

VIRGINIA 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key penal provisions found within the Virginia Elections Code, Title 24.2 of the Code of Virginia.

- Using Intimidation, coercion or other means to hinder or prevent an election officer from holding an election is a felony.
- Intimidating, threatening or coercing any person relating to voting or deterring or preventing voting is a misdemeanor.
- Loitering or campaigning within 40 feet of an entrance of a polling location is a misdemeanor.

VOTING HOURS

2024 ELECTION DATES

Election Day:
6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Presidential Primary: March 5

Primary Election: June 18

General Election: November 5

For other election dates: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

Local election officials:
[vote.elections.virginia.gov/
VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup)

VA Department of Elections:
804-864-8901; info@elections.virginia.gov
elections.virginia.gov/contact-us



Prohibited activities

Code of Virginia § 24.2-604(A),(F)

A. During the times the polls are open and ballots are being counted, or within one hour of opening or after closing, it is unlawful for any person to:

- i. Loiter or congregate within 40 feet of any entrance of any polling place;
- ii. Within such distance, to give, tender, or exhibit any ballot, ticket, or other campaign material to any person or to solicit or in any manner attempt to influence any person in casting his vote;
- iii. Hinder or delay a qualified voter in entering or leaving a polling place; or
- iv. Knowingly possess any firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2 within 40 feet of any building, or part thereof, used as a polling place.

This prohibition shall not apply to any law-enforcement officer; retired law-enforcement officer qualified pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-308.016; any person occupying his own private property that falls within 40 feet of a polling place; or a licensed armed security officer whose employment or performance of his duties occurs within 40 feet of any building, or part thereof, used as a polling place. (Code of Virginia § 24.2-604(F))

Any person violating subsection A is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Activities prohibited inside polling place

Code of Virginia § 24.2-604(C)

It is unlawful for any authorized representative permitted in the polling place pursuant to § 24.2-604.4, any voter, or any other person in the room to (i) hinder or delay a

qualified voter; (ii) give, tender, or exhibit any ballot, ticket, or other campaign material to any person; (iii) solicit or in any manner attempt to influence any person in casting his vote; (iv) hinder or delay any officer of election; (v) be in a position to see the marked ballot of any other voter; or (vi) otherwise impede the orderly conduct of the election.

Any person violating this prohibition is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Loudspeakers prohibited at polls

Code of Virginia § 24.2-605

Except for school purposes or in an emergency, no loudspeaker shall be used within 300 feet of a polling place on an election day.

Any person violating this prohibition is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

Prohibited conduct; intimidation of voters; disturbance of election

Code of Virginia § 24.2-607

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to hinder, intimidate, or interfere with any qualified voter so as to prevent the voter from casting a secret ballot. The officers of election may order a person violating this subsection to cease such action. If such person does not promptly desist, the officers of election, or a majority of them, may order the arrest of such person by any person authorized by law to make arrests, and, by their warrant, may commit such person to the county or city jail, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours. Any person violating this subsection is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. No person shall conduct himself in a noisy or riotous manner at or about the polls so as to disturb the election or

insult or abuse an officer of election. Any person authorized to make arrests may arrest any person engaging in such conduct and bring him before the officers of the election, and they may commit him to the county or city jail, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours; but they shall permit him to vote if he is so entitled.

Intimidation of election officers

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1000

Any person who, by bribery, intimidation, threats, coercion, or other means in violation of the election laws willfully hinders or prevents, or attempts to hinder or prevent, the officers of election at any polling place, voter satellite office, or other location being used by a locality for voting purposes from holding an election is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

Willful neglect or prohibited conduct

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1001

A. If any officer of election, member of an electoral board, or other person on whom any duty is enjoined by law relative to any election, is guilty of willful neglect of his duty, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. If any person listed in subsection A is guilty of any corrupt conduct in the execution of his duty, he shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

Intimidation of voters

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1005(A)

Any person who intimidates, threatens, or coerces, or attempts to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any other person in giving his vote or ballot or who intimidates, threatens, or coerces, or attempts to intimidate, threaten, or coerce a voter to deter or prevent him from voting is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Interference with voting

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1005.2

A. Any person acting under the color of law who, contrary to an official policy or procedure, fails to permit, or refuses to permit, a qualified voter to vote, or who willfully fails or refuses to tabulate, count, or report the vote of a qualified voter, is subject to a civil penalty in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 for each affected voter. Such civil penalties shall be payable to the Voter Education and Outreach Fund established pursuant to § 24.2-131.

B. Any person who furnishes a ballot to a person who he knows cannot understand the language in which the ballot is printed and misinforms him as to the content of the ballot with an intent to deceive him and induce him to vote contrary to his desire is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person who changes a ballot of a person to prevent the person from voting as he desires is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. This subsection applies to any election and to any method used by a political party for selection of its nominees and for selection of delegates to its conventions and meetings.

Advice or assistance in casting ballot

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1006

Unless [they have been designated by a voter to provide assistance in accordance with Section 24.2-649] no person shall directly or indirectly advise or assist any voter as to how he shall cast his ballot after the voter has entered the area of the polling place designated as a prohibited area as designated in § 24.2-604. Any person violating this prohibition is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Stealing or tampering with ballot containers, voting equipment or records

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1009

Any person who steals or willfully, fraudulently, or wrongfully tampers with any part of any ballot container, voting or registration equipment, records, or documents, which are used in any way within the registration or election process shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

Stealing or tampering with software or hardware used for election returns

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1009

Any person who steals or willfully, fraudulently, or wrongfully tampers with the software used to prepare and operate voting equipment or the software or hardware used to collect and disseminate election returns shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

Stealing or tampering with electronic voting equipment

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1009

Any person who steals or willfully, fraudulently, or wrongfully tampers with an electronic activation device or electronic data storage medium of the type used to prepare, operate or back up electronic voting equipment shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

Tampering with electronic transmission of election returns

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1009

Any person who willfully, fraudulently, or wrongfully tampers with the electronic transmission of election returns or the posting of returns on the Internet shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

Ballot not to be carried away

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1011

Any person who carries (i) official ballot or copy thereof beyond or away from the voting booth, except to the officers of election, or (ii) votes any ballot except the ballot received from the officers of election, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Conspiracy against rights of voters

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1015

If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, intimidate, prevent, or hinder any citizen of this Commonwealth in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured under the provisions of Title 24.2 (Elections) of the Code of Virginia, or because of his having so exercised such right, they shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

False statements

Code of Virginia § 24.2-1016

Any willfully false material statement or entry made by any person in any statement, form, or report required by Title 24.2 (Elections) of the Code of Virginia is a crime of election fraud and be punishable as a Class 5 felony.



Committee for

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ELECTIONS**

