

# SOUTH CAROLINA

# PREPARED TO VOTE 2016

## IMPORTANT DATES

**SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016**

Registration deadline for Primary Election Day

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016**

Primary Election Day – Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016**

Registration deadline for General Election

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015 BY 5:00 PM**

Deadline for application for Absentee Voting by Mail for General Election

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016 BY 5:00 PM**

Deadline for Absentee In Person Voting for General Election

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016 BY 7:00 PM**

Deadline for receipt of Absentee Ballots by Mail for General Election

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

Election Day – Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

## VERIFY YOUR VOTING INFORMATION

### **How can I verify that I am registered to vote?**

You should receive a voter registration certificate after you register to vote. You can verify your voter registration status online at <http://www.scvotes.org> or by calling the South Carolina Election Commission at 803.734.9060.

### **Can I register to vote if I have a felony conviction?**

If you have a felony conviction, your right to vote is automatically restored if you have served your entire sentence, including probation or parole. If so, you can register to vote. Learn how to register to vote at <http://www.scvotes.org>.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

### **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION**

803.734.9060

### **NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (LDF)**

40 Rector Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
[vote@naacpldf.org](mailto:vote@naacpldf.org)



### **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Voting Section  
1.800.253.3931  
[voting.section@usdoj.gov](mailto:voting.section@usdoj.gov)

### **ACLU OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

P.O. Box 20998  
Charleston, SC 29413-0998  
843.720.1423  
[info@aclusouthcarolina.org](mailto:info@aclusouthcarolina.org)



## COMMON POTENTIALLY DISCRIMINATORY VOTING CHANGES

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is closely monitoring how places, like South Carolina, that were formerly protected by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act are responding to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, which immobilized that provision. Accordingly, we encourage you to let us know of any voting changes that are planned in your area that you believe may negatively impact your community by emailing LDF at [vote@naacpldf.org](mailto:vote@naacpldf.org).

These potentially discriminatory voting changes might include: changing polling hours and locations; reducing the number of polling places; changing or eliminating early voting days and/or hours; replacing district voting with at-large elections; implementing onerous registration qualifications like proof of citizenship; and purging qualified voters from registration lists.

## ABSENTEE VOTING

### **Can I vote before Election Day?**

You can vote before Election Day by casting an absentee ballot either by mail or in person. To qualify for an absentee ballot, you must have a reason for not being able to vote on Election Day, including, but not limited to, because of your employment, vacation plans, if you are a student attending school outside of your county of residence, or are 65 years or older or have a physical disability. For a complete list of reasons that allow you to vote by absentee ballot, visit <http://www.scvotes.org> or call the South Carolina Election Commission at 803.734.9060.

### **How do I vote by absentee ballot in person?**

To vote by absentee ballot in person, visit your county voter registration office, complete an application for absentee ballot, and cast your absentee ballot. You may vote absentee in person up until 5:00 PM on Monday, November 7, 2016 for the General Election. You will be asked to provide an acceptable form of photo ID to vote in person (see the other side of this card for more details on South Carolina's photo ID requirement).

### **How do I vote by absentee ballot by mail?**

To vote by absentee ballot by mail, submit an application for an absentee ballot to your county voter registration office by mail, email, fax, or by hand. You can obtain this application by contacting your county voter registration office or by requesting one online at <http://www.scvotes.org>. A photo ID is not required to vote absentee by mail.



## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

### **When are the polls open?**

Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. You have the right to vote if you are in line or inside the polling place when the polls close.

### **Where do I vote?**

You must go to the polling place to which you are assigned, which should be listed on the voter registration card that you received in the mail after you registered.

### **How do I verify my polling place?**

You can look up your polling place online at <http://www.scvotes.org> or by calling the South Carolina Election Commission at 803.734.9060.

### **What if I cannot stand in line or access the polling place because of age or disability?**

Voters who are unable to access the polling place or stand in line because of a disability or because they are 65 years or older may vote in their vehicle (i.e., curbside voting). Poll managers will look for voters who seek to vote in their vehicles.

### **What if I need help?**

Voters with disabilities and voters who are blind or unable to read and write may receive assistance in voting. The voter may choose anyone to assist their ballot, except for their employer, an agent of their employer, an officer of their union, or an agent of their union.

### **Can I bring literature to the polls?**

Yes. You can take written or printed election materials, including this guide, with you into the polling place as long as they are for your own use.

### **Can I wear campaign clothing to the polling place?**

No, you cannot wear campaign clothing, stickers, or buttons in your polling place unless you cover them up.

## VOTER PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

### **Will I be asked to show photo ID to vote in person?**

Yes. If you vote in person, you will be asked to provide one of the following photo IDs:

- Current and valid South Carolina DMV-issued driver's license;
- Current and valid South Carolina DMV-issued (nondriver's) photo ID card;
- Current and valid South Carolina voter registration card with photo;
- Current and valid federal military ID; or
- Current and valid U.S. passport.

If you have one of these photo IDs, be sure to bring it with you to the polling place. Registered voters can get a **free** voter registration card with photo from their county voter registration and elections office. For more information, call the South Carolina Election Commission at 803.734.9060 or visit <http://www.scvotes.org>.

### **What if I don't have an accepted photo ID?**

You can vote in person by provisional ballot without a photo ID if you have a reason why you do not have an accepted photo ID. South Carolina's photo ID law contains a "reasonable impediment" exception that recognizes the many reasons why you may not have a photo ID, including that:

- You are disabled or ill;
- You have a conflict with your work schedule;
- You lack transportation and/or money to get to the county election office or DMV;
- You do not have a copy of your birth certificate;
- You have family responsibilities;
- You have a religious objection to being photographed; or
- There is another obstacle that YOU find reasonable.

### **How do I vote in person without a photo ID based on a "reasonable impediment"?**

To vote in person without a photo ID based on a "reasonable impediment," follow these four steps: (1) inform the poll managers that you do not have a photo ID and could not get

one; (2) present your current, non-photo voter registration card; (3) sign an affidavit identifying yourself and your reason for not having an accepted photo ID; and (4) cast a provisional ballot.

### **Will my provisional ballot be counted if I do not have a photo ID because of a "reasonable impediment"?**

The provisional ballot that you cast is presumed valid and will be counted unless the county election office has reason to believe that your affidavit is false.

### **What if I forget to bring my photo ID to the polls or do not have a "reasonable impediment"?**

You can still cast a provisional ballot. However, for your vote to count, you **must** provide one of the accepted photo IDs to the county election office in person prior to certification of the election (usually the Thursday or Friday after the election).

## PROBLEM VOTING? Call 1.866.OUR.VOTE



### **NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (LDF)**

40 Rector Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
[vote@naacpldf.org](mailto:vote@naacpldf.org)



This card is a resource, not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only. South Carolina may revise its laws after the publication of this card. Therefore, it is your responsibility to determine how all applicable laws concerning voting in South Carolina affect you.