



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

News Release

For Immediate Release

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For more information:

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Virginia Voter Registration Deadline Extended by Federal Court

RICHMOND, VA – Today, a federal district judge extended the deadline for citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia to register to vote through Thursday, October 15, 2020.

This extension will provide all eligible Virginians with the opportunity to participate in the 2020 November General and Special Elections by registering to vote on or before October 15, 2020. Eligible Virginians may submit a voter registration application or update an existing voter registration record in any of the following methods:

- In-person to the office of their local general registrar by 5pm on Thursday, October 15th
- By mail postmarked on or before Thursday, October 15th
- Online at elections.virginia.gov/voterinfo through 11:59pm on Thursday, October 15th
- To an NVRA designated state agency, such as the DMV or a social services office, by October 15th

Currently registered Virginia voters and eligible Virginians that have already submitted a registration application do not need to take any additional action.

Virginia Department of Elections Commissioner Chris Piper stated, “The Department welcomes today’s court decision to extend the voter registration deadline through Thursday, October 15th. This gives eligible Virginians additional time to register or update their current voter registration record. We encourage Virginians to access the Citizen’s Portal at elections.virginia.gov/voterinfo today or use one of the many other options available for registering to vote.”

In addition to registering to vote, Virginians may also check their current voter registration status, find their polling location and apply for an absentee ballot on the Department’s Citizen Portal at elections.virginia.gov/voterinfo.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION**

NEW VIRGINIA MAJORITY EDUCATION
FUND; VIRGINIA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
TABLE; LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF VIRGINIA,

Plaintiffs,

v.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS;
VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF
ELECTIONS; ROBERT H. BRINK, in his
official capacity as Chairman of the State
Board of Elections; JOHN O'BANNON, in his
official capacity as Vice Chair of the Board;
CHRISTOPHER PIPER, in his official
capacity as Commissioner of the Virginia
Department of Elections; and JAMILAH D.
LECRUISE, in her official capacity as
Secretary of the Board,

Defendants.

Civil Action
Case No. 3:20-CV-801

ORDER

The Court, having read and considered the arguments and representations of the parties, finds as follows:

THAT the voter registration deadline in Virginia, as established by Virginia law, was Tuesday, October 13, *see* Va. Code § 24.2-416;

THAT on the morning of October 13, 2020, a fiber optic cable was severed that hindered service to Virginia voter registration websites. That service was restored prior to 4:00 p.m. that day;

THAT the outage resulted in the inability of Virginians who attempted to register electronically to vote to accomplish their registration;

THAT Virginia state law does not authorize the Defendants to extend the deadline established by the Virginia Code for voter registration; and

THAT Plaintiffs brought suit against Defendants on October 13, 2020 to request a judicial extension of the voter registration deadline in order to accommodate Virginia citizens who claim that their rights were violated when they were unable to register prior to the statutory deadline.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiffs' MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND EMERGENCY INJUNCTIVE RELIEF is GRANTED;
2. Defendants are directed to take all action necessary to extend the October 13, 2020 registration deadline until 11:59 pm on Thursday, October 15, 2020;
3. The parties are ordered to take all action necessary to provide notice to the public of the reopening and extension of this deadline;
4. Defendants are ordered to provide additional information to the public and to voters attempting to register of alternative methods by which individuals may register to vote, in the event of a system outage during the extension period; and
5. In accordance with the terms of this Consent Decree, the Consent Parties shall each bear their own fees, expenses, and costs incurred as of the date of this Order, with respect to all claims raised by Plaintiffs against the Defendants.

WHEREFORE, it is further ORDERED that this matter be, and hereby is, dismissed with prejudice.

/s/ 

John A. Gibney, Jr.
United States District Judge
United States District Judge
Date: 14 October, 2020

* The Commissioner of the Department of Elections shall issue a press release describing this Order by 11:30 am. on Oct. 14, 2020;
The Commissioner of the Department of Elections shall cause a copy of this Order to be delivered electronically to all local registrars of voters in the Commonwealth by 11:30 am. on October 14, 2020;

SEEN AND AGREED:

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