

### Why should one register to vote?

For several reasons:

- (i) each qualified person has a right to vote;
- (ii) each qualified person has a duty to vote; and
- (iii) no person can vote who is not registered.

### What does it mean to have the right and duty to vote?

The Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007 makes provision for qualified persons to vote. That means that qualified persons are given the right to help to elect the persons who will represent them in the House of Assembly.

**The duty:** Qualified persons in the Virgin Islands have a civic duty to exercise that right by going to the polls to vote and electing suitable persons to represent them (and the entire Territory). If you are not registered, you will not be able to vote and will not have a voice as to the representatives elected.

### Is a Virgin Islander who is resident in the mainland United States or any other foreign country qualified to be registered as a voter?

No. Even if such a person was domiciled in the Virgin Islands, the fact that he/she lives outside of the Virgin Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands would disqualify him/her as a voter. However, a Virgin Islander who temporarily lives abroad in any country where he or she is pursuing studies at an educational institution would qualify for registration if he or she meets the other qualifications.

### Advice to young persons and other potential voters who do not appear to be interested in getting registered to vote.

If a person is not registered he/she would not be able to exercise their right to vote. He/She would therefore deprive himself/herself of the right and duty which is his/hers in a democratic society.

### Where can one obtain further information?

Further information may be obtained from the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007 and the Elections Act (No. 16 of 1994), and its amendments. You may also contact the Supervisor of Elections.

BE A PART OF  
**THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS:**  
**REGISTER TO VOTE**  
**AND VOTE**  
ON POLLING DAY!

#### OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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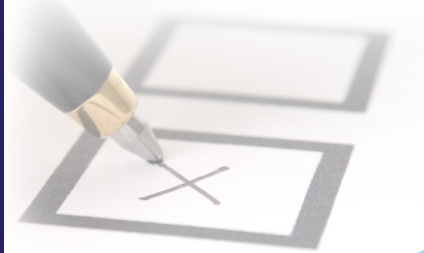


Office of the Supervisor of Elections

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

a b o u t

# Voter Registration



## What is voter registration?

Voter registration is the process by which the names of qualified persons are placed on the voters list.

## What qualifies a person for registration as a voter?

### **Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007; Section 68 (1) (2)**

#### **Qualifications of voters**

68.—(1) Subject to subsection (3), a person shall be qualified to be registered as a voter for the purposes of elections if, and shall not be so qualified unless, he or she belongs to the Virgin Islands and on the qualifying date has attained the age of eighteen years and he or she either—

(a) is domiciled and resident in the Virgin Islands on the qualifying date; or  
(b) on that date is domiciled in the Virgin Islands and resident in the United States Virgin Islands.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), any person who was qualified to be registered as a voter immediately before the commencement of this Constitution shall continue to be so qualified thereafter.

## Is there a reason why a Virgin Islander may be disqualified to register as a voter?

### **Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007; Section 68 (3) (4) (5)**

(3) No person shall be qualified to be registered as a voter under this section who on the qualifying date—

(a) is a person certified to be insane or otherwise adjudged to be of unsound mind under any law in force in the Virgin Islands;

(b) is disqualified by or under any such law from being registered as a voter for the purposes of elections by reason of his or her having been convicted of an offence relating to elections; or

(c) is under sentence of death imposed on him or her by a court or is serving a sentence of imprisonment (by whatever name called) for a term exceeding twelve months imposed on him or her by a court or substituted by competent authority for some other sentence imposed on him or her by a court.

(4) In this section “the qualifying date” means such date as may be appointed by or under any law in force in the Virgin Islands as the date with reference to which the qualifications of any person for registration are to be ascertained.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (3)(c)—

(a) two or more sentences of imprisonment that are required to be served consecutively shall be regarded as separate sentences if none of those sentences exceeds twelve months, but if any one of those sentences exceeds that term they shall be regarded as one sentence; and

(b) no account shall be taken of a sentence of imprisonment imposed as an alternative to or in default of the payment of a fine.

## What is meant by “qualifying date”?

The qualifying date is the date on which a person applies for registration as a voter.

## How does a person prove that he or she is qualified to be registered as a voter?

An applicant for registration should provide proof of qualification such as a believer's card, birth certificate, passport, or naturalisation certificate, once the certificate is dated before June 15, 2007.

## How does one register?

By completing an application form and forwarding it to the Supervisor of Elections together with proof of your qualification to be registered as a voter. The application form must be signed by the applicant, whose signature must be witnessed by a competent witness. The Supervisor of Elections will examine the application and if satisfied that the applicant is qualified, will place his or her name on the preliminary list. The Supervisor will notify the person whether or not he or she has been registered.

## What is a competent witness?

A competent witness is any person who holds one of the titles listed at the bottom of the application form. They include:

- a) A commissioner of Oaths;
- b) Justice of the Peace;
- c) Virgin Islands Registered Legal Practitioner;
- d) Notary Public;
- e) Minister of Religion;
- f) Virgin Islands Registered Medical Practitioner;
- g) Member of the teaching staff of a University or higher educational institution;
- h) Bank Manager;
- i) Postmaster;
- j) Commissioned Police Officer (Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent).

The competent witness must not only sign his or her name, but must also add his or her title (for example, Bill Brown, Medical Officer).

## How will a person know that he or she is registered?

After a person has completed and submitted an application form to the Supervisor of Elections, the Supervisor will notify the person in writing whether or not he or she has been registered. Persons should also inspect the preliminary list of voters, which is published within 4 days after the dissolution of the House of Assembly.

## What happens if a name does not appear on the preliminary list, or if there is an error with a name?

If your name does not appear on the preliminary list, or if it appears wrongly spelt or the address or occupation listed has been wrongly stated, a claim must be made within 4 days of the publication of the Preliminary List to the Supervisor of Elections requesting to have the error(s) corrected. Such notification is made on Form No. 3, which may be obtained from the Office of the Supervisor of Elections, from any post office or government's district office on the Sister Islands.

## Can you object to another person's name on the preliminary list?

Yes. Anyone whose name appears on the preliminary list may object to another person whose name also appears therein as not being entitled to have his/her name on the list. This objection must be made within 4 days of the publication of the Preliminary List on Form No. 4 to the Supervisor of Elections, who will inform the person objected to and decide such claim according to the provisions of section 20 of the Elections Act.

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