



A dual primary is actually two primary elections conducted concurrently. Some supplies and procedures are different from regular elections. The instructions below cover these differences and are a supplement to the usual instructions:

For All Precincts

In a dual primary, officers of election must:

- Determine in which primary election the voter wishes to vote by asking the voter:
 - "Do you wish to vote in the Democratic Party Primary? OR
Do you wish to vote in the Republican Party Primary?"**
 - The voter must somehow indicate their choice of primary to the pollbook officer(s). The officer must confirm that he or she heard the choice correctly. (§§ 24.2-529 -- 24.2-531, 24.2-643(B))
 - All persons qualified to vote may vote in either primary. (§ 24.2-530)
 - But, the voter may not vote in both primaries held on the same date, even if the desire is to vote for candidates running for different offices. (§ 24.2-530)
 - No voter may be challenged on their choice of a primary. (§ 24.2-530)
 - FAQ Help: The question must be asked and answered so that the voter will receive the ballot requested, and the pollbook(s) will be appropriately pollbook marked. State laws require separate ballots and separate paper pollbooks (if used) for each party's primary. The two primaries are actually two separate elections. (§§ 24.2-529 -- 24.2-532)
 - The choice to vote in a party's primary does not mean that the voter will be "registered" with that party. Virginia does not have "party registration." (§§ 24.2-101, 24.2-418)
- For paper pollbooks, each voter's name must be looked up in both parties' pollbooks at the same time, to make sure that the voter has not already voted in either primary. For each alphabetical division of the pollbook, place two pollbook officers side-by-side with the same alphabetical split of the respective pollbooks, and with separate count sheets.
- Enter the next Pollbook count number from either the Democratic Pollbook Count Sheet or the Republican Pollbook Count Sheet, as appropriate. Enter PBC in the appropriate pollbook. Do not make any mark for the voter in the other party's pollbook.
- For electronic pollbooks, each voter's name will need to be marked to indicate in which parties' primary they are participating.
- Before the polls open, enter the "AB" in either the Democratic Pollbook or the Republican Pollbook, as appropriate. This should be done for electronic pollbooks as well.
- Provide the voter with the appropriately colored entry permit (or access card). Use a different color entry permit for each party's primary (for example, blue for Democratic Primary and white for Republican Primary).
- The voting machine or ballot officer must ensure that the voter receives the ballot for the party requested. Specific instructions for different types of equipment and ballots can be found below.



- Officers can either prepare two Statements of Results for the Democratic Primary Election and two for the Republican Primary Election OR two Statements of Results that have both parties' results. (§ 24.2-667)
- The fact that there are two separate elections being conducted does not require two completely separate teams of election officers, only that there be enough officers of each party to fill all of the required stations, including the all divisions of both pollbooks or sets of pollbooks.

For Optical Scan Systems:

- The officer must give the voter **either** the official Democratic Primary ballot **or** the official Republican Primary ballot, according to the voter's entry permit.
- The officer must direct the voter to deposit the voted ballot (for either party primary) into the ballot counter before the voter leaves the polling place.
- If possible, the system should be programmed to separate the optical scan ballots of one party into the bin normally used for ballots with write-in votes. If separated by the equipment, after the polls have closed the voted ballots should be placed into separate envelopes (or containers) with the name of the party marked on the outside of the envelope/container. (If not separated by the equipment, transmit the voted ballots in a combined container marked with both parties' names.) If the optical scan ballots can be printed on color paper it is helpful to print the ballots in the same colors as the entry permits.

For Paper Ballots and Provisional Ballots:

- The officer must enter in the upper right-hand corner on the front of the voter's **Provisional Ballot Envelope** either "D" for Democratic Party Primary **OR** "R" for Republican Party Primary.
- Voted paper ballots and completed provisional ballot envelopes with voted ballots must be deposited into separate ballot containers as appropriate, one marked "Democratic Primary" and one marked "Republican Primary." (A combined container with a divider, and a slot on each side, may be used.)
- After the polls have closed, the voted ballots should be placed into separate envelopes (or containers) with the name of the party marked on the outside of the envelope/container.
- Provisional ballots must be referred to the Electoral Board in separate envelopes marked with the name of the party on the outside.