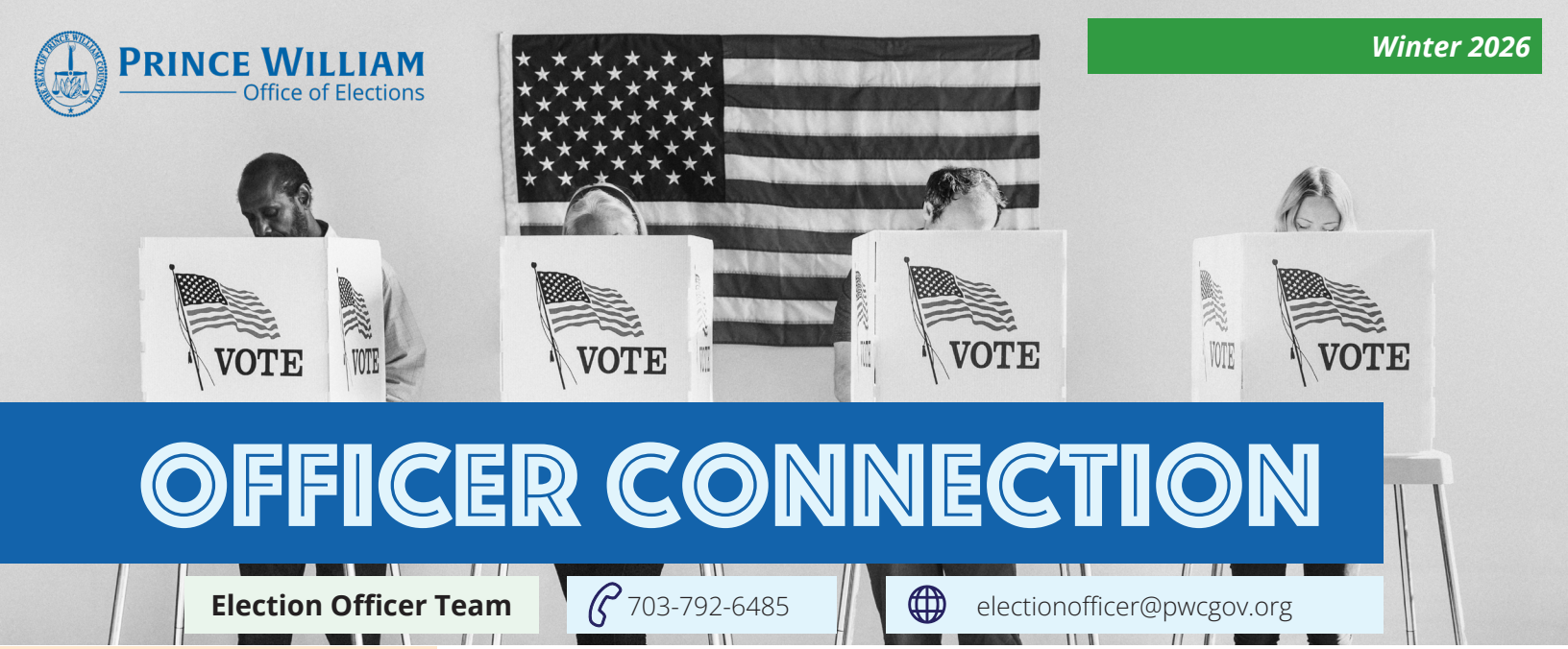
PRINCE WILLIAM
Office of Elections

Winter 2026



OFFICER CONNECTION

Election Officer Team | 703-792-6485 | electionofficer@pwcgov.org

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Elections would not run without the people who volunteer to run them.

Office of Elections Preps for Busy 2026

This year, with three special elections planned on top of the regularly-scheduled primary and general, our staff, election officers, county partners, and voters will all have "elections" on their mind for nearly eleven months of the calendar year. As of the writing of this article, one election has already come and gone, with another well underway.

With the way that districts overlap, about 10,000 voters are eligible to participate in 4 elections over 5 months, an average of one election every 33 days. Following the appointment of the delegate from VA House District (HD) 23 into the Governor's cabinet, preparations for the January 13 election to elect her replacement began in December of 2025. The results of that January election then triggered a "snowball effect" as the BOCS Supervisor for the Woodbridge District vacated her seat to become the new representative for VA HD 23. The special election to elect a new Woodbridge District Supervisor will overlap slightly with a statewide special election in April. That April election will then will push the summer primary to early August, leaving only three weeks of downtime between the certification of that primary election and the beginning of preparations for its corresponding general election in November.

January 13
Special Election for VA House of Delegates 23

March 10
Special Election for Woodbridge District BOCS

April 21
Statewide Amendments & Congressional Redistricting

August 4
Congressional Primary

November 3
Election Day

With anywhere from one to 6 weeks of early voting, over 300 tasks, and up to 330,000 voters to manage for each election, PWC will see a total of 18 weeks of early voting, complete over 1500 election administration tasks, and prepare for nearly 1 million voter interactions before December 2026.

Stats and Accomplishments

Officers Assigned

	November 2025
New Officers	82
Language Officers	62
Early Voting	77
Total Assignments	921

Voters Served

	November 2025
Early Voting	56,110
By Mail	21,774
Election Day	88,521
Total Voters	166,604

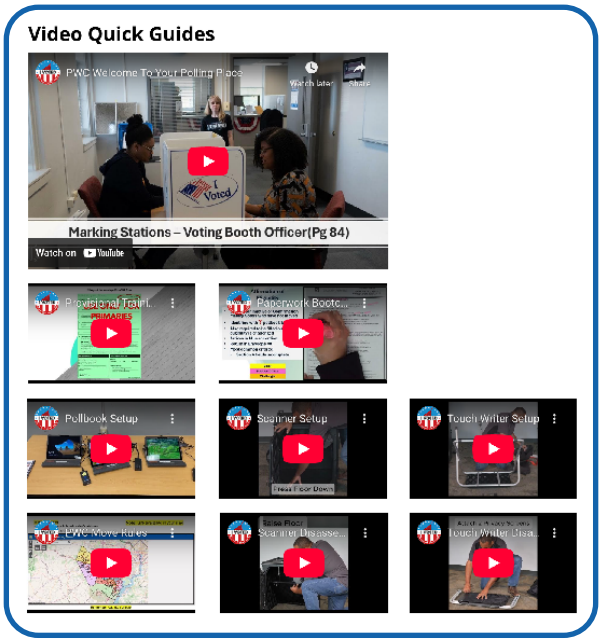
Takeaways and Improvements

Video Quick Guides

Never try to remember something that you can either look up or write down.

We have put together a mini video library on the Election Officer Training page that covers a range of hot topics, including move rules, provisional ballots, equipment set up and break down, and closing paperwork.

This resource is designed to be a quickly accessible and easily digested tool to help you in non-standard situations. While we always encourage use of the manual, we understand that a video may be a helpful tool. Our goal is to always improve processes for your convenience.



www.pwcvotes.org/training

Coming to the April 21 Special Election....Accountability Officers!



Take a Sec... Double Check! We are going to ask that all Assistant Chief Officers (AO) become the Accountability Officer (AO) and double check all paperwork, signature fields, and envelope contents! Now AO has two meanings...Assistant Chief Officer and Accountability Officer! We hope to improve paperwork and reduce mistakes with this initiative.

From The Office

Director Of Elections Presents Status Report to County Supervisors

On Tuesday, January 13, 2026, Eric Olsen, Director of Elections, presented a "State of the Department" to the Board of County Supervisors during their weekly meeting. The purpose of this presentation was to give a progress update on all that the office has accomplished since Mr. Olsen was first hired roughly 4 years ago.

The presentation began with an overview of the office's structure and guiding values. With 18 full-time employees, 5 to 20 seasonal temporary workers and more than 2,000 bipartisan election officers, the office focuses on accuracy, transparency, customer service and clear communication. Accuracy is supported through systems designed to minimize human error, while transparency is strengthened through the use of innovative tools and public-facing resources that help build voter trust. Responsiveness for voters, county partners and the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, is supported by clear, easy-to-understand information that is available across multiple formats.



The presentation also outlined the steps taken in response to challenges identified from 2020 to 2021, which included late and uneven election results, long lines at early voting sites, gaps in political party equity among election officers, and concerns related to election processes and transparency. Improvements included the addition of high-speed scanners, enhanced Election Night data entry and verification, and the creation of a triple-check post-election review process. Early voting locations and precinct check-in stations were expanded, and a direct-mail recruitment effort helped strengthen election officer recruitment and retention, resulting in a more balanced pool of Democrat, Republican and non-partisan officers.

The presentation concluded with a look at ongoing transparency efforts. Election result tapes, election manuals, security documentation, task-tracking tools and educational videos are posted online, and the office continues to host open houses to explain the election process and address misinformation. **Those efforts resulted in the Office of Elections receiving three national or statewide awards in 2025, making it the first elections office in Virginia to earn all three.**

"The Office of Elections has made tremendous strides to improve the voting experience and the transparency of our elections in Prince William County," Olsen said. "We continually review our systems and make improvements to ensure every voter has a positive, accessible and secure voting experience."

To view a recording of Mr. Olsen's presentation, please visit: https://bit.ly/4rGQW3n and view Item 8.A.

Courtesy to Guest Writer Keith Walker, Prince William County Office of Communications

Updates and Changes

For Voters' Consideration

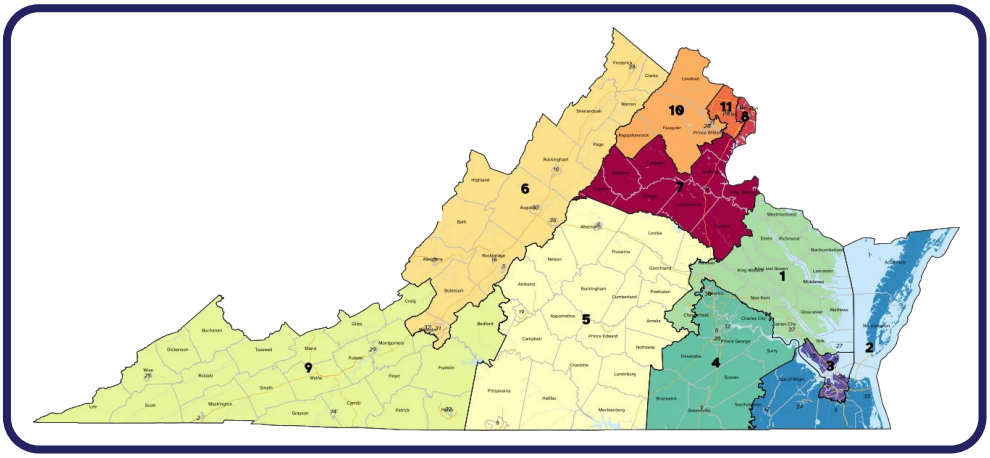
Four State Constitutional Amendments could be coming to Virginia's ballots in 2026. In addition to three constitutional amendments that consider civil rights for Virginia residents in November 2026, voters will also be asked to weigh in on redistricting plans on April 21st.

HB1384 - Constitutional amendment; April 21, 2026 special election; voter referendum; appropriations.

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adjust congressional districts under specific circumstances, aiming to restore fairness in upcoming elections, with the changes to be voted on by the public in a special election on April 21, 2026. It also makes appropriations for the Division of Legislative Automated Services and the Division of Legislative Services, including funding for the special election, and establishes the Department of Elections as a recipient of funds for this election. The bill modifies existing laws regarding the apportionment of electoral districts, allowing for modifications to congressional districts between January 1, 2025, and October 31, 2030, in response to redistricting actions by other states, but mandates that Virginia's standard redistricting process will resume after the 2030 census. Additionally, it designates the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond as the sole venue for legal actions related to constitutional amendments and related statutes, effective September 1, 2025.

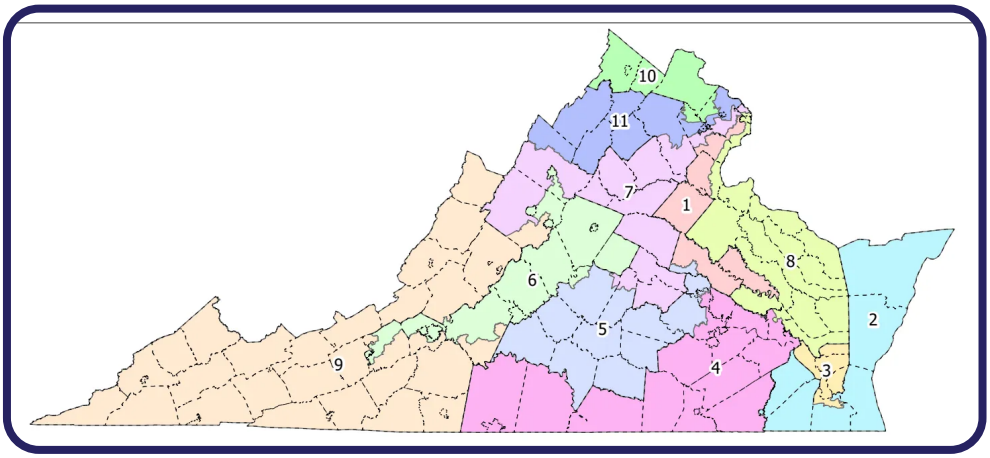
Current VA Congressional Map

Approved in late 2021



Proposed VA Congressional Map

For Consideration in April 2026



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SJ1- Constitutional amendment; fundamental right to reproductive freedom

Provides that every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom and that such right shall not be, directly or indirectly, denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest, as defined in the amendment, and achieved by the least restrictive means. The amendment specifies that, notwithstanding the other provisions of the amendment, the Commonwealth may regulate the provision of abortion care in the third trimester, provided that in no circumstance shall the Commonwealth prohibit an abortion (i) that in the professional judgment of a physician is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual or (ii) when in the professional judgment of a physician the fetus is not viable.

SJ2 - qualifications of voters, right to vote, persons not entitled to vote.

Provides that every person who meets the qualifications of voters set forth in the Constitution shall have the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth and that such right shall not be abridged by law, except for persons who have been convicted of a felony and persons who have been adjudicated to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting. A person who has been convicted of a felony shall not be entitled to vote during any period of incarceration for such felony conviction, but upon release from incarceration for that felony conviction and without further action required of him such person shall be invested with all political rights, including the right to vote. Currently, in order to be qualified to vote a person convicted of a felony must have his civil rights restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority. The amendment also provides that a person adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction as lacking the capacity to understand the act of voting shall not be entitled to vote during this period of incapacity until his capacity has been reestablished as prescribed by law. Currently, the Constitution provides that a person who has been adjudicated to be mentally incompetent is not qualified to vote until his competency is reestablished.

SJ3 - Constitutional amendment (second reference); marriage between two adult persons; repeal of same-sex marriage prohibition; affirmative right to marry.

Repeals the constitutional provision defining marriage as only a union between one man and one woman as well as the related provisions that are no longer valid as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 (2015). The amendment prohibits the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions from denying the issuance of a marriage license to two adult persons seeking a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such persons. The Commonwealth and its political subdivisions are required to recognize any lawful marriage between two adult persons and to treat such marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of such persons.

For more information on all Virginia legislation, please visit: lis.virginia.gov and view "Bills & Resolutions"

As of the writing of this article, election officials around the state are still awaiting a ruling from the Virginia Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the redistricting proposal - the determining factor in whether or not the amendment moves forward to a statewide vote. Results from both the ruling and potential subsequent election will dictate the processes for the remainder of the 2026 election calendar.
** Given the uncertainty of court preceedings, we are working under the assumption that the April 21 election WILL happen until we are explicitly told otherwise.*

Honoring Our Training Team



ALEXIS HOLDMAN, The Queen

Tracking time sheets, recording class attendance, moderating virtual classes, and offering "chocolate pens" (if you know, you know), this administrative queen firmly but gently ensures that all officer trainees are getting the classes that they need, and always does so with a smile!



GILBERT SCHMELZINGER, The Deputy

Gil's ability to learn quickly and communicate effectively helps officer trainees to grasp the finer points of running a precinct. He is always eager to pitch in with the work at hand and do whatever needs to be done.



JOHN THYSON, The Captain

His strong presence, gravitas, and years of experience as a Chief and Special Assistant gives the officer trainees positive reinforcement and a sense of confidence as they learn the processes of the precinct.



MIKE CAMPBELL, The Conductor

Frequently found with a smile and a helping hand, his Special Assistant knowledge comes forward to give great directions for class break-out sessions. Sometimes he makes us feel guilty for eating a doughnut, but only because he knows that health is wealth, and the key to being able to continue to serve.



MONICA BOONE, The Mother

Leading with kindness and understanding, she makes you feel like a plate of warm chocolate chip cookies. Her thoughtful approach and calm presentation style gives officer trainees an easy understanding of the materials and keeps everyone engaged - even when she is covering difficult topics!



SUZANNE KNIGHT, The Teacher

Real-world Early Voting experience helps her to bring a solid presence to the class. With no substitute for her super-charged experiences in the field, she imbues the room with patience and confidence, allowing officer trainees to be comfortable with asking questions.



TED ZAGROBELNY, The Showman

Years as a Special Assistant allow him to see the whole picture for precinct procedures and always have helpful answers to officer trainees' questions. Eager to show the class how fast he can put the equipment together and keep the poll-books working in sync, he is a strong pillar of the team who can both show AND tell.



TOM BREIDENBACH, The Technician

Always early and ready to serve - once he puts down his bag - he is ready to tear into the poll books to get them up and running – correctly! His confidence in his knowledge and the meticulous systems that he has developed over many years as a Special Assistant help officer trainees learn how to best unpack and repack all the precinct equipment.

Officer Spotlight

Name: Robert "Sully" Sullivan

Position: Chief

Precinct: 303 at Graham Park Middle School

Term: Served with us for 30 elections over 13 years

Military Experience:

U.S. Marine Corps.
Rank: Major

- Vietnam Veteran
- Drill Instructor
- Helicopter Pilot

Retired after 20 years

Civilian Career:

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)

National Airports Operations Department Manager

Retired after 22 years

Hobbies:

Community Volunteering (*of course*)

Crossword puzzles



Happy Retirement!!
You will be missed!

Retiring from PWC Office of Elections as a Chief Officer in January 2026

"I've been very impressed with the Office of Elections and their dedication to improving processes and serving the voters – It was a good ride!"
-Chief Sully



All in the Family

Sisters Angelique Culp (left) and Valerie CulpMorris (right) often serve together at PCT 310, located at First Mount Zion Baptist Church.

As Always, Thank You.

Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.
- Helen Dyer, American Biochemist and Cancer Researcher (May 26, 1895 – September 20, 1998)