

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

# Office of Elections Update

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Primary Timeline Shift + Operations Briefing

June 24, 2026 | 1:00 PM

Prepared for Richmond City Council



# What changed — and what we are strengthening

A 10-minute overview of the August primary process and Office of Elections operations.

OVERVIEW

## Two topics for Council

1

### August primary timeline shift

Registration, mail ballot application, early voting, holiday closures, and state law changes affecting election administration.

2

### Overall operations update

Team capacity, transparency, security, voting process improvements, and outreach partnerships.

## Operating priorities



### Transparency

Public meetings + clearer information



### Security

Worker and voter protection



### Accessibility

Voting options and ADA equipment



### Responsiveness

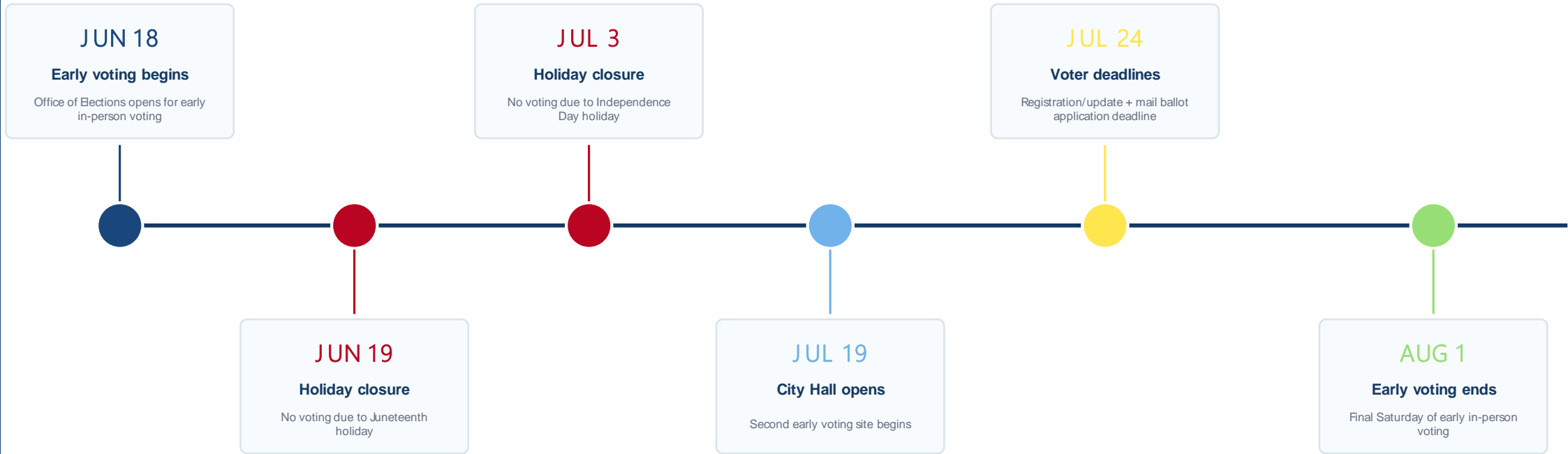
Outreach and stakeholder engagement

**Goal: keep the August primary process clear, secure, and accessible for Richmond voters.**

# Key election dates for the August primary

The timing shift extends early voting across June and July, with voter deadlines on July 24.

TIMELINE



Mail ballot applications are due July 24; voters may apply through our office or the Virginia Citizen Portal. The shift also means extended early voting operations and updated communication around locations and dates.

# Where and when Richmond voters can cast ballots early

Locations, legislative changes and availability reflect the August primary timeline and site constraints.

ACCESS



## A Office of Elections

Early in-person voting begins Thursday, June 18 and runs through Saturday, August 1.

## B City Hall

Early voting begins Sunday, July 19 and runs through Saturday, August 1.

## — Hickory Hill

Not available this election cycle due to pre-existing programming.

**No voting due to holidays**

June 19 • July 3

Mail ballot applications due July 24 | Apply through our office or the Virginia Citizen Portal

# What changes affect the August election process

Council members can expect voter-facing updates and administrative adjustments.

BALLOT

## On the ballot

### United States Senate Republican Primary

Bert Mizusawa

Kim Farington

David E. Williams

## Examples of new state requirements

SB 438

### Sunday early voting

Minimum of 5 hours between 11 AM and 5 PM on the second and third Sunday before each election.

HB 909

### Absentee site security

Certain polling place conduct restrictions now apply to absentee voting locations, including the Central Absentee Precinct.

HB 1321

### Primary abstract timeline

Localities now have 10 days to complete the abstract of votes for primary elections.

Mail ballot applications are due July 24; voters can apply through our office or the Virginia Citizen Portal.

# Filling vacancies and building operational capacity

By the end of the month, the Office expects to have filled most, if not all, vacancies from the start of FY 2026.

TEAM

6

FY26 vacancies filled

New hires across leadership, operations, voter services, research/policy, communications, and facilities are strengthening day-to-day execution while experienced staff continue anchoring core election functions.

Experienced core staff remain essential to voter registration, absentee, election technology, and office administration.

1 Deputy Director  
Tina Crump

2 Election Operations & Services  
Dr. Cassandra Harris

3 Voter Services  
Stephen Labus

4 Research & Policy  
Aliya Daniels

5 Communications & Outreach  
Nicole Hicks

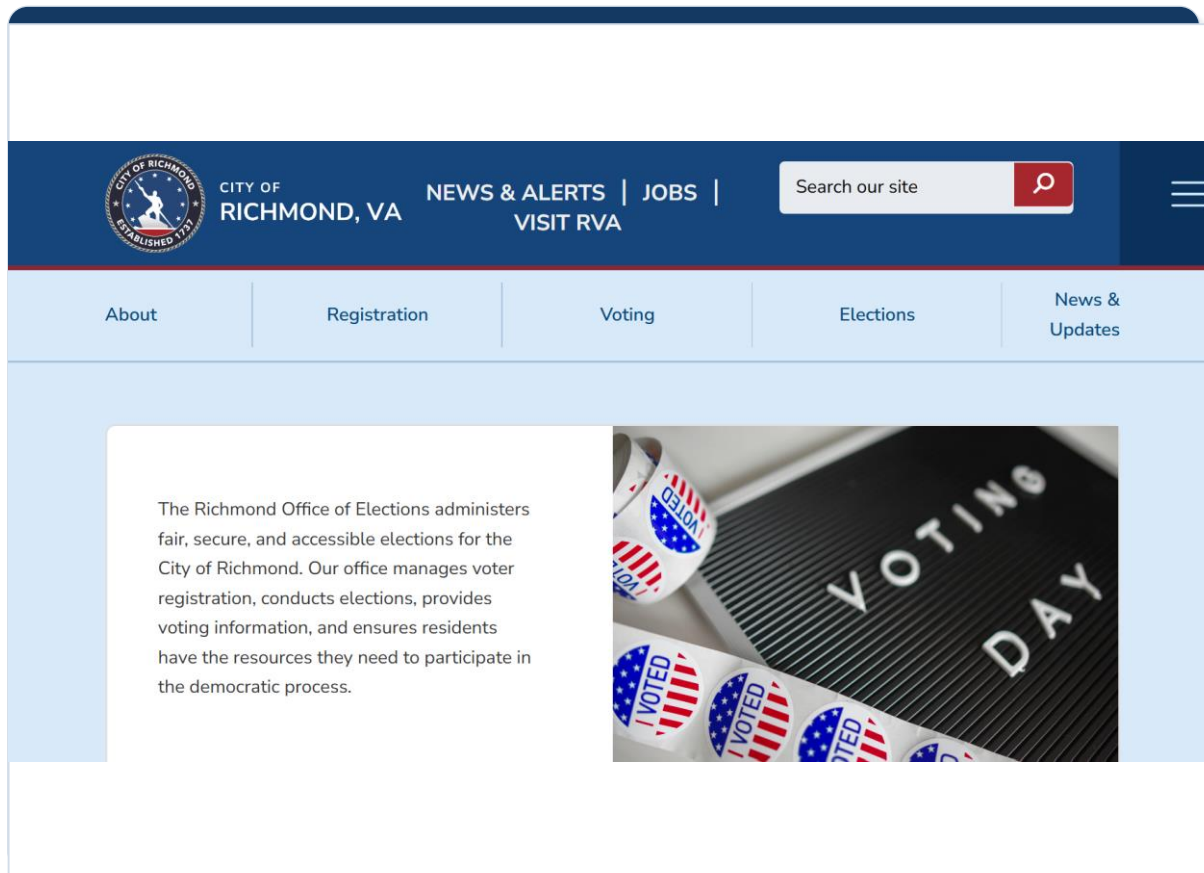
6 Facilities Coordination  
Fawn Goode

Operational message: capacity is improving while continuity of institutional knowledge remains central.

# Clearer public access to meetings, information, and election updates

The Office is strengthening how residents and stakeholders can understand the process.

TRANSPARENCY



## 01 Public meetings

Electoral Board meetings have resumed being open to the public both virtually and in person.

## 02 Website overhaul

Election pages now provide clearer information on processes, election types, and updates.

**Transparency builds trust: public access, plain-language information, and consistent updates.**

# Protecting voters, employees, and election workers

Security improvements are intended to lower risk while preserving public access to the voting process.

## 01 Screening

Metal detector and wand used for entry screening

## 02 Coverage

Security guards at both entrances

## 03 Facilities

Experienced facilities coordination support

## 04 Observers

Updated observer policy balancing access and protection

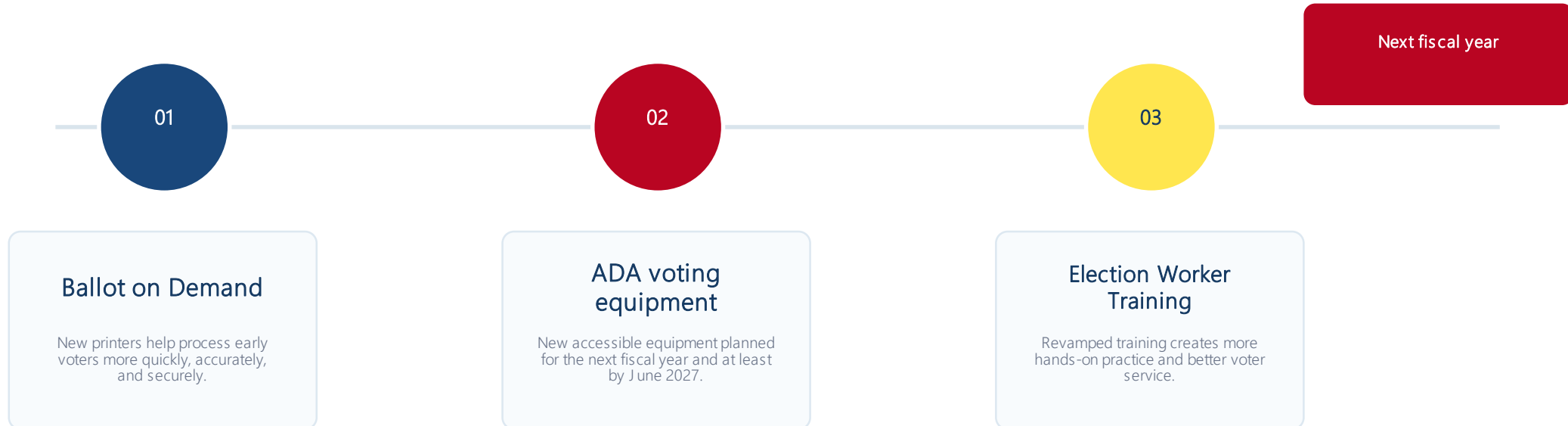


**Security approach: reduce operational risk while maintaining adequate observer access and voter service.**

# Modernizing tools, accessibility, and training

Operational improvements are focused on faster service, accuracy, security, and voter experience.

Long-term value: improved speed and accuracy, reduced excess ballot ordering, stronger accessibility, and better-prepared election workers.



OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS

# Keeping the process connected

Regular engagement helps the Office share operational updates, hear concerns, and strengthen trust across Richmond.

**Political parties**

Local Democrats and Republicans

**Elected officials**

Meetings and issue-specific discussions

**Media**

Local, state, and national outlets

**Election partners**

Election Verification Network, congressional staff, Wisconsin officials

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CITY OF RICHMOND

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