



★VIRGINIA★  
STATE BOARD  
*of* ELECTIONS

**November 3, 2009**

**Information Released at the State Board of Elections 1:00 p.m. Briefing:**

Speaker: Nancy Rodrigues, Secretary  
Virginia State Board of Elections

- The polls opened this morning at 6:00 a.m. There has been a lighter turnout than the **Presidential Election**, but that is expected.
- We have received 316 calls into our call center as of noon today. This significantly less than in the presidential election in November 2008, but is about the usual number for statewide elections.
- The State Board of Elections, General Registrars and the numerous volunteers in localities across the state have worked very hard to ensure that today's election would run smoothly and efficiently. While there have been some minor issues reported in some localities, overall everything is going well.
- Out of the more than 2300 voting precincts in the state a handful of polling places opened late.
- Schools across the Commonwealth are open today and early this morning there were some issues with the lack of voter parking because of school buses. This has been resolved, but we do want citizens to be aware that school is in session and that this afternoon if their polling place is located in a school that they need to be alert to the children in the area.

- We launched some new tools to help voters and also simplify the process for finding election information. First, our Google Map gadget that is on our home page. This helps voters find their polling location, obtain directions to the polls, and view the list of candidates appearing on the ballot. This gadget uses information directly from the State Board of Elections matches it with Google maps.
- Another unique tool we have is the online map application that will appear on the website AFTER the polls close. This online map will display – in real time – the results of the statewide races by locality and the percentage of precincts reporting. It makes it easier for citizens to follow the outcome of the statewide elections as ballots are counted.
- Other members of the Board have been out visiting the polls.
- Polls close at 7:00 p.m. If you are in line to vote by 7:00 p.m. you will still be allowed to cast your vote.
- Voters who have any questions or concerns they can call the State Board of Elections Call Center at 804-864-8901.
- Our next media briefing will be 8:00 p.m.
- Last Gubernatorial election in 2005 about 45% of the voters turned out with 75,982 voting absentee. In this election we have already had 120,916 absentee applications approved, with 98,955 already returned to registrars. Keep in mind though, since 2005 the General Assembly has expanded the reasons that someone can qualify to vote absentee.