



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

Official ELECT Advisory

DATE: February 12, 2026

SUBJECT: April 21, 2026 Special Election Satellite Locations

WHY THIS IS NEEDED: To clarify requirements for satellite locations for the April 21, 2026 Special Election

HOW THIS AFFECTS YOU: [HB1384](#), which was signed into law, states that “Localities shall establish voter satellite offices for the April 21, 2026 Special Election, that allow for appropriate access to in-person absentee voting.”

ELECT does not view the language as automatically requiring the establishment of satellites for all localities. Rather, a determination about “appropriate access” should be made while considering a locality’s previous use of satellite locations in other elections, the anticipated needs of their voters in relation to the special election, and other relevant factors listed on pages 3 and 4 of the [GREB Handbook Chapter 18](#).

ACTION ITEMS: **If your locality has not previously used satellite locations:** If your locality has not previously established a satellite pursuant to Va. Code § [24.2-701.2](#) for other elections, and determines (in consultation with local counsel) that a satellite location is not necessary for the upcoming special election to allow for appropriate access to in-person absentee voting, it is ELECT's view that your locality is not required to establish a satellite location for the special election.

If your locality has established satellite offices for other elections: First, review your existing ordinance to determine if it requires a satellite location(s) for special elections; if so, those must be used. If the ordinance requires satellite locations for non-special elections, consult with your local governing body and counsel to determine the appropriate number of satellites for the special election. The number of satellite locations from the 2025 November General Election should be used as a baseline, but it is appropriate to utilize data and other available information to adjust that number based upon relevant factors such as anticipated voter turnout. Please consider the following when establishing a new satellite location:

a. Given the tight window for locations to be established, ELECT strongly recommends that localities explore expedited or emergency ordinance adoption if available to the local governing body.

b. If you already have a satellite established for special elections and that location cannot be used for this special election, please contact your liaison.

CONTACT: **For technical matters:** Submit a JIRA ticket to the System Support team for all VERIS-related issues

For Election Admin: EA@elections.virginia.gov

For all other matters:

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ADVISORY NUMBER:

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