person up until 5:00 p.m. the day before the election.

## ***What if there is an emergency and I can't get to the polls?***

Voters admitted to the hospital as an emergency patient on the day of the election or within four days of the election can have an immediate family member apply and carry a ballot to the voter.

## ***Can I apply for an absentee ballot and vote on the same day?***

If the ballots are prepared, you can vote on the day you submit your absentee ballot application.

## ***Can I authorize anyone to return my ballot for me?***

To have your absentee ballot returned by a person other than yourself, it is necessary for the absentee voter to complete an "Authorization to Return Absentee Ballot Form." The absentee voter will complete Part I and the person returning the ballot will complete Part II of the form. Candidates and paid campaign workers may not return absentee ballots except for an immediate family member.

## ***Is there a special envelope that I must use to return the ballot?***

Yes. Your completed absentee ballot must be placed in the "Ballots Herein" envelope provided with your absentee ballot. The "Ballots Herein" envelope will then be placed inside a "Return Envelope" which you must sign and have witnessed before returning.

## ***Can illiterate voters receive help in applying or marking their ballot?***

Voters unable to write because of physical handicap or illiteracy may receive help in applying for and marking their ballot. The voter must make his/her mark and have the mark witnessed by someone chosen by the voter.

**For information:  
Abbeville County  
Registration & Elections  
864-366-5312 x53  
abbevillecountysc.com**

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**EVERY VOTE COUNTS.**  
sc.votes.org