Looking for more information about the April 21, 2026 Special Election? Check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) below. These FAQs were created by Virginia Civic Engagement Table (VCET) and Virginia Election Protection.

If someone has question or problems voting, give them the Election Protection Hotline number: **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683).** You can call or text the hotline to reach a nonpartisan volunteer.

FAQs

- **Why is this referendum happening?**

    - In 2025, President Trump instructed Texas to redraw its Congressional districts to increase the state's number of Republican-held seats. That kicked off a domino effect of mid-decade redistricting across the country, driven by both parties. Virginia's legislature is Democrat-controlled, and in late 2025, they started the process to consider mid-decade redistricting in the state. While some states can and have proceeded without the say of the voters, other states like Virginia require voter approval before drawing new maps.

    - Virginia's current Congressional district lines were drawn following the 2020 census. In the standard redistricting process, Virginia would next redraw its districts following the 2030 census. But this referendum asks Virginia voters if Virginia's state legislature should be allowed to redraw the congressional district map now. If voters approve the referendum, then the new district lines would go into effect ahead of the November midterm elections.

- **Would these new potential maps be permanent?**

    - If this amendment passes, the Virginia Legislature would draw new Congressional district maps ahead of this November's midterm elections.

○ The new maps would be effective from 2026 through 2030. After the next census in 2030, new districts would be drawn again using Virginia's standard redistricting process.

● Where are the proposed maps? How can I know how my district might be affected?

○ You can learn more about the proposed maps on Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)'s website. Here you can see what areas from existing districts are pulled into the proposed districts.

● Wait, I thought Virginia recently changed its redistricting process?

○ You're right, it did! In 2020, Virginians were asked to vote on Amendment 1, which passed. That amendment established the Virginia Redistricting Commission. The commission is made up of eight legislators and eight citizens who are tasked with redrawing Virginia's state legislature district maps and Congressional district maps. The proposed April 2026 measure leaves Amendment 1 intact, meaning districts would be redrawn again under the Amendment 1 process after the 2030 census. The redistricting referendum would only allow the Virginia legislature to redraw Congressional districts for the 2026-2030 elections.

● I've heard a lot about multiple constitutional amendments on the ballot this year, are they all up in April?

○ The ballot for the April 21 Special Election asks for your vote on the redistricting referendum. Voting on proposed constitutional amendments for reproductive rights, restoration of voting rights, and marriage equality are slated to take place during the November 2026 General Election.

● Which districts will be redrawn?

○ This amendment allows for Virginia's Congressional districts to be redrawn; it does not apply to the state legislature districts.

- **Where do I go to vote?**

    - Check with your local registrar's office for voting locations. You can also look up early voting locations here.

- **What about the June primaries?**

    - Regardless of the fate of the amendment, Congressional primaries have been moved to August 4, 2026

- **I heard some mailers for the referendum contained Jim Crow imagery and compared this referendum to segregation-era voting laws. What do I do if I see a mailer that seems to contain disinformation or upsetting content?**

    - You can report your concerns via call or text to the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). We encourage voters to utilize VPAP's information to see the proposed maps and how they affect Virginia's majority-minority districts.