



Keith Balmer
General Registrar
(804) 646-6486
keith.balmer@rva.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ballot on Demand for the City Of Richmond

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This year the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 3, which mandates that General Registrars report their absentee results by precinct. This new law presents an administrative challenge for election officials because it significantly increases the number of ballot styles for an election. A ballot style is a ballot that is specific to voters who belong to a single district, precinct, or locality. In order to report absentee ballots by precinct, registrars are now required to print a ballot style for each individual precinct.

For small localities, the process of handing a voter a ballot during Early Voting will not change. For larger localities, changes may occur. This is because larger localities have significantly more precincts than smaller localities. Many large localities are switching to a procedure known as Ballot on Demand, which allows an election officer to print a voter's ballot right in front of the voter.

It was my intent to introduce Ballot on Demand here in the City Of Richmond for this election. In fact, I have spent the last several months speaking with members of City Council, and with members of the public, in an effort to educate them about the ExpressVote. The ExpressVote is a ballot marking device that is activated once a voter inserts their ballot into it. The ballot that activates the ExpressVote is a ballot that is created through Ballot on Demand.

Unfortunately, the delivery of printers that are necessary to employ Ballot on Demand were never delivered due to supply chain issues related to the pandemic. Since I don't have enough printers for Ballot on Demand, the process that involves a voter receiving their ballot during Early Voting will not change. Voters in the City of Richmond will be checked in on the poll book. They will be handed a ticket. That ticket will contain the voter's precinct information. The voter will hand their ticket to a ballot officer. The ballot officer will hand the voter a pre-printed ballot that corresponds to the precinct on the voter's ticket.

My office remains committed to the ExpressVote ballot marking device, and I look forward to its introduction in 2023.