

Ready to Vote?

Identify who may vote and how registration works in Virginia.

CE.10.c "explaining voter eligibility and requirements for registration."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every eligibility rule and circle each action involved in registering or keeping a registration current.

Voting and Registration in Virginia

- ① Voting is a right and responsibility, but each voter must meet legal requirements. In Virginia, a person must be a United States citizen and a resident of Virginia to register. The person must be 18 years old on or before the next general election. A person convicted of a felony may vote only after civil rights have been restored. A person found by a court to be mentally incapacitated may vote only if the right to vote has been restored. These rules decide who is eligible.
- ② Eligible Virginians complete a voter registration application online, by mail, or in person at places such as a voter registration office. The application asks for identifying information and includes an oath that the applicant meets the eligibility rules. Registering early gives election officials time to process the application and assign the correct voting precinct. Virginia has a regular registration deadline before an election. After that deadline, an eligible person may still register, but must use same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot that officials review.
- ③ Registration does not automatically happen when a person turns 18. A future voter should check eligibility, submit a truthful application, and keep address information current. Moving to a new Virginia address can change a voter's precinct, the local place where that voter is assigned to vote. Before Election Day, a registered voter can check registration status and polling-place information through state election resources. Eligibility rules protect fair elections by limiting voting to qualified voters, while registration helps officials prepare accurate lists for each precinct.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What three basic qualifications must a person meet to register to vote in Virginia?

2 How can a felony conviction or a court finding of mental incapacity affect a person's right to vote?

3 Why does the passage say that registering early is useful?

4 What must an eligible person do if registering after Virginia's regular registration deadline?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Mateo is 19, a United States citizen, a Virginia resident, and has no voting restrictions. He recently moved to a new Virginia address, and it is after the regular registration deadline. Write exactly three sentences explaining whether he can register, how he would vote, and what he should do about his address.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every eligibility rule and circle each action involved in registering or keeping a registration current. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three basic qualifications must a person meet to register to vote in Virginia?	The person must be a United States citizen, a Virginia resident, and 18 years old on or before the next general election.
2	How can a felony conviction or a court finding of mental incapacity affect a person's right to vote?	A person with a felony conviction may vote only after civil rights are restored. A person found mentally incapacitated by a court may vote only after the right to vote is restored.
3	Why does the passage say that registering early is useful?	It gives election officials time to process the application and assign the voter to the correct precinct.
4	What must an eligible person do if registering after Virginia's regular registration deadline?	The person must use same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot for officials to review.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mateo is eligible to register because he is a United States citizen, a Virginia resident, and older than 18. Because it is after the regular deadline, he can use same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot for officials to review. He should update his address so officials can assign the correct precinct.

Accept equivalent wording for the eligibility requirements and registration process. For the open response, require all three ideas: eligibility, same-day registration with a provisional ballot, and updating the address for the correct precinct.