



2025 LOCAL VOTERS GUIDE

CHARLESTON COUNTY

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4!



- Polls open 7:00AM - 7:00PM.
- On Election Day, you vote at your polling place, which is based on your address. Find your Election Day polling place at scvotes.gov.

Early Voting



October 20 - October 31 (no Saturdays or Sundays)

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Downtown - Main Library
68 Calhoun St.
Charleston, SC 29401

North Charleston - Elections HQ
4340 Corporate Rd.
North Charleston, SC 29405

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

West Ashley - Essex Village Church of Christ
736 Savage Rd.
Charleston, SC 29414

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

Town and City Elections



- Awendaw
- Isle of Palms
- McClellanville
- Rockville
- Charleston
- James Island
- Meggett
- Seabrook
- Folly Beach
- Kiawah
- Mt. Pleasant
- Sullivan's Island
- Hollywood
- Lincolnville
- Ravenel
- Summerville

Voter Registration Deadlines



In Person

Friday, October 3 by 5:00 PM

Online/E-mail/Fax

Sunday, October 5 at 11:59 PM

Mail (Postmark)

Monday, October 6

ELECTION CALENDAR

OCTOBER

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

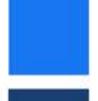
NOVEMBER

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

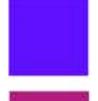
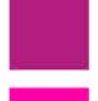
Voter Registration Deadlines

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

Voting Dates

	Early Voting
	Election Day
	Runoff Early Voting (if applicable)
	Runoff Election Day (if applicable)

Absentee Deadlines

	Absentee ballots start being mailed to voters.
	Absentee applications must be received by 5:00PM.
	Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00PM.
	Runoff absentee applications must be received by 5:00PM.
	Runoff Absentee ballots are mailed to voters.
	Runoff absentee ballots must be received by 7:00PM.

WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

Voting

- How Can I Register to Vote?**
- How Can I Vote?**
- How Can I Get Vote Ready?**
- Can I Vote Absentee?**
- How Do I Vote Absentee?**
- Voting Information for Each Town/City
in Charleston County**

Other

- Frequently Asked Questions**
- How Can I Get Involved?**
- Contact Us**

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 AM - 5:00 PM

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.

PO Box 71419
North Charleston, SC 29415

GET READY TO VOTE

Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration

1

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 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 24, at 5:00 PM.

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 PM on Election Day.
- Postmarks do not apply for mail-in ballots.
- 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 PM.

AWENDAW

Mayor

Four-Year Term

Candidates

- Willette L. Alston
- Chris Crolley
- Bettye Simmons-Weeks

Town Council (3 Seats)

There are six at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Three Open Seats

Candidates

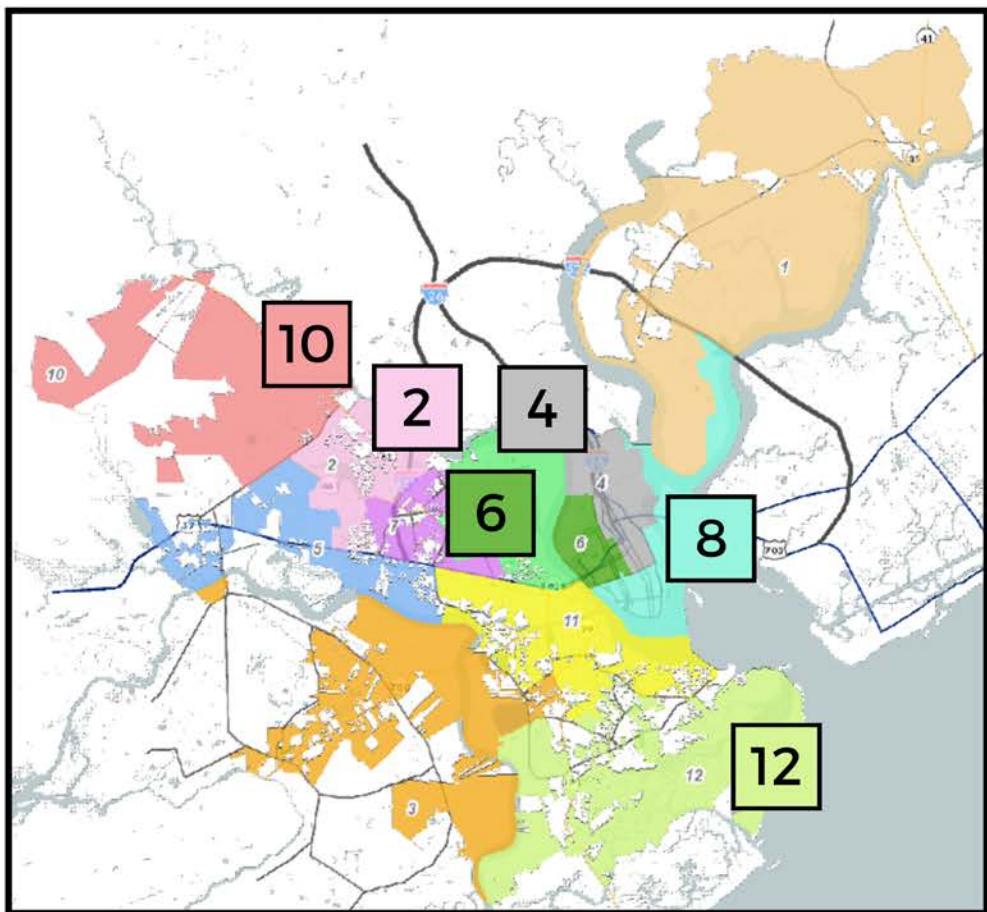
- Frank Frazier
- Grace Gasper
- Darrell Kitchens
- Samuel G. McNeal
- Rodney L. Porcher
- John T. Timmons

CHARLESTON

City Council Seats (Even Districts)

There are 12 council members who represent districts. This year, even-numbered districts will have a city council seat on their ballot.

City of Charleston Council Even Districts



CHARLESTON

City Council Seats (Even Districts)

Four-Year Term

Districted Office

Candidates

District 2:

- Abraham D. Champagne
- Kevin Shealy

District 4:

- Robert M. Mitchell
- Aaron Polkey
- Luqman S. Rasheed

District 6:

- Ben D'Allesandro
- William Dudley Gregorie

District 8:

- Mike Seekings

District 10:

- Stephen Bowden
- William Connor

District 12:

- Annette Begner
- Deanna Miller
- Leslie Skardon

CHARLESTON

Commissioner of Public Works (1 Seat)

The Commission is an independent body that approves contracts, sets rates, and purchases land related to water and wastewater.

Three of the six board members are elected by City of Charleston voters.

Board members serve staggered six-year terms, with one seat up for election in every odd year.

Six-Year Term

One Open Seat

Candidates

- Barbara Dungee Acobe
- Kathleen G. Wilson

FOLLY BEACH

Mayor

Four-Year Term

Candidates

- Chris Bizzell
- Elton L. Culpepper
- Katherine Houghton
- Ann Peets
- DJ Rich

Town Council (3 Seats)

There are six at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Three Open Seats

Candidates

- William Farley
- Skip Fink
- Blair Holladay
- John McFarland
- Jimmy Rawls
- Annie Whiting

HOLLYWOOD

Town Council (3 Seats)

There are six at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Three Open Seats

Candidates

- Benita L. Curnell
- Brian Groveman
- Genea Mitchell
- Aaron Roland Washington (Withdrew) !
- Dawn Watson
- Temeka Heyward White

!

Withdrawal occurred after the final ballots were generated. Please note this candidate is no longer seeking office.

ISLE OF PALMS

Mayor

Four-Year Term

Candidates

- Scott Pierce
- Phillip Pounds
- Jon Regan Walters

City Council (4 Seats)

There are eight at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Four Open Seats

Candidates

- John Bogosian
- David Cohen
- Larry Kramer
- Zach Lary
- Katie Miars
- Bev Miller
- Krista Swingle
- Andrew J. Vega

ISLE OF PALMS

Watershed Commissioner (2 Seats)

It is a separate body from the City of Isle of Palms.

The Commission owns and operates water and wastewater systems.

They cannot borrow money without approval from the Isle of Palms City Council.

The five commissioners are elected at-large and serve staggered terms.

Six-Year Term

Two Open Seats

Candidates

- Curtis Helfrich
- Donald Smith

JAMES ISLAND

Town Council (2 Seats)

There are six at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Two Open Seats

Candidates

- Julia Drayton Crumblin
- Stanley T. Kozikowski
- Kristen Meredith Poston
- Michael O'Shaughnessy Williams



In 2023, James Island residents voted to add two additional seats on their council, going from four council people to six.

Voters will vote on candidates for the two new seats this year.

KIAWAH ISLAND

Mayor

Four-Year Term

Candidates

- Brad Belt

Town Council (2 Seats)

There are four at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Two Open Seats

Candidates

- E. Luke Farrell
- Madeleine Kaye

LINCOLNVILLE



Mayor

Four-Year Term

Candidates

- Tyrone Aiken
- Enoch Dickerson III
- Charles B. Duberry

Town Council (3 Seats)

There are six at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Three Open Seats

Candidates

- Emanuel Prince
- Myra Washington-Dyson
- Betty J. Weldon

McCLELLANVILLE

Mayor

Two-Year Term

Candidate

- Rutledge B. Leland III

Town Council (4 Seats)

There are four at-large council members are elected every other year.

Two-Year Term

Four Open Seats

Candidates

- Malcolm Baldwin
- Christopher Bates
- Robert J. Gannon
- Jim Scott

MEGGETT

Town Council (2 Seats)

There are four at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Two Open Seats

Candidates

- Tommy Butler
- Keith McCarty

MOUNT PLEASANT

Mayor

Four-Year Term

Candidates

- Will Haynie
- Curt Thomas

Town Council Seats (4)

There are eight at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Four Open Seats

Candidates

- Alexandra Crosby
- Jenny DeSart
- Brianna Harmon
- John Iacofano
- Perry Rourk
- Craig S. Russack
- Gary K. Santos
- Mike Tinkey
- Kathryn Whitaker

MOUNT PLEASANT

Waterworks Commissioner (2 Seats)

The Commission creates and reviews policies, approves budgets, and sets rates.

Five commissioners are elected at-large and serve staggered terms.

The Mayor and Water Supply & Resources Committee Chairman from Town Council also serve on the Commission.

Six-Year Term

Two Open Seats

Candidates

- Rick M. Crosby
- Linda G. Page

RAVENEL

Town Council (3 Seats)

There are six at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Three Open Seats

Candidates

- LaJuanda LJ Brown
- Robert Cochran
- Jan Denham
- Charles Glover
- Micah McCarty
- Nicole Murdaugh-Barron
- Ashton T. Singleton

ROCKVILLE

Mayor

Two-Year Term

Candidate

- Riley A. Bradham

Town Council (4 Seats)

There are four at-large council members are elected every other year.

Two-Year Term

Four Open Seats

Candidates

- Tammy T. Bazzle
- Henry C. Holst
- Whit Smith
- Frank Thornhill

SEABROOK

Mayor

Two-Year Term

Candidate

- Bruce Kleinman

Town Council (4 Seats)

There are four at-large council members are elected every other year.

Two-Year Term

Two Open Seats

Candidates

- Pat Faulkner
- Raymond Hamilton

Four-Year Term

Two Open Seats

Candidates

- Thomas J. Hund
- Darryl May

!

An ordinance passed earlier this year to move from two-year non-staggered terms for Town Council to four-year staggered terms. To start staggering the terms, voters will have two seats for two-year terms and two seats for four-year terms.

SEABROOK

Combined Utilities Commissioner (1 Seat)

The Commission oversees the establishment, acquisition, and operation of the water and sewer system.

Three commissioners are elected every odd year, at-large, and serve staggered terms.

Six-Year Term

One Open Seat

Candidates

- E. James Ferland

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

Mayor

Four-Year Term

Candidate

- Patrick M. O'Neil

Town Council (3 Seats)

There are six at-large council members who serve staggered terms.

Four-Year Term

Three Open Seats

Candidates

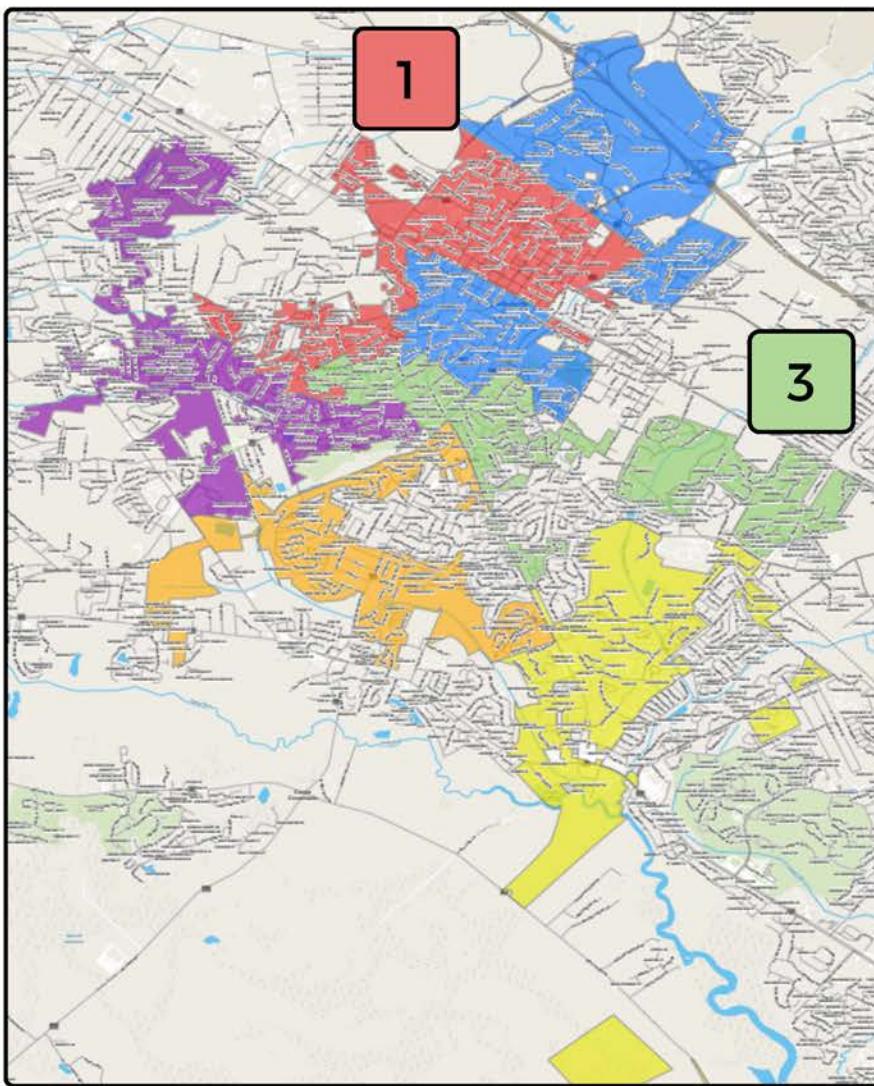
- Melanie W. Burkhold
- Scott A. Millimet
- Justin P. Novak
- Laura Schroeder
- Gary Visser

SUMMERTOWN

Town Council Seats (Districts 1, 3)

The Council is composed of six districts. Odd districts will be voted on this year. Portions of 1 and 3 are in Charleston County.

Odd Districts In Charleston County



SUMMERTOWN

Town Council Seats (Districts 1, 3)

Four-Year Term

Districted Office

Candidates

District 1:

- Vickie Fagan
- Dexcter Mack
- Cornelius Chubby Smith

District 3:

- Matt Halter

Commissioner of Public Works (1 Seat)

The Commission oversees the water and wastewater systems.

Three of the six commissioners are elected at-large and serve staggered terms.

The Mayor and a member of Town Council also serve on the Board.

Six-Year Term

One Open Seat

Candidates

- Jordy Tupper

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a municipality?

A local government below the county level comprising of a mayor and council.

Ex: Mount Pleasant, Kiawah Island, and Lincolnville are all municipalities.

In South Carolina, municipalities are either cities or towns.

Did you know?

Municipalities in South Carolina can choose to be the “City of...” or the “Town of...”

There is no minimum population to be called a city. This means some towns have higher populations than some cities.

Charleston County has 3 cities and 14 towns.

Why don't I have an election this November?

There are two reasons why you may not be able to vote in a municipal election this year:

- **You live in North Charleston.**

- Municipal elections are held once every four years. The next municipal election will be in 2027.

- **You don't live in a municipality.**

- Some Charleston County voters live in unincorporated areas. They do not live in a city or town. Public Service Districts, which provide water, sewage, or trash services, cover some of these areas but not all.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My address is in a municipality. Why don't I have an election this year?

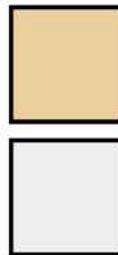
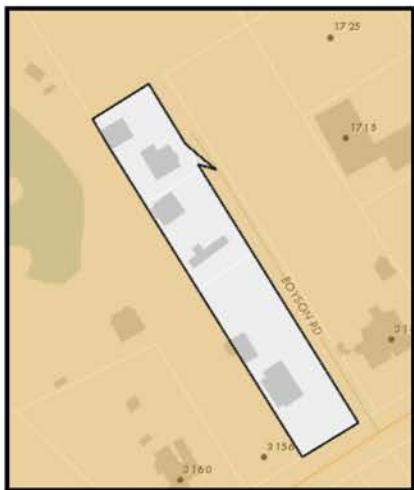
Your USPS address may indicate a city or town, but you are not necessarily within its limits or boundaries.

If you don't pay taxes to a city or town, you won't be able to vote in their elections.

What is a "donut hole"?

Some Charleston County voters live in "donut holes," or areas that are surrounded by a municipality but are not part of it.

The map below shows a "donut hole" example where an unincorporated area is bordered on all sides by the City of Charleston.



City of Charleston

Unincorporated Area

What does "at-large" mean?

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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:

- 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.

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

$$\text{Total number of votes} \div \text{Number of seats} \div 2$$

If 234 people voted in an at-large election, assuming three open seats:

$$234 \text{ total number of votes} \div 3 \text{ seats} \div 2 = 39$$

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 or Plurality?

Majority

- Charleston
- Folly Beach
- Isle of Palms
- Lincolnville
- Rockville
- Sullivan's Island

Plurality

- Awendaw
- Hollywood
- James Island
- Kiawah Island
- McClellanville
- Meggett

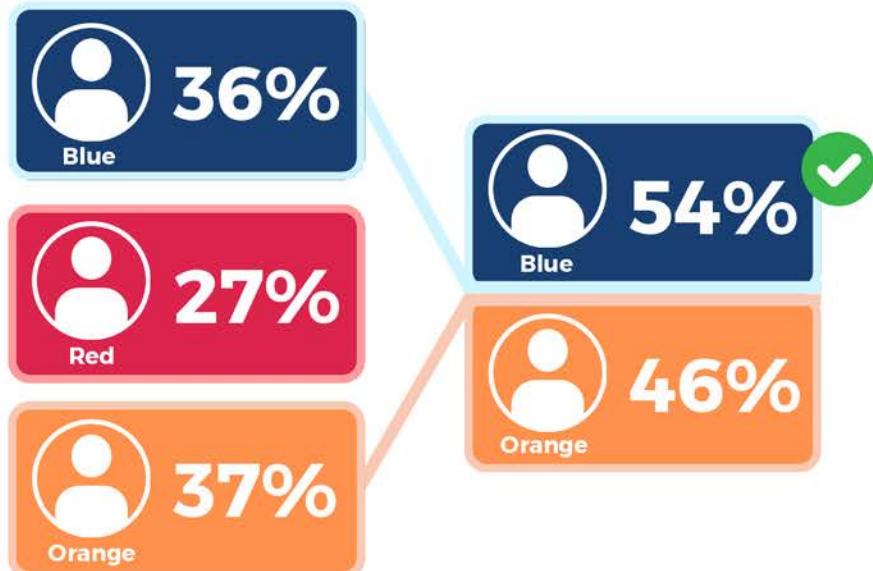
- Mt. Pleasant
- North Charleston
- Ravenel
- Seabrook
- Summerville

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Majority Elections - Potential Outcomes (Districted Offices)

Runoff Election

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



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 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 the difference between partisan and nonpartisan?

For partisan offices, candidates must be affiliated with a political party to run (unless they run as a write-in candidate).

For nonpartisan offices, candidates are not affiliated with any political party.

All municipal elections are nonpartisan.

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)



PO Box 71419
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chsvotes.gov



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