

Bill Analysis | [SB 1044](#)

Election Results Reporting; Provisional Ballots

Patron: Senator Roem

Recommendation: SIGN

What does the bill do?

This bill establishes new requirements for reporting provisional ballot results in Virginia elections. It mandates that general registrars report to the Department for each precinct: 1) the total number of provisional ballots cast, 2) the number determined valid by the electoral board, and 3) the results of valid provisional ballots by voters assigned to each precinct. The Department must establish standards for this reporting, with all results to be posted promptly and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth day after the election.

Rationale for support

- **Increases election transparency:** By requiring detailed reporting of provisional ballots at the precinct level, the bill significantly enhances transparency in a critical part of the electoral process that has previously lacked standardized reporting.
- **Strengthens voter confidence:** Clear reporting of how many provisional ballots were cast (which are overwhelmingly from individuals who register and vote on the same day), how many were determined valid, and their impact on results allows voters to better understand how these ballots affect election outcomes.
- **Establishes clear deadlines:** The 10-day posting requirement ensures that provisional ballot information is made public in a timely manner, reducing uncertainty about final election results.
- **Creates statewide consistency:** By directing the Department to establish standards for reporting, the bill ensures uniformity in how provisional ballot data is presented across all Virginia localities.

Conclusion

Please sign SB 1044. This bill represents a step forward in election transparency by creating new, standardized reporting requirements for provisional ballots that will help build voter confidence in Virginia's electoral process.