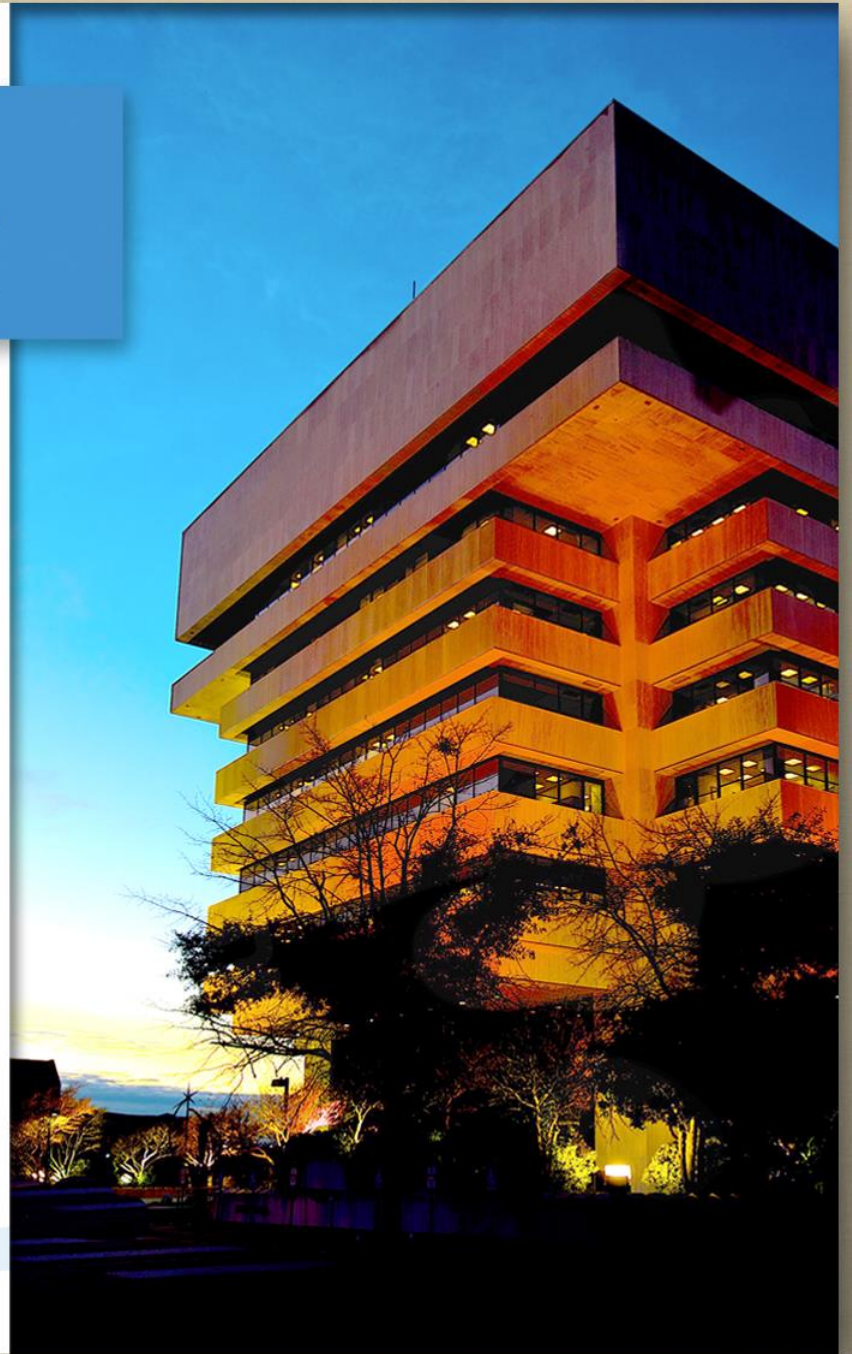


# HAMPTON VA

## **Election Safety**

**Council Evening Session**

**October 28, 2020**



# State Laws Relevant to Election Activities

# Voter Intimidation

§ 24.2-607. Prohibited conduct; intimidation of voters; disturbance of election; how prevented; penalties.

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 him to the county or city jail, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours. Any person violating this subsection shall be 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 forthwith arrest a person engaging in such conduct and bring him before the officers of the election, and they, by their warrant, 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.

# Activity at Polling Places

§ 24.2-604. Polling places; prohibited activities; prohibited area; penalties.

During the times the polls are open and ballots are being counted, it is unlawful for any person (i) to 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; or (iii) to hinder or delay a qualified voter in entering or leaving a polling place.

A violation of this section is a Class One Misdemeanor.

# Weapons on School Property

§ 18.2-308.1. Possession of firearm, stun weapon, or other weapon on school property prohibited; penalty.

A. If any person knowingly possesses any (i) stun weapon as defined in this section; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) weapon, including a weapon of like kind, designated in subsection A of § [18.2-308](#), other than a firearm; upon (a) the property of any child day center . . . he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. If any person knowingly possesses any firearm designed or intended to expel a projectile by action of an explosion of a combustible material while such person is upon (i) the property of any child day center or public, private, or religious preschool, elementary, middle, or high school, including buildings and grounds . . . he is guilty of a Class 6 felony.


C. If any person knowingly possesses any firearm designed or intended to expel a projectile by action of an explosion of a combustible material within the building of a child day center or public, private, or religious preschool, elementary, middle, or high school and intends to use, or attempts to use, such firearm, or displays such weapon in a threatening manner, such person is guilty of a Class 6 felony and sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years to be served consecutively with any other sentence.

# Voter Safety in Hampton

# Safe and Secure Environment

- Trust of the Voters in Hampton
  - Process for Reporting Any Issues
  - Covid-19 Safety Precautions
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# Trust & Confidence in Our Community

- Long tradition of safe and secure elections
  - Tradition of Hamptonians peacefully and civilly expressing their views
  - Expect the same on November 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Will enforce the rules at the polls
  - Have a plan in the unlikely case of outside agitators
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# Voter Intimidation

- In the unlikely event of voter intimidation, a citizen should:
  - Alert the designated election official at the precinct
  - The election official is trained to take the necessary actions to address voter intimidation

# Other Violations of the Law

- For other violations of the law:
  - Brandishing a Firearm
  - Weapons on School Property
  - Etc.
- Citizens may still alert the election official at the precinct but may also call the police

# COVID-19 Precautions

- Precautions taken at the Polls
  - Early Voting
  - Absentee Voting
  - Curbside Voting
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# Precautions at the Polls

- Applies to all in person voting
- Masking and social distancing will be observed
- May bring your own black ball point pen
- Election officials wearing appropriate personal protective equipment
- Plexiglass partitions will be in place
- Hand sanitizer available for voter use


# Early Voting

- Any registered voter is eligible
- Registrar's office, 1919 Commerce Drive, Suite 470
- Satellite office, 101 Kings Way (former Circuit Court building)
- Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (through Oct 30)
- Saturday October 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Absentee Voting

- If you have an absentee ballot, closely follow the directions to ensure you are correctly filling it out.
- (Note, a witness signature is not required due to COVID.)
- Mail your ballot to Voter Registrar, 1919 Commerce Drive Suite 280, Hampton, VA 23666.
- Make sure it is postmarked no later than Nov. 3. (You can track it at <https://ballotscout.org/partners/5a8f1161-23a0-4fa0-8ec9-3e090e97e9b3/va-search>)
- Drop it off at the Registrar's Office at 1919 Commerce Drive or the Satellite Office at 101 Kings Way during business hours before election day.
- On election day, drop it at either of those offices or any voting precinct. You will not have to wait in line with people who are there to cast their ballot.

# Curbside Voting

- Curbside voting is available at all precincts
  - Open to anyone including:
  - Seniors
  - Those with mobility issues
  - Those at elevated risk for complications of COVID-19.
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# Conclusion / Questions

