



# SHANDON PRESBYTERIAN ELECTION CONNECTION

In this time of uncertainty and upheaval in our wider world, the Outreach Ministry's Peacemaking Committee has discerned that an important part of our mission is to encourage civic engagement among our congregation and in our community and to manifest as best we can God's love through our support and hospitality offered to those navigating a sometimes confusing, sometimes difficult, sometimes trying process. We are calling our efforts "Election Connection." We are focused from now through election day on providing timely information about the election processes in our local counties, along with support and hospitality to our members and neighbors. We will update "Election Connection" information resources and materials as things change. Below you will find information you may need in the coming weeks and opportunities to add your heart and hands to the effort.

## Section One: Voting Information

### Voter Registration

- ▶ How do I register to vote?
  - You can register online at [www.scvotes.gov](http://www.scvotes.gov). This requires a valid drivers license or DMV ID.
  - You can register to vote in person at your county voter registration office. This will also require a valid photo ID.
  
- ▶ How old do you have to be to register to vote?

You can register to vote if you will be 18 years old on or before Election Day. However, you must be registered to vote by Oct. 2nd (even if your birthday is after that date).
  
- ▶ What is the deadline to register to vote?
  - 5 p.m. Oct. 2, 2020 – Deadline to register to vote in person for General Election (unless county board holds weekend hours).
  - Oct. 4, 2020 – Deadline to register to vote online or by fax or email for General Election. Visit [www.scvotes.gov](http://www.scvotes.gov)
  - Oct. 5, 2020 – Deadline to register to vote by mail for General Election (Must be postmarked by this date.)
  - If you move to a different county, you must change your voter registration by the deadline to register to vote.

### Absentee Voting

- ▶ What is absentee voting? Voting in person or by mail before Election Day.
  
- ▶ Who can vote absentee?

Normally, in SC to vote absentee you must fit into one of 16 categories. However, the SC Legislature has removed that requirement for the November election. This means that absentee voting is available to everyone for the upcoming election without having to provide a reason for voting absentee.

▶ How do you vote absentee in person?

Generally, in-person absentee voting begins on Sept. 28. You can vote in-person absentee until 5 p.m. Nov. 2. However, be aware that for Richland County this year it is possible that the start of in-person absentee voting will be postponed until Oct. 5, due to a local special election the week of Sept. 28.

- To vote in-person absentee, go to your county election commission office. You will be asked to fill out the application to vote absentee. You will then be shown to a voting machine where you will cast your ballot. Then you can get your sticker and head out.
- What identification do I need to show to vote in-person absentee? You will need to provide one of the following forms of photo identification:
  - SC Driver's License: Includes standard license or REAL ID
  - SC Department of Motor Vehicles ID Card: Includes standard ID card or REAL ID or SC Concealed Weapons Permit
  - SC Voter Registration Card with Photo
  - Federal Military ID: Includes all Department of Defense Photo IDs or Veterans Affairs Benefits Card
  - US Passport: Includes US Passport ID Card

▶ How do you vote absentee by mail?

- Obtain an application to vote absentee.
  - You can request the application online on the SC Election Commission website. You will need to provide your County, Name, Date of birth, and last four of your social security number, then hit submit and the form will appear for you to print:  
<https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=AbsenteeRequest>
  - You can call or email your county voter registration office.
  - Once have printed the application or have received it in the mail, complete the application, sign it, and return it to your county voter registration office by email, mail, fax, or personal delivery.
  - Be sure to return your application for an absentee ballot at least two weeks before election day to make sure your ballot is mailed to you in time.
- Receive your absentee ballot in the mail. Voters who have applied early will be mailed their absentee ballot approximately 30 days before the election.
- Vote and return the ballot to your county voter registration office either by mail or personal delivery.
  - If you are mailing your ballot, place the ballot in the "ballot here-in" envelope and place the "ballot here-in" envelope in the return envelope. Be sure to sign the voter's oath and have your signature witnessed. Anyone can witness your signature. It does not have to be a notary public.
  - If you are returning your ballot by personal delivery, the voter must be the person to return the ballot. You can have another person return your ballot for you, but they must complete an Authorization to Return Absentee Ballot Form.
- Ballots must be received by the county voter registration office by 7p.m. on election day. To help ensure timely delivery, mail your ballot no later than one week prior to election day.
- If you are returning you ballot on Election Day, do NOT take it to your polling place. Return your ballot to your county voter registration office.
- You can visit [www.scvotes.gov](http://www.scvotes.gov) to see when your application and ballot was issued and returned.

▶ What if I request an absentee ballot but decide I want to vote in-person at my polling place on Election Day? You have two options:

- Option 1 – Vote a provisional ballot. This ballot will count if the voter has not returned an Absentee ballot and is otherwise qualified to vote.
- Option 2 – Go to your county voter registration office, receive authorization letter, return to polling place, and vote a regular ballot using the ballot-marking device and scanner.

▶ To find your county voter registration office phone number and address, click here:

[https://www.scvotes.gov/how\\_register\\_absentee\\_voting](https://www.scvotes.gov/how_register_absentee_voting)

## Section Two: Volunteering Information

### Volunteer to be a poll manager

#### ▶ What does a poll manager do?

Managers may serve in various roles on election day. In smaller precincts or in elections with low turnout, one manager may play multiple roles:

- Clerk – The clerk is the lead poll manager and oversees the polling place. It is the clerk's job to assign roles, arrange the polling place, monitor the flow of traffic, maintain an orderly voting process, complete paperwork, ensure equipment is returned, and ensure policies and procedures are followed.
- Greeters – Greets voters, asks voters if they have the proper Photo ID, asks voters to have their ID ready, identifies voters with issues, directs voters to the manager's table or resolution table, monitors for curbside voting, and monitors for any issues inside or outside the polling place.
- Manager's table – Processes voters.
- Resolution table – Processes voters with address issues, provisional ballots, and other issues.
- Curbside manager – Manages the curbside voting process.
- Ballot-marking device manager – Directs voters to an available ballot-marking device, instructs voters on inserting the ballot card, selects ballot styles, and directs voters to the scanner.
- Exit monitor – Monitors the scanner to ensure voters do not leave without scanning their ballot, instructs voters on how to scan their ballot, provides "I Voted" stickers, and collects ballot stubs from voters casting an emergency ballot.

#### ▶ What are the qualifications to be a poll manager?

- Clerks must be registered to vote in the county in which they are working, or in an adjoining county. For those residing in Richland County, the adjoining counties are Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield, Kershaw, Sumter, and Calhoun. For those residing in Lexington, the adjoining counties are Richland, Newberry, Saluda, Aiken, Orangeburg, and Calhoun.
- Poll managers other than clerks only need to be registered to vote somewhere in South Carolina. There is no requirement to be a resident of the county or an adjoining county.
- Managers may not be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister of a candidate at any polling place where the candidate's name appears on the ballot.

#### ▶ How to apply to be a poll manager?

You can apply online at this link: <https://noexcuses.com/apply-to-be-a-poll-manager/>

#### ▶ Are poll managers paid?

- Yes, poll managers:  
\$60 for attending training + \$15 for COVID-19 training + \$75 for working on election day + \$15 for additional COVID-19 related duties on election day = \$165 Total
- Clerks (the lead poll manager):  
Poll manager Pay + \$60 for additional training and responsibilities = \$225 Total

#### ▶ Are poll managers trained?

Yes, you have to attend online and in-person training. You can read the entire Poll Managers Handbook here: [https://www.scvotes.gov/south-carolina-poll-managers-handbook?\\_ga=2.13489268.299293000.1600050584-831768082.1599704671](https://www.scvotes.gov/south-carolina-poll-managers-handbook?_ga=2.13489268.299293000.1600050584-831768082.1599704671)

### Volunteer to be a Poll Watcher

#### ▶ What is a poll watcher?

A poll watcher is someone who is appointed by a candidate or a political party to observe the election day procedures in a precinct. The poll managers of the polling place will designate a place where watchers can remain throughout election day. Conversations between watchers and voters are not permitted within the polling place. Watchers will not be permitted to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election or influence any voter in the casting of a ballot.

- ▶ How do I apply to be a poll watcher?  
Please contact your political party affiliation or your favorite candidate's SC office to find out how to volunteer. In a general or special election, all candidates of the same party are jointly represented at any one voting place by no more than two watchers for each 1000 registered voters at the polling place. Each non-partisan, petition or announced write-in candidate may appoint one watcher for any polling place where his/her name is on the ballot.
- ▶ What are the qualifications to be a poll watcher?
  - Must be a qualified voter in the county.
  - Present the poll manager with a letter signed by the candidate or by an appropriate party official stating that he/she is certified to act as a watcher in that precinct.
  - Wear a badge not to exceed 4 ¼- x 4 ¼-inch, specifying the name of the candidate or party he/she represents.
- ▶ Volunteer to drive people to polls on Election Day.  
We have received permission to use the Church's bus to transport voters to and from the polls on Election Day. We are working with other community groups to identify communities that need rides to the polls. If a member of the church needs a ride to their precinct, we can also accommodate that request. We need volunteers to take a shift driving the bus to and from the polls and to make sure that all riders are accounted for before the bus leaves the polling place.
- ▶ Volunteer to provide hospitality to voters on Election Day.  
Each election day, it seems like people are lined up for long periods of time waiting to vote. This Election Day could turn out to be chilly and rainy, and we want to provide snacks and warm drinks, umbrellas, blankets, and other items to make people more comfortable while waiting to vote. You can volunteer to bake, make drinks, collect umbrellas, collect blankets, and distribute those items. Ideally, we would identify the polling locations that have traditionally had long lines and focus our efforts there. This will be particularly important to support people in line at 7 p.m. on Election Day who may still have to wait several hours to vote. We will need to be flexible to determine which polling places need support at what times of the day.
- ▶ Voter protection hotline.
  - If you have a question on election day – even while at your polling location – or to report an issue, you can call the Voter Protection Hotline, which is staffed by attorneys.
  - You can call: 855-785-0222 or 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)

**Prior to election day, if you have a question or need help, you may contact:**

Kathleen McDaniel:  
843-345-8865  
[kathleenMMcdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenMMcdaniel@gmail.com)

MaryAnne Massey:  
803-466-7021  
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