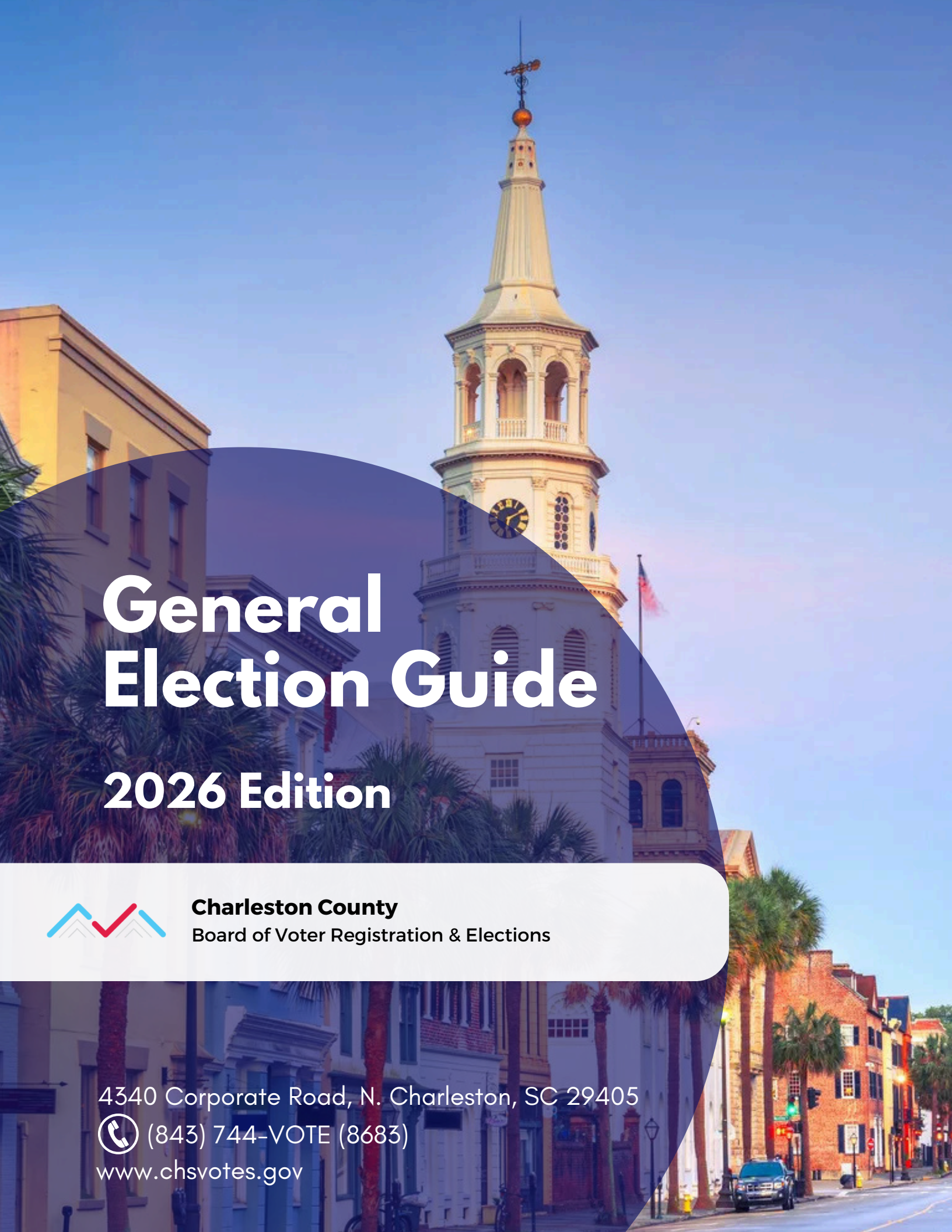


General Election Guide

2026 Edition

Charleston County
Board of Voter Registration & Elections

4340 Corporate Road, N. Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 744-VOTE (8683)
www.chsvotes.gov

WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

Table of Contents

- General Election Information
- General Election Calendar
- Polling Location Changes
- Offices on the Ballot
- How Can I Get Vote Ready?
- Can I Vote Absentee?
- How Do I Vote Absentee?
- Voting Accessibility
- Frequently Asked Questions
- How Can I Get Involved?
- Contact Us

GENERAL ELECTION INFO

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3



- Polls open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Vote at your polling place, which is based on your address. Find your Election Day polling place at **scvotes.gov**.

Voter Registration Deadlines



In Person	Friday, October 2 by 5:00 p.m.
Online/E-mail/Fax	Sunday, October 4 at 11:59 p.m.
Mail (Postmark)	Monday, October 5

Early Voting



Monday, October 19 - Saturday, October 31 (no Sundays)
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

North Charleston - Board of Elections
4340 Corporate Rd.,
N. Charleston, SC 29405

Downtown - Morris Brown AME Church
13 Morris St.,
Charleston, SC 29403

Hollywood - St. Paul's Hollywood Library
5130 SC-165,
Hollywood, SC 29449

James Island - Baxter-Patrick Library
1858 S. Grimball Rd.,
Charleston, SC 29412

Johns Island - St. John's Episcopal Church
3673 Maybank Hwy,
Johns Island, SC 29455

Mt. Pleasant - Seacoast Church
750 Long Point Rd.,
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

West Ashley - Greater Macedonia AME
725 Savage Rd.,
Charleston, SC 29414

GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

OCTOBER

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Voter Registration Deadlines

- In Person by 5:00 p.m.
- Online/E-mail/Fax at 11:59 p.m.
- Mail (Postmark)

Voting Dates

- Early Voting
- Election Day

Absentee Deadlines

- Absentee ballots start being mailed to voters.
- Absentee applications must be received by 5:00 p.m.
- Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m.

POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

Polling Location Changes

Permanent and temporary polling location changes will affect Charleston County voters in the 2026 General Election.

- **Temporary:** Returns to the previous location in future elections.
- **Permanent:** Remains at the new location until further notice. Affected voters will be notified by mail.

Precinct	Old Polling Location	New Polling Location	Type of Change
St. Andrews 6	Ashley River Baptist Church	Calvary Chapel West Ashley	**Temporary**
Charleston 7	Charleston Main Library	Bethel United Methodist Church	**Temporary**
St. Andrews 26	Essex Village Church of Christ	Greater Macedonia AME Church	**Permanent**
St. Andrews 10	Cynthia Graham Hurd Library	St. Peter's Episcopal Church	**Permanent**
St. Andrews 3 & 9	Forest Park Park House	St. Andrew's Parks Tennis Center	**Permanent**
James Island 6	James Island Charter High School	James Island Town Hall	**Permanent**
James Island 13	Stiles Point Elementary	Harbor View Presbyterian Church	**Permanent**
Edisto Island	Jane Edwards Elementary	Trinity Church	**Permanent**

COUNTY-LEVEL OFFICES

Probate Judge

Handles wills, estates, and marriage licenses. Also helps with guardianships, mental health cases, and special court situations.

Four-Year Term

Register of Deeds

Records property documents like land titles and liens. Makes sure records follow federal and state law and are available to the public.

Four-Year Term

Soil and Water Commissioner

There are 5 commissioners for each Soil and Water Conservation District. Three out of the five members are elected positions. The other two are appointed by the SCDNR Board.

They protect clean water, farms, and wildlife, as well as lead local conservation projects.

Four-Year Term **Two Open Seats**

COUNTY-LEVEL OFFICES

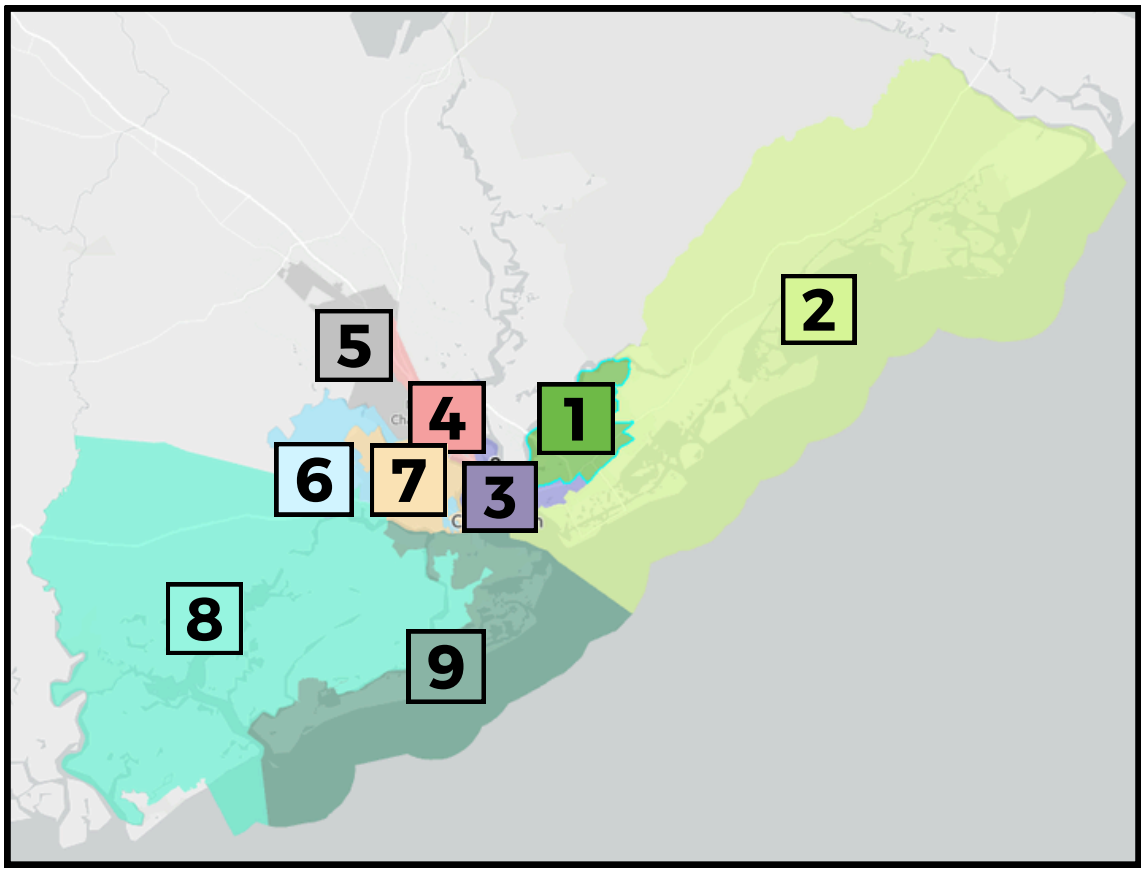
County Council (Districts 1, 2, 5, 8, & 9)

There are 9 council members who represent different parts of the county. Council members serve four-year staggered terms and are elected from single member districts.

They make local laws and set the county's goals and budget. They also approve taxes and fees to pay for services like roads, safety, and parks.

Four-Year Term | **Five Open Seats** | **Districted Office**

Charleston County Council District Map
(Districts 1, 2, 5, 8, & 9)



COUNTY-LEVEL OFFICES

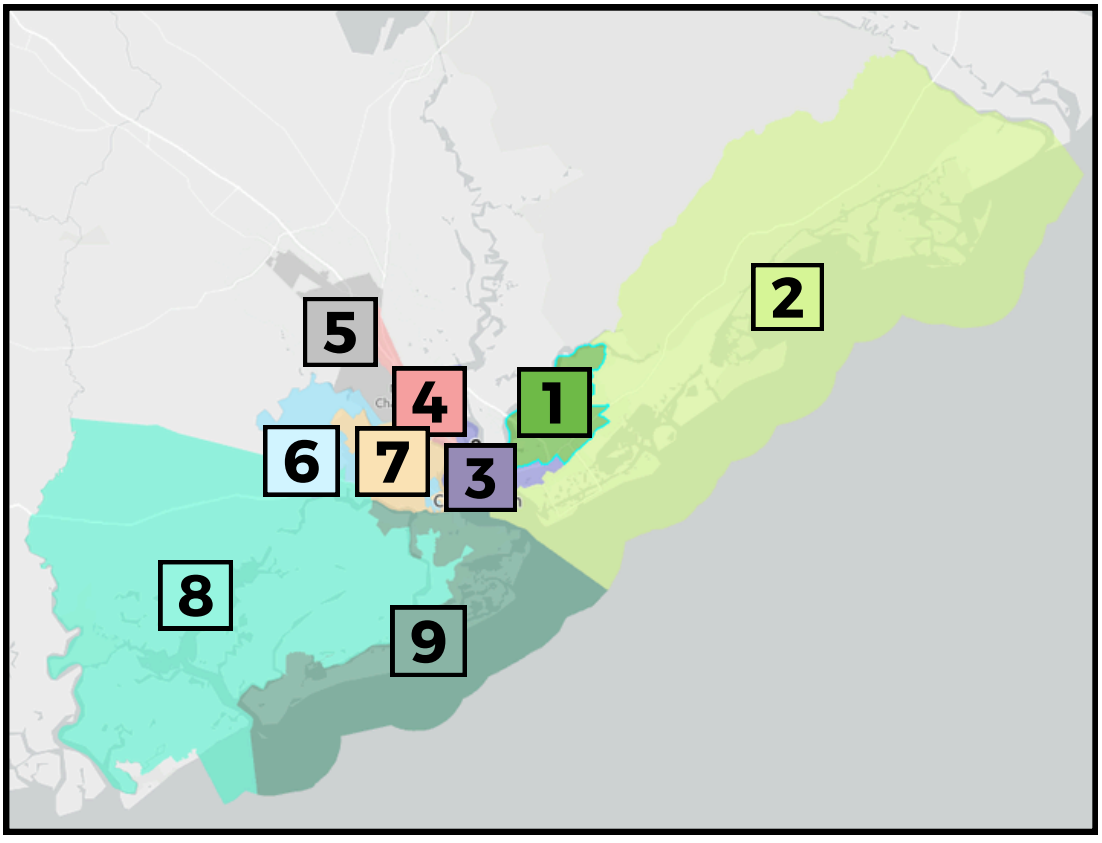
School Board of Trustees (Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9)

The Board of Trustees consists of 9 elected members representing specific constituent districts within Charleston County. Members serve four-year staggered terms.

The Board hires the Superintendent of Schools, approves the allocation of district funds, establishes salaries, and creates/implements district policies.

Four-Year Term | **Five Open Seats** | **Districted Office**

Charleston School Board of Trustees District Map (Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9)



PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT OFFICES

James Island Public Service District

The James Island Public Service District (JIPSD) serves the residential and community needs of fire protection, emergency response, environmental services, and street lighting.

The JIPSD's Commission consists of seven elected officials who serve four-year terms.

Four-Year Term **Four Open Seats**

St. Andrews Public Service District

The St. Andrews Public Service District (SAPSD) serves the residential and community needs of fire protection, emergency response, environmental services, and street lighting.

The SAPSD is divided into two sections and has five elected Commissioners serving four-year staggered terms. It consists of two Commissioners from Section I, two Commissioners from Section II, and one Commissioner who serves as Member-at-Large.

Four-Year Term **Three Open Seats***

(!) While there are three open seats to vote on this year, one seat is open for Section I, one seat is open for Section II, and the final seat is open for the Commissioner who will serve as the Member-At-Large.

STATE-LEVEL OFFICES

Governor & Lieutenant Governor

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor run together as a joint ticket.

Governors are responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch. They also serve as the intergovernmental liaison to the federal government on behalf of South Carolina.

The Lieutenant Governor is the first official in the line of succession to the Governor's office.

Four-Year Term

Attorney General

The Attorney General serves as the state's chief criminal prosecutor, chief legal officer, and securities commissioner.

Four-Year Term

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State files and examines business filings and state trademarks, maintains the state notary public database, and issues commissions for elected officials and those appointed by the Governor.

Four-Year Term

STATE-LEVEL OFFICES

Agriculture Commissioner

The Commissioner is the head of the state Department of Agriculture. They promote and oversee the state's agricultural industry, focusing on economic growth, consumer protection, and market development.

Four-Year Term

Comptroller General

The Comptroller supervises state spending, keeps the state's books, and maintains accounting controls over state agencies.

Four-Year Term

Superintendent of Education

The Superintendent serves as secretary and administrative officer to the State Board of Education, as well as manages of all public-school funds provided by the State and Federal Government.

Four-Year Term

STATE-LEVEL OFFICES

Treasurer

The Treasurer serves as the state's banker and is responsible for the safety and security of the state's money.

Four-Year Term

State House of Representatives (124 Seats)

The State House of Representatives is part of the South Carolina Legislature. It creates the laws that govern our state.

Two-Year Term **124 Open Seats** **Districted Office**

FEDERAL-LEVEL OFFICES

U.S. Senate (1 Seat)

The U.S. Senate forms part of the federal government's legislative branch, along with the House of Representatives. Senators have the exclusive authority to try impeachments, approve or reject treaties and presidential nominations to executive and judicial offices.

Each state elects two Senators who serve 6-year staggered terms.

Six-Year Term **One Open Seat**

U.S. House of Representatives (7 Seats)

The U.S. House of Representatives forms part of the federal government's legislative branch. Representatives have the power to impeach, introduce bills and resolutions, as well as offer amendments and serve on committees.

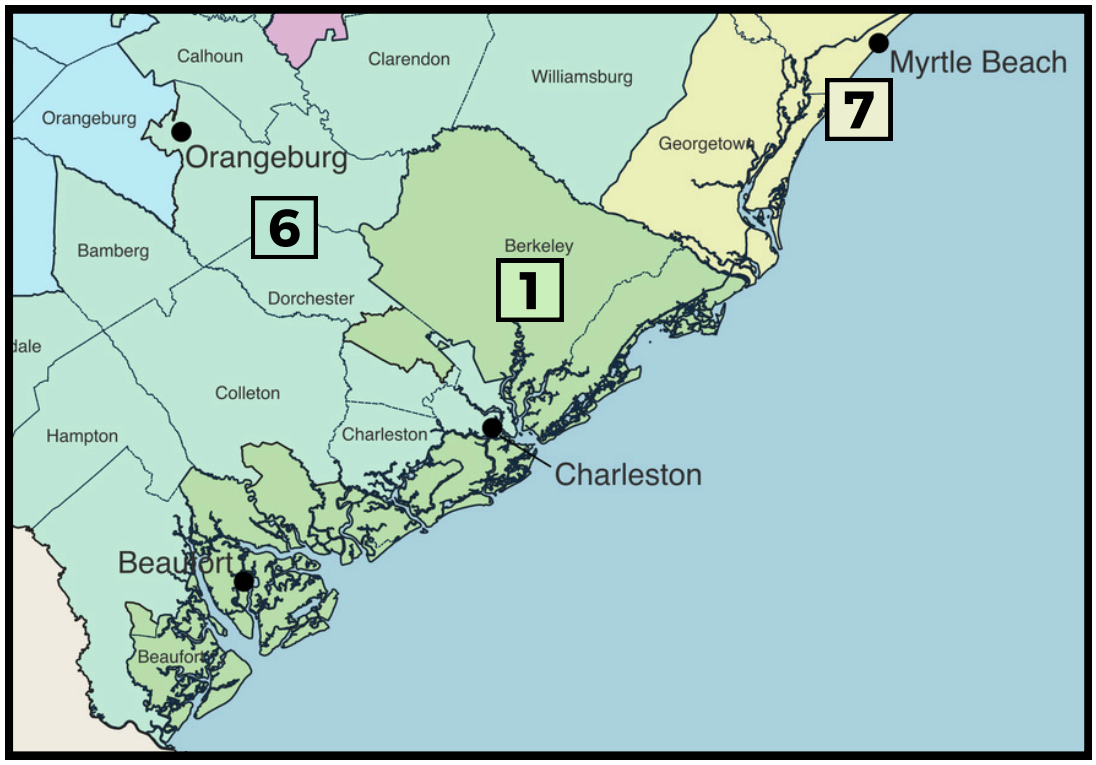
This is a districted office, with each member representing individual districts, that has a 2-year term.

Two-Year Term **Seven Open Seats** **Districted Office**

FEDERAL-LEVEL OFFICES

U.S. House of Representatives (7 Seats)

Charleston County U.S. House of Representatives District Map



HOW CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

IN PERSON



You can register to vote at our office during regular business hours.

4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

You can also register to vote at any National Voter Registration Act agency such as the DMV, the Department of Health and Human Services, or the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

ONLINE

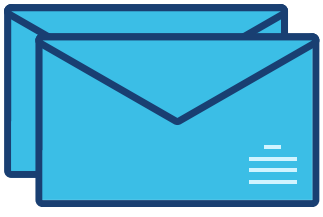


If your address is up to date with the DMV, you can register online at **scvotes.gov.**

You can also email completed registration forms to our office at:

vote@charlestoncounty.org

BY MAIL



You can mail your completed voter registration form to our mailing address.

4340 Corporate Rd.,
North Charleston, SC 29405

GET READY TO VOTE

1 Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration

If you're already registered to vote, make sure your registration information is up to date.

Check your voter registration before October. To vote in an election, you must register in your county at least 30 days before Election Day.

2 Review Your Sample Ballot

Head to scvotes.gov to view your sample ballot and voting districts.

Sample ballots are available 45 days before the election.

3 Make a Plan to Vote

Where are you voting?

- Visit scvotes.gov to find early voting locations and your Election Day polling locations.

How are you getting to your polling location?

- Look up directions for driving, public transit, biking, or walking.

When are you planning to vote?

- Set a time to cast your vote!

4 Go Vote!

Make sure to bring your valid, unexpired photo ID. See scvotes.gov for more information on photo ID requirements.

CAN I VOTE ABSENTEE?

You can vote absentee if you fall under one of the following categories:

- You are physically disabled.
- You are 65 or older.
- You are a member of the Armed Forces and Merchant Marines, a spouse, or a dependent that lives with them.*
- You were admitted to a hospital as an emergency patient within four days of an election or on Election Day.
- You are out of the country.*

*These voters follow different procedures than other absentee voters. For more information, please visit fvap.gov or call our office.

You can vote absentee if you can't vote during the early voting period or on Election Day because:

- You have employment conflicts.
- You will be caring for someone who is sick or physically disabled.
- You are confined to a jail or pretrial facility pending the disposition of an arrest or trial.
- You will not be in Charleston County.

HOW DO I VOTE ABSENTEE?

1 Request an absentee ballot application.

You can request an application at our office, by phone, or by mail.

2 Receive and complete your application.

If you want to get your ballot at a different address than the one you registered with, add a mailing address.

3 Return your absentee ballot application.

You can return your application:

- By mail.
- In person at our office.

We must receive your application by Friday, October 23, at 5:00 p.m.

4 Receive and fill out your ballot.

Ballots are sent out 30 days before the election. When you fill out your ballot:

- Make sure your choices are clearly marked.
- Complete all sections on the outer envelope.

5 Return your ballot.

You can return your ballot:

- By mail.
- In person at our office or any early voting center in Charleston County during early voting hours.

- Your ballot **must be received by our office before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day**.
- Absentee ballots **cannot be accepted at polling locations on Election Day**. If you want to return your ballot on Election Day, **it must be at our office by 7:00 p.m.**

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

We're here to help – your way.

Do you want a different way to read & mark your ballot?

Audio ballot and tactile keypad

Listen to your ballot with headphones. Use the tactile keypad to vote.

Larger text

Increase the text size on your ballot.

Increase contrast

Increase the color contrast on your ballot.



Sip-and-Puff input

Bring and use your sip-and-puff to vote with the ballot marking device.

Do you need someone to assist you in the polling place?

If you need help voting due to blindness, disability, or inability to read or write, you can request assistance from either:



Someone you know

Bring someone you know to help you at the polling place. *



Poll workers

Ask a poll worker to help you at the polling place.



Service animals

Bring your service animal to help you at the polling place.

*The person assisting you can't be your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union.

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

We're here to help – your way.

Can we make it easier for you while you are here?



Seating available

Ask us for a chair to sit in while waiting in line and/or voting



Line holding

Ask us to hold your spot in line so you don't have to stand for a long time.



Sensory inclusive bags

Ask us for a sensory bag that includes fidget tools, noise-canceling headphones, and other resources. These are available only at Early Voting locations.

View this menu online

Scan here to see an online version of this menu and find more resources.

Have a question or concern?

Ask a poll worker, or call the **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections.**

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

Curbside Voting

Curbside voting offers voters who are unable to access the polling place or stand in line due to a disability or being age 65 or older the opportunity to vote in person from their vehicle.

Voters who qualify can vote curbside at their polling place on Election Day or during Early Voting at an Early Voting Center.

Just Bee Partnership

In 2024, BVRE first partnered with Just Bee to enhance accessibility at polling locations for the neurodivergent community during the statewide primaries' early voting period.

Together, we are proud to offer continued support and resources to our neurodivergent voters during early voting.

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) is established to provide advice and recommendations to Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections (BVRE) staff on matters related to voting accessibility. The committee's role includes identifying barriers to voting, proposing solutions, and enhancing the voting experience for individuals with disabilities in Charleston County.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a General Election?

A general election refers to elections that occur during even-numbered years, in which voters elect representatives for federal, state, and local offices. They are held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This year's general election will take place on **November 3rd, 2026.**

What is Straight Party Voting?

Straight party voting enables a voter to select one political party's list of candidates for every office they are nominated for by marking your ballot once. **This is optional**.

If a voter opts to vote straight party, they can still make manual changes to individual contests.

When deciding to pick straight party voting, it is important to note that if you select this method, **no selection will be made for nonpartisan offices and questions**. Additionally, your party may not have nominated candidates for all offices. In these cases, you must manually fill in the representative you want to vote for.

If you chose straight party voting, please carefully review your choices before casting your ballot.

Can I Write in a Candidate?

Yes, you can write in a candidate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Party Order on Ballots

South Carolina rotates party order every general election year, with the party previously at the top of the list rotating to the bottom of the list. The party order remains in effect for all elections held until the next general election (two years).

Newly certified parties start at the bottom of the list and remain there for at least one general election cycle.

2026 General Election Party Order:
(November 4, 2024 – November 9, 2026)

- Constitution
- United Citizens
- Forward (Formerly Independence)
- Green
- Republican
- Alliance
- Libertarian
- Petition*
- Democratic
- Workers (Previously Labor)

*Multiple petition candidates for the same office are listed in alphabetical order using last name.

Partisan vs. Nonpartisan Offices

For partisan offices, candidates must be affiliated with a political party to run.

For nonpartisan offices, candidates are not affiliated with a political party, and there are no party primaries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does “at-large” mean?

When an office is elected at-large, everyone in the entire jurisdiction can vote for a candidate. If the office is districted, only people living in that specific district of the town or city can vote.

What is a Runoff Election?

In South Carolina, cities and towns can choose one of two methods to decide the winner of an election: majority or plurality.

Majority Elections

Majority elections can be decided in one of two ways:

1. For districted offices, a candidate needs to get at least 50% of the vote plus 1 additional vote.

> If two candidates are running for City Council District 2, and Candidate A receives 582 votes and Candidate B receives 581 votes, then Candidate A wins.

2. For at-large offices, candidates must receive more votes than the result of this formula:

Total number of votes ÷ Number of seats ÷ 2

> If 234 people voted in an at-large election, assuming three open seats:
>
> 234 total number of votes ÷ 3 seats ÷ 2 = 39
>
> Each candidate needs to receive more than 39 votes to get a majority.

If no candidate gets a majority, a runoff election will be held two weeks later.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Plurality Elections

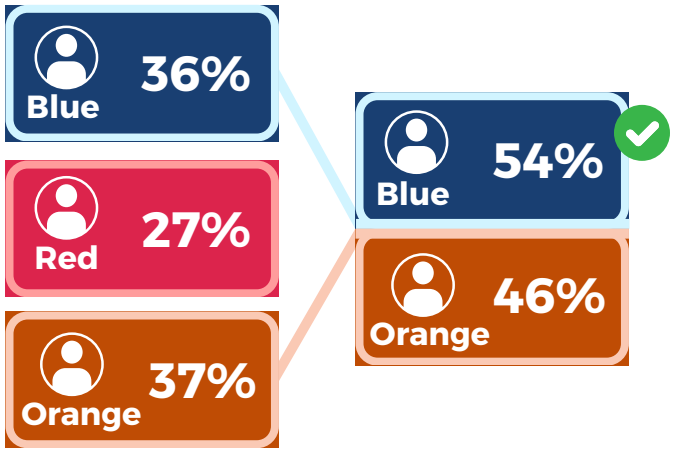
In a plurality election, the candidate does not need to get a majority of the votes.

The person with the most votes wins, regardless of whether they have over 50% of the votes. Runoffs do not occur unless there is a tie.

Majority Elections - Potential Outcomes (Districted Offices)

Runoff Election

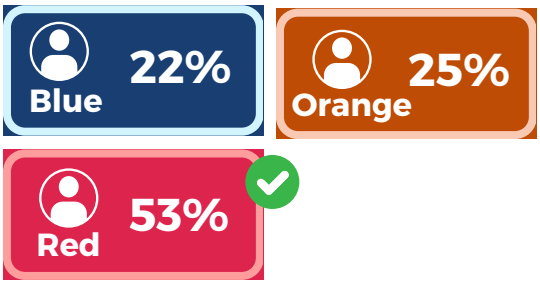
In the example below, no candidate won a majority of the voters.



The election winner would be decided in a runoff between the top two candidates, Blue and Orange.

No Runoff Election

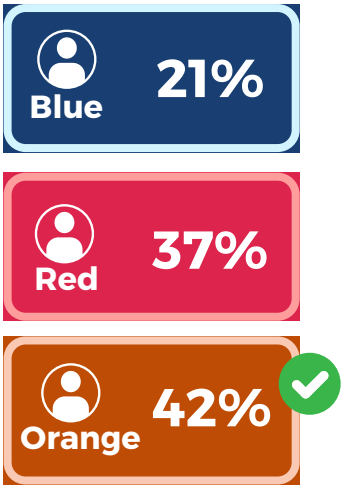
In this next example, Red won a majority, so Red is the winner. No runoff election is needed.



Runoff elections are more common in primary elections and municipal elections.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Plurality Elections - Potential Outcome



In a plurality election, the candidate with the most votes wins.

In the example to the left, Orange got 42% of the vote and the other candidates got less. Orange wins.

For plurality elections, there are no runoff elections, no matter how many candidates are running.

What is a Districted Office?

Districted offices are offices where some or all members of the governing board represent specific districts within a city. Only voters who live in a particular district may vote for candidates running for the seat representing that district.

Head to **scvotes.gov** to view your voting district.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Serve as an Election Worker

Our elections would not be possible without the support of election workers. As an election worker, you can:

- ☑ Serve your community
- ☑ Get involved in the election process
- ☑ Earn $250

For more information go to **chsvotes.gov** and click on **Poll Workers**.

Adopt a Polling Location

Your organization or business can adopt a polling location by providing staff to serve as election workers. We will issue a single check to your business or organization to reinvest in the community.

Benefits

- ☑ You can earn up to $2,500 for each polling location adopted.
- ☑ You can highlight your business or organization's work.
- ☑ Tax dollars are reinvested in the community.

For more information go to **chsvotes.gov** and click on **Poll Workers**.

Be a Voter Ambassador

Voter ambassadors can register and educate voters, serving as the link between their community and our office. After training, ambassadors receive kits with everything they need to help voters get ready to vote.



For more information go to **chsvotes.gov** and click on **Outreach**.

CONTACT US!

HOW DO I STAY UP TO DATE?

Follow Us on Social Media

Get updates on election news, programs, and more!

@charlestonvotes

@chsvotes

@charlestonvotes

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Reach Out to Us

Charleston County Board of Voter Registration & Elections

vote@charlestoncounty.org

(843)-744-VOTE (8683)

4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

chsvotes.gov

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.