

Civic Choices in Virginia

Read how duties, eligibility, and voting steps support public participation.

CE.10 "The student will apply history and social science skills to analyze the role of public participation in American civic life by describing duties of citizens, including paying taxes, serving on a jury, following the law..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each civic duty, circle each voter eligibility requirement or voting step, and number each sentence that gives a date or time rule. Your marks will help you separate duties from the choices and rules involved in voting.

A Virginia Citizen Takes Part

- ① Public participation keeps a constitutional government connected to its people. Citizens have duties even when no election is near. They pay taxes, which fund services such as schools, roads, and public safety. They follow laws that protect people's rights and safety. Eligible people who receive a jury summons must report or follow the court's instructions. Federal law also requires most male U.S. citizens and male immigrants to register with Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18. Registration is not military enlistment.
- ② Voting is another responsibility. In Virginia, a voter must be a United States citizen, a Virginia resident, and at least 18 years old by the next general election. A person disqualified by a court for lack of voting capacity may vote after that right is restored. A person convicted of a felony may vote only after rights are restored. Eligible voters can register online, by mail, or in person. Virginia also offers same-day registration after the regular deadline, but a same-day registrant votes a provisional ballot.
- ③ Virginia holds general elections on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Before Election Day, registered voters may vote early in person or request a mail ballot without giving an excuse. On Election Day, voters go to their assigned polling place, check in, receive a ballot, make private choices, and return the ballot as directed. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and anyone in line by 7 p.m. may vote. Learning about candidates and issues helps a voter make informed choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name four civic duties from the passage that citizens may have besides voting.

2 What eligibility requirements must a person meet to vote in Virginia, according to the passage?

3 List the three ways an eligible Virginian can register. What kind of ballot does a same-day registrant vote?

4 When are Virginia general elections held? Give one way a registered voter can vote before Election Day.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Jordan is a U.S. citizen and Virginia resident who will turn 18 before the next general election. Write five sentences that explain how Jordan will register, how or when Jordan will vote, two ways Jordan will make an informed choice, and one civic duty Jordan will meet outside voting.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each civic duty, circle each voter eligibility requirement or voting step, and number each sentence that gives a date or time rule. Your marks will help you separate duties from the choices and rules involved in voting. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name four civic duties from the passage that citizens may have besides voting.	Pay taxes, follow laws, report for or follow court instructions after a jury summons, and register for Selective Service when required.
2	What eligibility requirements must a person meet to vote in Virginia, according to the passage?	The person must be a U.S. citizen, a Virginia resident, and at least 18 by the next general election. Anyone disqualified by a court for lack of voting capacity or because of a felony conviction needs restored voting rights.
3	List the three ways an eligible Virginian can register. What kind of ballot does a same-day registrant vote?	Online, by mail, or in person. A same-day registrant votes a provisional ballot.
4	When are Virginia general elections held? Give one way a registered voter can vote before Election Day.	They are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. A voter may vote early in person or request a mail ballot.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan will register online because Jordan is a U.S. citizen, Virginia resident, and will be 18 before the next general election. Jordan will learn about candidates by reading reliable information. Jordan will compare the candidates' positions on issues. Jordan will vote early in person before Election Day. Jordan will follow the law as a civic duty outside voting.

Accept equivalent accurate registration and voting plans. The response should include all required parts, including two distinct informed-choice actions and one nonvoting civic duty.