South Carolina

- **Chief election official:** Executive Director of the South Carolina Election Commission
- **Who runs elections locally:** Board of Voter Registration and Elections
- **Number of jurisdictions:** 46
- **State website:** www.scvotes.gov

ELECTION POLICY	STATUS	NATIONAL COMPARISON
VOTER REGISTRATION		
Online voter registration	OVR permitted	42 states and D.C. have online voter registration
Automatic/automated voter registration	Not provided	24 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration
Type of state voter registration database	Top-down	36 states and D.C. use top-down; six states use bottom-up; eight states use a hybrid system
Pre-registration	Must be 18 by Election Day	22 states and D.C. permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds
Election Day/same-day registration	Not provided	24 states and D.C. have same-day registration
Registration deadline	30 days before Election Day	National average is 19 days before Election Day
VOTING		
Voter ID for in-person voting	ID required	36 states require ID to vote in person
Early in-person voting	Begins 2 weeks before Election Day	47 states and D.C. allow early in-person voting; national average is 22 days
Vote centers for Election Day voting	Not used	19 states and D.C. allow vote centers for Election Day voting
No-excuse absentee voting	Not permitted	36 states permit no-excuse absentee voting
Mails ballots to all registered voters (aka "mostly mail elections")	Ballots are not mailed to all registered voters	Eight states and D.C. mail ballots to all registered voters
Deadline for absentee/mail ballot return	Close of polls on Election Day	32 states require ballots returned by Election Day*
Laws governing who can return a voted ballot	Voter's designee	38 states have laws governing ballot collection
Ballot drop boxes	Not permitted	12 states prohibit; 28 states permit; other states are silent
Ballot cure process	No ballot cure process offered statewide	33 states and D.C. have a ballot cure process
When absentee/mail ballot processing begins	7 a.m. two days preceding Election Day	43 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day
Electronic ballot return	Permitted for UOCAVA voters	31 states and D.C. allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states and D.C. allow for voters with disabilities
OTHER		
Automatic recount threshold	Uses automatic recount threshold	24 states and D.C. have automatic recount thresholds
Post-election tabulation audits	Uses post-election audits	49 states and D.C. require post-election audits
State primary type	Open	Primaries range from fully open to fully closed

Other states accept ballots postmarked by Election Day.

Note: Neither NCSL nor the U.S. Election Assistance Commission advocate for or against any election policies.

For more information, contact NCSL at elections-info@ncsl.org or 303-364-7700. For information on federal grants see www.eac.gov/grants.

Use this QR code to access links to NCSL's elections pages with details.

Use this QR code to access links to the EAC's election resources.

NCSL
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Jan. | 2025