

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Due to the limited amount of time before the April 21, 2026 Special Election on redistricting, ELECT is providing critical election timeline information and instructions by consolidating several different advisories into fewer advisories, each covering several topics.

To minimize confusion arising from overlapping special and primary election timelines in the coming months, ELECT will issue separate advisories for each election rather than combining them. Each advisory will clearly identify the election to which it pertains, and future communications will specifically address the primaries.

General registrars and staff must be diligent in thoroughly reading all information in all advisories sent by ELECT to ensure complete understanding of important events and locality responsibilities.



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

Official ELECT Advisory

DATE: February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: April 21, 2026 Special Election on Redistricting - Important Dates, Action Items, and Webinar Q&A

WHY THIS IS NEEDED: This advisory provides localities with the current information for the April 21, 2026 Proposed Constitutional Amendment Special Election. See below for timeline of election tasks, locality action items, and previous advisories that can be referenced on each process. Also attached are answers to questions from ELECT's February 10th webinar.

RESOURCES:

- **Preparing for 2026 Webinars:** Webinar recordings and presentation slides are available in ELECT's Learning Management System (LMS) course, *Preparing for 2026: Webinar Series*
- See attached for the Q&As document from the most recent webinar

TIMELINE: Note: For the April 21, 2026 Special Election:

- The below timeline is attached for printing.
- ELECT will send fewer survey reminder advisories (Survey reminders will be listed in the Advisory Weekly Roundup & Reminders sent each Friday).

- Updated versions of the advisories listed below will only be sent if required due to changes in procedures or information.

Important Dates	Tasks	Locality Action Items	Previous ELECT advisories to review for additional information
2/9/26, Monday	ELECT completed the poll copy for the Special Election in VERIS using the 2025 November General.	Review the Special's polling locations and update if necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-09-08 ES ELECT has completed the Poll Copy and CAP Setup for the 2025 November General
2/17/26, Tuesday	Localities and ELECT complete ballot creation and proofing .	If you have not received ELECT's final approval of your ballot proofs, please ensure you submit final proofs to ELECT using the Ballot Proof Submission Form as soon as possible for review and approval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026-02-06 ES [URGENT] Special Election April 21, 2026 for Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Redistricting
2/20/26, Friday Due Tomorrow!	Survey due: Locality Use of Satellite Locations and Drop Boxes Survey	This survey must be submitted by close of business, Friday, 2/20/26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026-02-12 ES April 21, 2026 Special Election Satellite Locations

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-08-26 ES [MANDATORY SURVEY] 2025 November Elections - Locality Use of Satellite Locations and Drop Boxes Survey / Satellite Location Readiness Checklist
2/27/26, Friday, through 3/6/26, Friday	No later than 2/27/26, ELECT staff will create the Special Election in Ballot Scout, Enhanced Ballot, and Enhanced Results.	<p>After ELECT notifies localities the election is ready:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the election in Ballot Scout to ensure the absentee data matches what is in VERIS. Email support@enhancedvoting.com if there are inconsistencies. 2. Review the election in Enhanced Ballot using the Enhanced Ballot Checklist located in FormsWarehouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-09-11 ES Enhanced Ballot - 2025 November General is Now Set Up and Ready for Locality Use 2025-08-14 ES Enhanced Ballot "Email From Email Address" Setting - Auto emailing voters their absentee ballot URL

		(Additional training materials can be found in LMS).	
3/5/26, Thursday	Survey due: ELECT Form 633 - Logic and Accuracy Certification (L&A) Survey (for Early Voting)	This survey must be submitted for all Early Voting equipment by close of business, Thursday, 3/5/26. <i>Note: L&A testing for all Mailed Absentee equipment must be completed before you begin pre-processing. Submit the L&A Certification survey for your Mailed Absentee equipment as soon as testing concludes.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-09-17 VOTESYS [FINAL REMINDER - MANDATORY SURVEY DUE TOMORROW!] November 2025 Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Testing Certification
3/6/26, Friday	Absentee /early voting starts Survey Due: Absentee Compliance / Ballots Being Ordered Survey	This survey must be completed after close of business, Friday, 3/6/26, or after close of business, Saturday, 3/7/26, if working on Saturday to complete the initial absentee mailing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-09-15 ES [MANDATORY SURVEYS] 2025 November Elections - AB Compliance /Ballots Being Ordered Survey / L&A Testing Certification Form / Paper

			<p>Pollbook Reminder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-09-19 ES [MANDATORY SURVEY DUE TODAY /TOMORROW!] 2025 November Elections - AB Compliance /Ballots Being Ordered Survey / Paper Pollbook Reminder
3/9/26, Monday	<p>Enhanced Results: Begin testing and training.</p>	<p>After ELECT notifies localities the election is ready:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct internal testing and training using the Enhanced Results Checklists located in FormsWarehouse (Additional training materials can be found in LMS). 2. If importing results using a vendor file, you must do an import test before Election Day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-10-14 ES 2025 November Elections Enhanced Results Training Materials • 2025-10-29 ES 2025 November Elections - Use of Vendor File or Enhanced Results Fillable Excel on Election Night

		Notify Enhanced Support when you plan to test the import.	
3/20/26, Friday	<p>Survey due: Election Setup Verification Survey</p> <p><i>Note: The Voter Lookup Tool will be used for the special election so please ensure you review it as well when reviewing Enhanced and VERIS.</i></p>	This survey must be completed by close of business, Friday, 3/20/26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-09-25 ES [MANDATORY SURVEY] 2025 November General - Election Setup Verification and Survey
4/10/26, Friday	<p>Voter deadline: Last day voters can apply for an absentee ballot online /by mail.</p>	None	None
4/11/26, Saturday	<p>Local offices open for voting.</p>	General registrar offices must be open a minimum of eight hours between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the two Saturdays before the election.	None
4/13/26,		This survey must	

Monday	<p>Survey due: ELECTION Form 633 - Logic and Accuracy Certification (L&A) Survey (for Mailed Absentee)</p>	<p>be submitted for all Mailed Absentee equipment by close of business, Monday, 4/13/26 (if Mailed Absentee testing is done separate from Early Voting testing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-10-27 VOTESYS [MANDATORY SURVEY - FINAL REMINDER !] November 2025 Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Testing Certification - Mailed Absentee Certification DUE TODAY
4/14/26, Tuesday	<p>Mandatory pre-processing meeting</p>	<p>Conduct pre-processing as required in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE Policy 2023-001 VA Admin Code 1VAC20-70-40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-10-01 ES 2025 November Elections - Mandatory Pre-Processing of Absentee Ballots / Verifying SSN4 and YOB
4/14/26, Tuesday	<p>Voter registration deadline: Last day voters can register to vote or update their registration.</p>	None	None

	<p><i>Special elections called by the General Assembly have a registration deadline of 7 days before the election (books close 6 days before the election).</i></p>		
4/15/26, Wednesday	<p>Same day registration (SDR) begins.</p>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-05-30 ES [IMPORTANT REMINDER] Start of Same Day Registration (SDR)
4/18/26, Saturday	<p>Last day of absentee voting.</p>	Process all returned absentee ballots and SDR applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-10-01 ES 2025 November Elections - Mandatory Pre-Processing of Absentee Ballots / Verifying SSN4 and YOB
4/18/26, Saturday	<p>Local offices open for voting.</p>	General registrar offices must be open a minimum of eight hours	None

		between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the election.	
4/20/26, Monday	Survey due: ELECT Form 633 - Logic and Accuracy Certification (L&A) Survey (for Election Day)	This survey must be submitted for all Election Day equipment by close of business, Monday, 4/20/26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-11-03 VOTESYS [MANDATORY SURVEY - DUE TODAY!] November 2025 Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Testing Certification - Election Day Certification
4/20/26, Monday	Enhanced Results: Final day of testing /training.	The election will be locked at 5:00pm, Monday, 4/20/26.	None
4/21/26, Tuesday	Election Day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a great day! You've got this! 2. Contact ELECT with any issues or concerns (on call schedule will be sent out closer to Election Day) 3. Enter election results into Enhanced Results after polls close. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-10-29 ES 2025 November Elections - Use of Vendor File or Enhanced Results Fillable Excel on Election Night 2025-10-30 ES Helpful Information

		<p>Email ea@elections.virginia.gov when your locality is done.</p>	<p>on Processing Central Absentee Precinct (CAP) Ballots and Reporting Absentee Election Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-10-23 ES [RETAIN for EN /CANVASS] 2025 November Elections - Election Night and Post-Election Process • 2025-11-03 ES [RETAIN ATTACHMENTS FOR EN] Election Night Requirements & Resources
<p>4/24/26, Friday</p>	<p>Deadline: Finish processing SDR applications .</p>	<p>All SDR applications must be entered in VERIS by 5:00pm, Friday, 4/24/26.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-11-03 ES Helpful Information on Processing Same Day Registration (SDR) Applications and Provisional Ballots

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-11-05 ES OVR Hopper and SDR Processing Reminders
4/25/26, Saturday	SDR Duplicate Report	ELECT will generate the SDR Duplicate Report and email it to localities around noon, Saturday, 4/25/26.	None
4/27/26, Monday	Abstracts due: Abstracts of Votes Submission Form	Abstracts must be submitted using the Abstracts of Votes Submission Form by close of business, Monday, 4/27/26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-10-23 ES [RETAIN for EN /CANVASS] 2025 November Elections - Election Night and Post-Election Process
5/1/26, Friday	SBE Certification Meeting	None	None

CONTACT: **For VERIS technical matters:** Submit a JIRA ticket to the System Support team for all VERIS-related issues

For Enhanced Voting technical matters: support@enhancedvoting.com

For Election Admin: EA@elections.virginia.gov

For all other matters:

Region 1 (Tidewater) Viki Mainwaring 804-593-2274 viki.mainwaring@elections.virginia.gov

Region 2 (South Central) Viki Mainwaring 804-593-2274 victor
ia.mainwaring@elections.virginia.gov

Region 3 (North Central) Sarah Baker 804-718-5823 sara
h.baker@elections.virginia.gov

Region 4 (South Western) Tanya Pruett 804-864-8931 tany
a.pruett@elections.virginia.gov

Region 5 (Northern) Matthew Norcutt 804-801-6435 math
ew.norcutt@elections.virginia.gov

Region 6 (Western) Angie Orange 804-814-7114 ange
la.orange@elections.virginia.gov

Region 7 (Southern) Viki Mainwaring 804-593-2274 victor
ia.mainwaring@elections.virginia.gov

ADVISORY NUMBER:

 **COMM-973** - April 21, 2026 Special Election on Redistricting
- Important Dates, Action Items, and Webinar Q&A

[PUBLISH ADVISORY](#)

April 21, 2026 Special Election on Redistricting - Important Dates and Action Items

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<input type="checkbox"/> 5/1/26, Friday	SBE Certification Meeting	None	None



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Locality Follow-up – Preparing for 2026 Webinar II Questions

Questions	Answers
April 21, 2026 Special Election	
When will we receive a writ or order for the Special Election?	HB1384, which has been signed by the Governor, creates the April 21 special election. The link to the document is posted on the Upcoming Elections page on ELECT's website.
Do we have a court date for the Supreme Court to hear the case?	On Friday, February 13, the Supreme Court issued an order certifying the cases for review. The Court ruled the Tazewell Case has no effect on the referendum scheduled for April 21, 2026, moving forward.
The deadline to register to vote is 7 days for the Special Election. Does the deadline to request a ballot by mail stay at 10 days?	Since this special election is called by the General Assembly, § 24.2-416 mandates that the close of books is 6 days before. Therefore, the voter registration deadline is 7 days before. This does not change the absentee request deadline.
Will any additional adjustments to the proposed boundary lines be considered to avoid the split precincts they created?	ELECT has provided technical feedback as part of the legislative process. The final maps will be determined by the General Assembly.
Can those who are not yet 18 by the Special Election, but will be 18 by the November General Election, vote in the Special Election?	Yes. Pre-registrant hoppers should be processed before this April Special election to account for voters who will be 18 by November 3, 2026. Please refer to the Official ELECT Advisory sent on (2.6.26)
If we've never had a satellite office, do we need to discuss this portion of the law with our county attorney and get started creating one?	Please refer to the Official ELECT Advisory sent on (2.12.26) on Satellite Locations.
Is there a recommended percentage of ballots to order for this election?	We don't have a specific recommendation for this special at the moment. Since this is a statewide special, ELECT would recommend leaning toward ordering closer to a general

	election than a typical special election. A presidential primary might be a decent middle ground. However, localities will have a better sense of their individual turnout for this one.
Is reporting by precinct still needed for this election? The guidance Friday confused me talking about one ballot style.	Yes, reporting by precinct is still the law. The ballot style just means that each precinct will have the same information on the ballot. Ballots are still required to have a precinct designation and be separated to report by precinct.
Who needs to be notified about L&A testing for this election?	The same entities should be notified as they are in any election, with the exception of any specific candidates given there are no persons on the ballot.
Should the localities post the proposed map along with information on the referendum? Can the state please provide language as to why it will or will not be posted?	ELECT recommends posting only the referendum question and explanations and directing interested individuals to the General Assembly site for information related to maps.
If the April measure passes and a congressional redistricting process occurs, but our area/CD number sees NO changes, will we be required to mass mailing to our voters?	Voters in a locality whose districts do not change will not need to receive voter notices.
Will the Department be handling the mailing of voter notices following redistricting?	ELECT will be coordinating the voter notices similar to the 2022 voter notices.
August 4th, 2026 Primary Election	
Can ELECT update the 2026 Deadlines Calendar Spreadsheet?	A draft timeline was provided in the webinar. Follow up advisories, deadline calendars, and candidate bulletins will be posted once legislation is official.
Will we be required to be open for early voting on June 19th for the August 4 primary? It a holiday.	Early voting for the potential August 4 th primary would start on June 19 th . However, since that is a state holiday, if a local office will be closed that day, early voting should start the day before on June 18 th .
How does legislation that will have passed and go into effect July 1 st impact how we run the August Primary?	ELECT will communicate legislative impacts and enactment dates once legislation is signed. As mentioned in the previous

	webinar, ELECT is providing technical feedback as part of the legislative process.
If the two Sundays bill passes would that be required for August or delayed until November or next year?	ELECT will communicate legislative impacts and enactment dates once legislation is signed. As mentioned in the previous webinar, ELECT is providing technical feedback to the General Assembly related to enactment dates.
When will we be allowed to gain access to our machine thumb drives (TM's) and machine keys for the August 4 th Primary? Will that certification time be shortened?	The retention period would be the same as any other primary. In the introduced legislation of HB29 the certification time for the primary is not shortened, however ELECT is aware of other legislation that may lengthen primary certification time. ELECT encourages localities to consider this tight turnaround between August and early voting in September when ordering supplies and coordinating timelines.
Who does the qualifications of the petitions for US House?	For party candidates, the parties review the petitions. For independent candidates, ELECT reviews (and sometimes may ask for localities to assist depending on volume). Either way, ELECT is the entity that receives petitions for US House candidates.