

>> Iron out our quarrels and
try to live as brothers.
And try to find peace within
without stepping on one another.
And do respect the women of the
world.

Remember you all have mothers.
We got to make this land a
better land than the world in
which we live.
And we got to help each man be a
better man with the kindness
that we give.

>> I know we can make it.
>> I know that we can.
>> I know darn well we can work
it out.

Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.

Why can't we?

>> Good morning, good morning.
Good morning, everyone.
It's a wonderful Saturday
morning, September 22, nine--
No.

I was about to say
nineteen-something.

Wow!

2018.

You're listening to "Ability
Radio -- You and Your Life."
I am your co-host, Amelia
Headley LaMont, and I am joined
this morning by my other host,
Iris Bermudez.

Good morning, Iris.

>> Good morning.

Good morning, Virgin Islands.

>> How are you?

>> We're fine now.

>> Yeah, right.

We bit the bullet this week.

This program is sponsored by the
Disability Rights Center of the
Virgin Islands and also by VI
Lottery, making a diff-- make a
difference.

I'm joined this morning by the
Acting Deputy Supervisor of the
VI Election System.

That is Mr. Terrell Alexander.

Mr. Alexander, good morning.

>> Good morning, Ms. LaMont.

Good morning Ms. Bermudez.

>> Good morning.

>> And thank you so much for joining us.

This is a hot election season, and I am so pleased that you have agreed to join us this morning and give us some information on what the election system is doing.

This is a lot of candidates.

This is very unprecedented, and I know you've got a lot of work ahead of you.

So bring us up to speed, please, 'cause I know you've got a lot of things going on.

>> Good morning, good morning.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to allowing us to be here today.

Yes, there is a lot going on with the election cycle.

We basically just completed the application process for the mail-out absentee.

So deadline to receive the mail-out was Thursday, September 20th.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> We do have early voting coming up, which is October 15th to the 29th, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at our office.

Anyone can early vote.

You don't have to have a reason, but we are requesting individuals who know they're gonna be off-island who did not request an absentee ballot, please come into our office.

Our office is located in Sunny Isle between Kmart Appliance Store and the Social Security right across the street from WAPA.

And we know -- we're trying to get more individuals to early vote than go to the polls, but we do know there are individuals who enjoy the atmosphere at the polls and prefer to go to the polls.

So, polling places will be open.

They'll be open from 7:00 a.m.
to 7:00 p.m.

Polling places that will be open
for this general election will
be -- we're gonna start from
Frederiksted, come up to the
Christiansted area.

It's gonna be the Claude O.
Markoe School, the Alexander
Henderson School at the
Educational Complex.

They'll serve as four precincts,
which will house the -- like,
the primary house at Eulalie
Rivera School, Evelyn Williams
School, the Alfredo Andrews
precinct, the St. Croix
Educational Complex precinct,
and those will be held at the
house at the St. Croix
Educational Complex.

Then, we move on.

We have Ricardo Richards.

That school will be open.

The Markoe School will be open.

Juanita Gardine -- the school
will host two precincts, which
will be the Juanita Gardine
precinct and the J.F. Kennedy
precinct.

For the Elena Christian
precinct, they will be at
Alternative Education.

Some individuals may know that
school as the old Bible school.

There's a school located right
in Princesse, right across from
the Honda Center.

So, voters from Elena Christian,
that's where you would vote on
election day.

And our last polling place will
be the DC Canegata Rec Center,
which will house the Pearl B.
Larsen and Florence Williams
precincts.

So that goes -- the polling
places for the general
elections.

That's about seven of them we'll
have open.

Again, you can also early vote.

We're asking as many individuals
to please come out and early

vote.

The dates, again, October 15th to the 29th, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and that includes Saturdays and Sundays, as well.

Exciting opportunity that we have coming up is a national voter registration day.

It's basically a day that's basically a day to just register the people to vote.

Our goal is to get a hundred individuals to register to vote in the St. Croix district and also in the St. Thomas/St. John district.

They have events on that day on the island of St. Croix.

We'll be at the Sunny Isles Amphitheater from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

You would come out there to learn the voting machine, register to vote on that day at our office, located in Sunny Isles.

We'll also be issuing free I.D.s.

So, there's a lot of misinformation in the community about the I.D.

We do have a new I.D.

You're not obligated to get it, but if you come into the office, you will be issued one.

You don't need a voter's I.D. to vote on election day.

You can show any government-issued I.D.

Once it's not expired and it's valid, you can vote with that.

So, typically, if you lose your I.D. and you come into our office, there's a fee of either \$15 for seniors and a fee of \$25 for everybody else.

And Tuesday, September 25th, that will be waived.

We partner with AARP, and like I said, that will be hosted in the Sunny Isles Amphitheater.

You learn the voting machines.

And we have, as of right now, one other agency confirmed their

presence, which is the Virgin Islands Territory Emergency Management at our agency. They will be there on site, providing information to the public.

>> Okay. Quick question.

You said something about a fee will be waived, and the date was not clear to me when that is.

You might be stamped, but...

>> Sorry.

That date is Tuesday, September 25th.

This is this Tuesday.

It's coming up.

>> Okay.

>> So, you come into the office, you could get the free I.D. that day only.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> Every other day, there's a charge of \$25 or \$15.

Again, you don't need a voter's I.D. to vote.

You can show any I.D.

If you have absent people, if any is -- people who moved, after the storm, and you're living at a new location, we ask you to come into the office or update your voting records, your maiden address.

You got married, you got divorced, come in with your marriage license, your divorce decree to update your name.

'Cause a lot of individuals will go to the polling places on election day, present an I.D. that says Alexandria, but she got divorced and she went back to her maiden name, but it's telling the ePoll worker her maiden name.

So you have individuals with those, we ask you to come by the office and make those changes.

And the last day to make those changes to register to vote before the general election is October 7th.

October 7th, that is actually a Sunday, and our office will be

open.

There will be extended voter-registration hours during that period.

October 3rd to the 5th, the offices will be in both districts will be open until 7:00 p.m.

And October 6th, the office will be open from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.

We're actually having an expo, but we'll get into that later on.

October 7th, we'll be open 12:00 to 2:00.

Most of this information, it will be added either on our -- it's currently on vivote.gov website, or you could get it off of our Facebook page -- Election System of the Virgin Islands.

And they're both updated as soon as we get the information and release it.

It's updated on the website right away.

>> What is the name of title of the website?

>> VIVote.gov.

You could find information on candidates, if you want to get in contact with a candidate.

You could look up their -- look up the candidate listed, and you could find out ways of conducting.

You get their phone number and you can get the e-mail address off the website.

You can always come to any one of our offices to obtain this information.

A sample ballot is on both the website and the Facebook page.

You want to know how the ballot will look, so get yourself acquainted with the ballot before election day.

You could go onto the website, and you could pull that down for yourself.

Um...any other question before I move on?

[Both laugh]

>> I'm thinking, "My goodness. What haven't you thought of?" One location which is near and dear to me was Charles Emanuel School.

The polling place for general elections would be Educational Complex.

>> Yes, we know the Charles H. Emanuel School was converted back in either 2014 or 2016, and it's officially under the St. Croix Educational Complex, so we no longer use that as a precinct anymore.

The St. Croix Educational Complex.

>> Okay.

Good.

Good, good, good.

Um...

I'm assuming that the identification that you will be issuing -- not you personally but the VI Election System -- would be considered a government-issued I.D.?

>> Yes, it is considered a government-issued I.D.

There are certain businesses, organizations that do not accept our I.D. for the mere fact that it doesn't have an expiration date.

We cannot put an expiration date on our I.D. because you could never expire voting.

>> [Laughs]

>> Good point, yeah.

Good point.

>> Once you're registered to vote, you're always registered to vote.

The issue with most -- Speaking with most business and organizations, the reason why they don't accept it, 'cause individuals might get that I.D. at 18 years old and now are 50 years old and still using that same I.D. and they completely look different.

>> [Laughing]

>> I go to a business now, and I

hand in this I.D., they were like...

And I'm telling you a different address.

So that's why we ask you to come into our office, regardless if you have the I.D. or lose the I.D.

The laminated, which we consider the old I.D., the one that was laminated, we realized they break, they peel.

So come into the office and get a new I.D.

You get that I.D. for free.

Once you have the I.D., that I.D. is always gonna be free, regardless of the date.

>> Can I keep my old picture?

[Both laugh]

>> Young picture.

That is a question that is asked, but it's a totally new system.

It's actually a digital I.D., so you have to take a new picture.

[Both laugh]

>> Okay!

>> What we do, we do actually give you the cut out of your old I.D. so you can always remember yourself at 18 years old.

>> At that time.

[Both laugh]

>> Question -- how often should the voting public go in and update their I.D.?

Every 5 years, 10 years?

>> As much as possible.

Every time you have a change, especially for ladies who get married or get divorced, move.

You want to have your current information in the system.

But keep in mind, if you do come into our office and you change your address, it also changes where you vote on election day.

So let's say I lived in Whim and I vote at Alexander Henderson School and I love that polling place 'cause the atmosphere there is crazy, the cars, the people, everything

that's going on there on election day for you.

So now, if you come into our office and you move to, let's say...

>> Ruby.

>> Ruby, which is the Ricardo Richards School, which is exciting but not as exciting as Alexander Henderson School, but you would have to vote at that polling place.

Or you would also utilize early voting.

We typically have early voting before an election.

We had it for the primary election.

It was the most successful election.

We wasn't too pleased with the numbers.

Off the top of my head, I believe we had 1,404 individuals participating in early voting out of 15,000 people, which is a very small percentage of individuals voting.

In the primary, we don't see a large turnout.

It's usually between 30% -- 30%, 40%.

And the numbers were still the same for a gubernatorial election.

So we was expecting --

We just expected it to be more.

We do expect those numbers to rise for the general election.

We have more people going out to vote.

We'd like to quadruple that number for early voting.

Again, it's October 15th to the 29th, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at our office.

>> Okay.

>> If I'm not mistaken, the total registration is now over 50,000.

I think that's what you had.

>> Territory, right, yes.

>> Right.

Territory-wide, right.

So that's pretty good.
>> I think, on the island of St. Croix, we have a total of 23,981 registered voters as of September 18th at 4:51 p.m.

>> Okay.
>> When we open back registration after the primary, I think two weeks after that date, we had -- we really had to complete about 200 people to register to vote after the primary, and that opened up August 9th, and two weeks after that, that was around -- That's 14 days.

That would be the 23rd.
>> Mm-hmm.
>> So at least 200 will come in to register.
So there's a lot of people registering to vote currently.
>> Excellent.

What about the other islands? What about St. Thomas and St. John?

>> I do not have that information with me right now.
>> Okay.

I do recall, though, St. John was surprisingly small. It was under 3,000, I think.

>> Yes, yes, yes.
The numbers in St. John are typically smaller because you don't have a larger population over there, and many individuals probably would register to vote in the St. Thomas district.

Let's say if I own a home in the St. Thomas district and I lived there but I do have a home in St. John, I may not want to register in the St. John district, but you see a smaller percentage --

And St. John is more of a tourist destination, so what you might see is a lot of people going back and forth.

Most of it is tourism-driven.

>> Mm-hmm.
>> But we do also have early voting in St. John office.

The hours are gonna be different since they do have a lower turnout of voters.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> We have a total of, from October 20th to the 23rd, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., we only have four days of early voting for the St. John office.

The hours will be the same for the St. Thomas office, October 15th to the 29th, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and that's in Lockhart Gardens, above Banco Popular.

>> All right, all right.

Let's say -- and this is -- I like to play devil's advocate here.

>> Go ahead.

>> We've had this conversation before.

Let's say I went to the wrong polling place.

And I use a wheelchair, and it's not easy for me to get to where I thought I was supposed to go, and I want to vote because...

>> That's your right.

>> Yeah, absolutely, and I don't want to be discouraged.

So, what are the options that are available to me as a voter and to your staff?

>> So, that voter has options. First option being, they can either go to the correct polling place.

Let's say it's 9:00 in the morning, and we have polling places close at 7:00.

The judge would inform them that, "Hey, you can go to your polling place, and you can vote, and your vote can be counted that same day."

Let's say this voter, "No, I don't want to do that.

I want to vote here today."

There is provisional voting.

Once an elector insists on voting there at that polling place, that judge will inform that voter that that ballot that

they cast will not be counted several days after the election, 'cause a board has to determine their eligibility of the voter, depending whether they registered to vote, the reason why they belong at that polling place, and whether an individual with a disability, an elderly person.

Typically, the judge will issue them a provisional ballot. That's why we're asking everyone to try and early vote.

Early voting typically doesn't have a line.

You could be in and out of there, the whole process, five minutes.

But that individual will be allowed to provisionally vote, but keep in mind, if that do happen to you, plenty of other reasons for a provisional voter, wrong polling place.

The voter insists that the name

--

We can locate the names in our rolls.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> The voter insists, "Yes, I'm registered.

I have a registration card.

I registered to vote in 1998.

Here's my registration card."

They insist that they are a registered voter.

That voter would be issued a provisional ballot.

Again, we have to verify our records, and if that voter is, indeed, registered to vote, that ballot would be cast, and if not, the voter, that ballot would not be cast.

Regardless if that ballot is cast, that voter will be notified that, A, "Your ballot was counted," or if not -- if your ballot was not counted, we let you know the reason why it was not counted.

>> How is that person notified? By mail?

>> By mail, yes.

And there's actual paperwork that you have to fill out when you go to the provisional voting if you give us your name and address.

We can notify you where, and we pull that information in the database.

So, let's see.

My ballot was counted.

I didn't put my correct name and address on top of the provisional application.

We go based on our database.

You registered to vote when you was 18 years old.

We use your mother's maiden address.

Your mother no longer has that maiden address, so that letter comes back to our office.

That's why we do ask individuals to come to our office to update this information.

It all ties into everything.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> Geez.

There's so much to ask you, since you're here.

Let's go into why we vote when we vote, that information.

I think a lot of people would want to know that.

>> So, trivia.

>> Yeah.

>> You guys will find that information on our website, so I'll give you a little cheat about that.

[Laughter]

Back in 1985, Congress felt the most convenient month for farmers in rural areas to get to the polls was in November.

Most in the regions prepared fields, planting crops, lots of time in the spring and summer months.

>> Oh, wow.

>> So, during the winter months, you don't really --

Not here in the Virgin Islands but in the States, you don't see

that much farming in the winter months.

So Congress basically decided that November would have been a better month.

December, everybody's getting ready for the holidays.

>> And it's cold.

>> Yeah, we're not trying to go and vote.

So, November, it's fairly cold, but it's not as cold as

December, January months.

And early in the year, people are getting their life on track, preparing how they gonna do this year different from the other years.

>> Mm.

>> Why'd they choose it?

Basically, essentially, again, came back with the same farming back in 1985.

Back in 1985, remember, Sunday was considered their official church day, so many individuals didn't do anything other than going to church.

And remember, it's not as --
[Speaking indistinctly]

So, to go to a polling place, I'd have to make plans prior.

So, let's say if I lived in Frederiksted, and my polling --
Let's say we had one polling place.

I know it was an educational complex.

And I'm using the Virgin Islands as an example.

I'd have to make accommodations to get to that polling place, 'cause let's say there's one taxi going up and down the island, and we have, let's say, back then, we had 5,000 people registered to vote.

So it's impossible that one taxi could do the 5,000.

So back then, Congress decided that it's best to do it on a Tuesday, 'cause a Sunday, that would mean people would have to leave Sunday, their farms, to

get there the Monday to vote on election day.

So the best day was a Tuesday so people would leave the Monday night and get to the polling place on Tuesday night.

>> Oh, wow.

>> I think, also, your frame of reference is different.

You said 1985.

We were looking in the 1800s.

>> Yes, sorry, 1845.

Sorry, sorry.

>> The errors of youth, huh?

Boy.

1985!

[Laughter]

>> Back in my head, I know a date, like 1945 was the farthest I probably --

1917.

I was born in 1990, so it was like...

>> Way past the -- yeah.

>> So that's 145 years before I was born, so it's...

[Laughter]

>> No, you're kind of young-looking, let me tell you.

>> Yes, yes, yes, yes.

[Laughter]

I can continue with other information.

>> Absolutely.

>> So there's a lot going on.

Like I said, we do voter registration.

We do have a lot of voter registrations coming up.

We actually do have one today, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the St. Croix Board of Electors.

It'll cost you less.

Individuals can come out to register to vote.

All you need is a U.S. birth certificate, your U.S. passport, a naturalization certificate, or your DD214 to register to vote.

You do not get a picture I.D. on site.

You'll have to come into the office to get a picture I.D.

But you do get a white card that

shows that you're a registered voter, and you could use that white card to vote on election day.

So, keep in mind, register to vote.

We do send out press releases, and the different locations.

I can give you this week.

This week, we have a lot going on in regards to voter registration.

So, like I said, today, we'll be at...from 10:00 to 1:00.

Choose September 25th -- National Voter Registration Day.

And 10:00 to 2:00 p.m., we'll be at the Sunny Isles Amphitheater.

And you also come to our office 8:30 to 4:30.

And our office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 4:30, to register to vote.

Thursday, the coordinator, Miss Gemini Russell, will be conducting voter registration and machine demonstration for individuals with disabilities and the elderly at the Senior Citizen Center in Richmond, 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

So individuals can come out there to register to vote.

Next week Saturday, we are on the WTJX, and the VI Consortium is actually holding an event at the Canegata Ballpark.

That event is scheduled from 6:00 to 12:00 p.m., but we'll be there alone from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. to register to vote.

So if you know you need to register to vote, there are avenues to register to vote.

You don't have an excuse.

We also have --

Just last Sunday, we had a voter registration at...again, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., and we do thank the businesses that allow, give us opportunity to use the premises to register the people to vote.

The deadline, like I said, is

October 7th to register to vote.
And I know a lot of agencies and businesses and organizations would like us to do voter registration, but keep in mind the deadline is kind of tight, so we might not be able to assist everybody.

We do try our best.

There are a few other voter registration we try and schedule before the end of the deadline, October 7th.

I could tell you we do have it extended out.

We're having an expo out there, elections expo, where we ask even the Disability Rights Agency, Sunny Isles, underneath the tent, and the I.D.s will be given inside of the office.

That is scheduled for 10:00 to 3:00.

We're still conferring some few agencies and organizations who is willing to partner with us.

So we can't give out all our details right now, but it's scheduled for October 6th, 10:00 to 3:00, at our office.

So that's another opportunity.

You do have to register to vote, and like I said, October 7th, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., is the last day to register to vote.

>> I have a question.

[Clears throat]

If a person is in the Army, the service, the Marines, the Air Force, and wants to register, is that allowed if he's off-island?

>> Yes, there is a system within the U.S. military that allows individuals to register to vote.

There's the service, where they're located, will give them a paper to fill out, and they will either mail it or fax it for us.

What's interesting with individuals who is in the military can also vote while they're away.

>> Right.

>> Like I said, there are a lot of days.
September 20th was the deadline to get the...ballots out, so keep in mind, there are soldiers and there are individuals who are in far places as China, India, but are from St. Croix, probably wouldn't make it in 45 days.

So they do have opportunities to vote via e-mail, but keep in mind, if I elect to do a vote via e-mail, it's not --
We try not to offer it to everybody.

It's on a need-by case, if you have an emergency, but you do have to waive your right to privacy, 'cause somebody will see your ballot on election day where it is fed into the ballot.

So you're gonna have to e-mail it back to an individual.

A person puts it back into our

--

Basically we do follow the absentee process to put it back in the envelope, and then, those will be counted by the board when the ballots -- absentee ballots are being counted by the board.

The ballots and the individual name are not counted together.

So I'll give you an example.

For the primary election, we only had one provisional ballot.

If you look up in our reports, you'll never see any information for one provisional ballot.

The reason being, I could easily identify who that one voter for for that provisional ballot would.

So that ballot proves the individual ballot was counted amongst the mail-in absentee during that process.

So we do try and protect electors' vote.

Your vote is your -- is confidential.

You don't have to worry about us

sharing your information, how you vote.
And we don't know how you vote.
Probably believe that we can tell, if you were the 60th person at the polling place, that means we got to look at the 60th ballot cast on that day. That doesn't necessarily mean that's your ballot, 'cause the machine doesn't correlate in a specific order.

>> Okay.

That's good to know.

>> All right.

We're gonna --

After this, we're gonna take a little break, and then we'll be back.

You're listening to "Ability Radio."

>> ...better land than the world in which we live.

>> And we got to help each man be a better man with the kindness that we give.

>> I know we can make it.

>> I know that we can.

>> I know darn well we can work it out.

Oh, yes, we can.

I know we can can.

Yes, we can can.

Why can't we?

If we want to, yes, we can can.

>> I know we can make it work.

>> Iron out our problems and iron out our quarrels and try to live as brothers.

And try to find peace within without stepping on one another. And do respect the women of the world.

Remember you all have mothers.

>> We're back.

You're listening to "Ability Radio -- You and Your Life."

My name is Amelia Headley LaMont.

I am joined by my co-host Iris Bermudez.

And our special guest today is Acting Deputy Supervisor Terrell Alexander from the V.I. Election

System.

We did have a call with a very interesting question.

If I'm not mistaken, it involved a person who is registered in the St. Thomas/St. John district and wants to get another I.D. or a new I.D., but is not physically in St. Thomas/St. John.

So what are his choices, what are his options?

>> That elector has not many choices.

They could either do two of one thing.

They could either go to the office where they current--

The island --

Let's say if I'm on St. Croix, but I'm a registered voter in St. Thomas.

You can get a voter-registration card from the St. Croix office, but you'll have to transfer your voter registration status to the St. Croix district.

At this present moment, we're unable to print I.D. cards from a different island.

So, for example, I live on St. Thomas, and I come to the St. Croix office to get a voter I.D. card printed.

No, we are only able to print I.D. cards in St. Croix.

That person can transfer their voter registration status to the island that they're presently on, and they could always switch it back when they go back to the island where they are.

So let's say I move over here to St. Croix and I want to vote in St. Croix.

You'll have to transfer it to -- but you'll only be voting for St. Croix candidates, and you've got the Senator -- senatorial races and boards, the boards of elections, the board of education.

So you vote for St. Croix candidates.

Electors also do have this opportunity --

Let's say, for example, I am working, and I have to work in St. Thomas/St. John district. Would I register to vote in the St. Croix district?

If I'm in the St. Thomas/St. John district, I can go into the election office and vote via absentee and on a St. Croix ballot.

So electors do have that option to vote.

So, regardless of where you are in the territory, you can vote.

And keep in mind, again, absentee, you have up until 10 days to count it.

And there's a question that many individuals ask.

Why does it take so long for our elections to be certified, compared in the States, where it's certified a couple days after?

The main reason for that is, the absentee voting process.

So, that absentee ballot has 10 days after the elections to get back to the territory.

That absentee ballot has to be postmarked by the election date.

So, basically, election night, November 6th.

So, if that person puts that ballot in the mail by November 6th, we have up until the 16th to get that ballot, and that ballot will be counted.

It comes the 17th, we cannot count that ballot.

You only have 10 days for that ballot to come back to us.

>> Let me also mention this.

I mean, it was a very interesting question that was posed.

If you, in the audience, have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 713-1079 or 779-1079.

And there's a lot of information today, so if you've missed

anything that was said this morning, this broadcast will be recorded and posted on our website, which is located at drcvi.org.

You will have it based on an audio file, and this broadcast will also be transcribed, as well, so you'll be able to read what was said today.

So, just want to let you know.

>> And there's also a lot of information on their website, too.

>> Absolutely.

>> There are tons of information.

>> And, again, our website is vivote.gov.

It's updated.

As soon as we have information, we send it to the webmaster, and the webmaster puts it up within the day or by the next day, it's up.

So, we're gonna get into our --

Can I continue, or...?

>> Absolutely.

>> So, as we know, it's a gubernatorial election.

In order for you to win the gubernatorial race, we delegate a congress.

But since a delegate of congress is running unopposed, we wouldn't have that issue in regards to that race.

For the gubernatorial race, the winning team must have 50 plus 1.

What happens when that winning team don't get 50 plus 1 election day?

Do you guys know?

>> A runoff.

>> A runoff.

>> Yes.

So, currently, the runoff is scheduled, if there is a runoff, for November 20, 2018.

Probably will utilize the same polling places that we use for the general election.

We don't have a specific date

for early voting.

We're still trying to work out those kinks before that election.

So keep in mind --

So if you'd like, to put this into perspective, we can't certify the election until November 16th.

And then, the 20th, we have...

>> A runoff.

>> Runoff.

So there's not much turnaround time, but we are prepared and we are ready in case there is a runoff.

So you basically have people wonder, like, "How do you know if you're gonna get a run-- who the candidates would be in a runoff.

You basically know by election day night, based on the number of ballots you have out.

And there's never really an outstanding amount of ballots that are remaining out that really change the election.

We had this time.

We did have it during the primary election where the seventh and eighth seed in the senatorial race, there were 20 -- the eighth person was 20 votes away from the seventh.

>> Wow.

Okay.

>> Yeah, but it worked out in the favor of the seventh person.

We're grateful that we didn't have to do additional work.

So we were grateful for that.

But it can --

And there are laws in the Title 18 that would prescribe what would happen that day.

You may have an election for that 7 and 8 seed, especially if it's tied, to try to determine that tie.

There are --

The code does speak on it.

The code also speaks on a recount.

So, individuals can request a recount.
They'll have to put it in writing to the board.
You'll have to show cause of why you believe there should be a recount.
It can't just be, "Well, I lose by five votes, and I believe the margin of error was too close."
No, there is --
You have to have some kind of proof.
The machines weren't functional that day at this polling precinct, so you believe it happened in error.
That you would say about recounts.
You can request a recount.
But you have to show cause, again, for the recount.
What else do we have that I could think of off the top of my head?
>> Have you ever had a situation where there was a request for a recount and not just the last election but maybe --
>> Yes.
>> How did that go?
>> In 2014, we did have a recount.
It's a lot of work, and we don't want to do that again.
>> Okay.
>> It didn't change the results at the end of the day.
>> Okay.
>> But we did --
'Cause you basically have to recount every single ballot.
And that year, in 2014, it --
2014, basically, that was my first election.
I started in elections March of 2014.
The primary went -- it went decent -- first time using our voting machines.
At that time, it was aftermarket DS200, so our first time, we didn't really --
We knew what the manufacturer

told us.

There were other situations that led to some events happening that we --

But it was eventually rectified.

Oh.

There's one thing I want to remind voters now.

So, previously, in the past, when you register to vote, you are informed that if you miss two general elections -- for example, if I voted -- if I didn't vote in the 2016 general election and I miss this election, come next year, your registration status would have been cancelled.

So, from now -- from December of 2017, we no longer cancel that individual voter registration.

The only way your voter registration would be cancelled, if you get convicted of a crime.

Once you get convicted of a crime, you lose your right to vote.

After you serve all your time, you can -- your right is immediately restored.

Or if you die, 'cause somebody dying, you cannot register to vote.

Other information that a voter may need on election day or even during early voting.

Somebody can assist you in the voting process.

You'll have to bring your own assistant.

We cannot provide assistance to vote.

Our election officials are not

--

We try and tell them, "Do not assist anybody with the voting process."

Remember, these individuals are not your friend.

They may be your friend the day after election or the day before, will not the day of the election.

Because your friend is going to

be the reason why we're gonna have headaches, so keep that in mind.

So you can bring in somebody to vote -- to assist you to vote.

That person can only assist one person in that entire election process, an election cycle.

For example, for the primary election, both my mother and father is elderly.

I can't take both my mother and father to vote.

I can only assist one of them for that entire election.

So let's say my mom wanted to early vote, but my dad said he wanted to go to the polls and get that election-day atmosphere.

I cannot help my dad on election day.

Somebody else has to help my dad.

There is some paperwork that has to be filled out at the poll, that has to be signed with the judge on that day.

And keep in mind, a lot of individuals usually --

The judge who is basically in charge of the polling place that day, while we employ the judges, we set them with the parameters, and they make the calls on those situations.

Individuals are not allowed to take pictures in a polling place unless the judge, for whatever her reason, maybe give that person the right to do so.

So you can come in there.

Let's say I'm a senatorial candidate and I want to record...

>> What's going on.

>> ...that I'm voting.

We do not allow that, and we try not to do that, because guess what -- something may happen at that time where you're recording.

You may see somebody's ballot, and it's being recorded, and

that person might not like that.
So we try to not allow that at
the polling places.

You could do that outside.

Oh, and this is very important.

So, this was a law that was
recently repealed, as well.

So, before, electioneering was
200 feet away from the polling
places.

And that law was recently
repealed, but the Board has set
it to be 200 feet away from the
polling place.

So electioneering has to be from
the boundaries of the polling
place.

So, for some schools, that may
be -- so I'm gonna use the
Educational Complex -- 200 feet
away from the boundary of the
Educational Complex may be
inside of UVI parking lot.

>> [Laughs]

That's fine with me.

>> A lot of individuals do like
that, but for somebody who is
on the campaign, they may not
like that, to be that...

This advantage.

Well, this was actually
something the senators passed,
and then, the Board just did it
again.

It works for us.

200 feet.

That works for us.

People are allowed to come into
the polling place to vote.

You don't see that, where,
before, you had that congestion
at the polls back in the days.

When you used to go and vote,
you had that congestion.

You don't see any more from 2016
on.

A lot of people believe that the
culture was taken away from
them, but we don't prohibit
electioneering.

Just 200 feet away from the
polling places.

At certain places, it might be,
like at Alexander, 200 feet may

be at the beginning of the road
by that gas station.
You can see electioneering.
People go up and down that road
in the communities.
And there are certain places
it's very tricky, and it's hard.
We do ask the police department
to assist us in enforcing it.
For example, 200 feet at Claude
O. Markoe school is in
somebody's property.
>> [Laughs]
>> We can't tell you what to do
on your property.
>> Right.
>> So...
But it is very tricky.
So I saw it in places --
Some people would call our
office, and they'd be like, "Why
at Claude O. Markoe, these
people are electioneering in
somebody's yard?"
It's somebody's yard.
We can't tell them what to do in
your yard.
It's your yard.
>> Right.
All right.
So let me make sure I'm clear.
So, you said in the past, if you
didn't vote in two consecutive
elections, you would be
automatically removed from the
rolls.
That's no longer the case,
correct?
>> Correct.
>> So, there's no reason why you
would be removed unless the
examples you've given -- you
were convicted of a crime or you
died.
>> Correct.
>> Those are the only options.
>> Correct.
>> So if I didn't vote for the
last four elections, I still
have my right to vote.
>> Up until 2015.
The last time we did cancelation
was 2015.
We did not do any cancelation in

2017.

>> Okay.

'Cause we usually, typically, do cancelation the year after the election.

>> Okay.

>> So if you were cancelled in 2015 --

If an elector was previously cancelled, again, we would send them a notice, via mail, and we would put that information in there, letting them know, and that elector has 30 days to respond back to it.

If the elector do not respond back to it in the 30 days, it's -- you're automatically cancelled.

The Board comes in -- they used to previously come in with a stamp and stamp "cancelation" on your card, and sign it.

And now the elector will be removed from the system, and they have to re-register to vote again.

That is no longer the case.

Once you're registered to vote, you're registered to vote for life.

Or there's also one other way an elector can be cancelled from the system.

You can't be registered to vote in two districts and places or...

>> States or here.

>> Yeah, you can't be --

Like, I can't be registered to vote in Atlanta and then be registered to vote in the Virgin Islands.

You're gonna be registered to vote in one place.

So, a lot of people go up in the States and they get a driver's license, and in certain places, once you get a driver's license, you're automatically registered to vote.

>> How does one deal with that, then?

>> You'll have to eventually --

You'll have to just cancel your Virgin Islands voter registration if you're intending to live up there.

>> Right.

Okay.

Or you could either cancel that registration in the States.

It's your choice.

But there are parameters for you to be a registered voter in the Virgin Islands, and one of it is residency.

There are situations where it may be different -- a student who is in college.

They are in the States, and they are attending college, but their residency is still the Virgin Islands, so that would be one.

You are away working.

Elections send me to the States to get some information on the election process that probably could help us implement more successful elections.

That would be a parameter that we do look at.

But to be a registered voter, you do have to have residency in the Virgin Islands.

There are conditions that you have to meet.

One of it is, basically, being a U.S. citizen.

And a lot of --

We get this question a lot at our office.

"Why can't I register to vote with a driver's license?"

>> Mm-hmm.

>> Anybody can get a driver's license.

You don't have to be a U.S. citizen to get a driver's license.

You could get a green card and register to vote, 'cause a green card is basically a --

It's acceptable to have a green card, but you can't --

Until you become a U.S. citizen, you cannot register to vote.

That's the number-one rule of

being a registered voter.
You must be over the age of 18.
But in an election year, you
could register to vote once
you're 17 1/2.

So, for example, my birthday is
November 3rd.

Keep in mind, I told you the
registration process ends
October 7th.

I can come to the office and
register to vote.

When I become 18 on November
3rd, I go to a polling place and
vote on the 6th.

You're making 18 on November
6th.

You come to our offices October
7th or any day before that and
register to vote.

So you can register to vote
before you're 18th birthday, but
that's usually done in an
election year.

Once you're making it 17 1/2,
and it's impossible to either
vote --

So, individuals whose birthday
is between October 8th to the
6th, they would be disadvantaged
'cause they wouldn't be allowed
to register to vote, since their
birthday falls during the
registration period has been cut
off, which is 30 days before any
election we do cut off.

And that includes getting a
voter registration card,
changing your address, your name
and --

Anything that has to do with the
voter registration status, that
does cut off 30 days before the
election.

So if anybody have any
questions, you can always call
in if you guys have questions.

>> Well, I'm curious whether you
-- what kind of responses you're
getting from high school age or
close to age-eligible young
people.

I mean, I could see the schools
being a wonderful outreach.

I can even see us perhaps at some point collaborating on going to schools and educating students about their civic responsibilities and that type of thing.

>> Yes, we do do schools outreach.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> Based on Title 18, Section 94...

It's in Section 94.

We have to go into different schools or University of the Virgin Islands.

But we're still trying to work out those kinks before the general election.

We're trying our best to comply with that law.

Typically, when we go to the schools, especially our public schools where we think we'll be much better, we probably get, between the two public schools, we probably get two registered voters.

>> Oh.

>> Yep.

And then, we go to our private schools, and we get 10 registered voters.

But you have to look at it, in the private school, the students are given incentives to register to vote, so that might be a --

They will use it as an educational tool to teach them about the importance of voting.

So, they will have, like, a civic class so the students are informed beforehand, compared to the public school, where --

I can speak from firsthand -- when I was in public school.

I didn't -- I didn't know much about the election process until before I started to work for the election system.

There wasn't much information given.

Yes, they used to come to the schools before, but it was like, "I just want a voter's I.D. to

have -- I.D. to open a bank account, cash my check."

That's the stigma that's in the community.

We're trying to change that stigma.

The voter I.D. is not just to cash your check.

It's basically to vote.

>> To vote.

>> That is the most important aspect of the voter I.D. -- to go out there and vote.

A lot of people died beforehand to give you that right to vote, and it's like --

So, basically, for example, like I said, we only have 30% of registered voters voted in our primary.

That's unacceptable.

>> That says a lot, yeah.

>> And for the general election, we expect 70% of voters, which you might say, like, "That's a lot of voters, but...it's very...

That, too, is unacceptable.

We should be someplace between the 90% to 95% of voters voting.

And I get a lot of people are very frustrated in the voting process, but just not going and vote, it makes the situation much worse than you actually voting.

So, I might be a candidate, and I may have ideas that you may like, but you don't go and vote for me, I'm not gonna win because I might be a candidate -- there are candidates who basically have their supporters, and they're gonna go out and vote.

But my supporters, because they're tired of the process, they don't want to go to register to vote -- to vote, to cast that ballot on election day.

So we always try and encourage everybody to go out there and vote and try and correct

incorrect information.
And one being, you need a voter
I.D. card to vote on election
day.
You can show any
government-issued I.D. card to
vote.
>> All right.
Well, this is very useful.
We're gonna take another break,
and we'll be right back.
This is "Ability Radio."
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
>> Great gosh almighty.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
>> Now's the time for all good
men to get together with one
another.
We got to iron out our problems
and iron out our quarrels.
And try to live as brothers.
>> We're back.
You're listening to "Ability
Radio -- You and Your Life."
We're talking to Acting Deputy
Supervisor of the V.I. Election
System, Terrell Alexander.
One thing we didn't talk about
are the machines.
And I know you're doing
demonstrations.
Tell us a little bit about where
they're gonna be held, but tell
us a little bit about what we
have to contend with when we're
in the voting booth, exactly.
>> Okay.
So, this election year, we are
rolling out one new machine.
It's called ExpressVote.
This machine, all it does for
you, it's basically marking a
ballot.
You actually create your own
ballot based on the candidates
who's running.
So, for example, you go to the
polling place, you have two
choices of casting your ballot.
You can either mark it the
old-fashioned way.

I call it the old-fashioned way, where you get a pre-printed paper ballot, and you complete the ovals based on the race rules.

Or you could utilize ExpressVote, which is a cost-saver for us, because, again, it's pre-print.

It's you creating that ballot. And we could never waste the paper in this century, and you do it, and the paper never spoils.

So with a pre-printed ballot, after the election, we can't do anything with it again, other than keep it there for two years, and after two years, we shred it.

And those ballots are like 30 cents each.

So, let's say if we're ordering a thousand, you could imagine the cost.

And we're adding more.

So, with ExpressVote, you walk up -- you get an activator card.

It's a blank piece of paper.

Bank-terminal paper.

You feed it into the machine, and you basically just follow the prompts.

The machine is very simple to use.

It's a touchscreen machine.

You can do write-ins, as well, on the machine.

You make your selections.

And the machine, it never allows you to overvote.

So, what is an overvote?

An overvote, it's --

Let's say, for example, the gubernatorial race, you're only allowed to vote for one candidate.

Senatorial race, you're only allowed to have seven.

So if you do more than the prescribed amount, it's considered an overvote, and that section of that ballot is automatically spoiled.

When you feed it into the DS200,
it's not counted.

But with ExpressVote, it doesn't
allow you to overvote.

You can undervote.

What's an undervote?

Undervote -- it's when an
elector is allowed seven
opportunities -- seven
candidates, but they only vote
for one or two or three, and
that's your choice.

You could do that.

So, the machine basically
prompts you and lets you know
that.

One source of frustration during
the primary that we noticed, and
it's kind of different for our
demonstration machine, but we're
trying to work on it, where the
machine on election day, since
we have like 2,000 people
running for seven seats, so you
come on the machine election
day, you're only gonna see the
first seven for the senatorial
race.

So, in order for you to see the
rest, there's a button below the
screen that says "more."

So either that elector has to
press more until he get down to
the last rating, or else the
machine will allow you to move
on to your next race.

So, people get frustrated with
that, so that's why we're doing
a lot of demonstrations of the
machines.

Before you print your activator
card to make it become the
official ballot, you have a
chance to review your
selections.

After you print it, you can
review it.

And then, you can go back to our
DS200 we've been using from the
2014 election and cast your
ballot to vote.

Again, we'll be at...today from
10:00 to 1:00 a.m.

So you'll come out and register

to vote or just learn the voting machine.
I'd like to thank you guys for being here.
I'd also like to thank my staff back at the office.
They've been working tirelessly.
If you have any questions, you can always call us at the office -- 773-1021.
We try our best to answer your questions, and we typically do have an answer.
If we don't have it, we'll get your answer before the end of the day.
Again, we thank you, and we -- for the opportunity of being here, Ms. LaMont and Ms. Bermudez.
We hope you invite us again.
It may be harder before the election, but...
>> After.
>> But after, we will be more than welcome to attend.
So, thank you for the opportunity on behalf of the election system, and we hope that we can continue working on our partnership that we have formed in the past years.
>> Thank you.
It's been a pleasure.
It's been an absolute pleasure.
Please check out the website, which is vivote.gov.
>> Thank you very much.
>> I'd be very interested to see what the results will be.
And I typically go to that site to find out how did we fare.
Again, this was "Ability Radio -- You and Your Life."
Thank you so much for listening.
Iris, always a pleasure.
>> Thank you.
>> One statement before we go.
You can also get results on our website, vivote.gov.
On election night, you go on the website itself, and it's uploaded.
The first results that you see,

it's early voting.

[Laughter]

I don't have the time, so you can ask.

There is a reason why early voting is first, and the early voting they only counted that night on election.

It's not counted at the end of the 29th.

So, thank you again, and get out there and vote.

Remember, your voice is your vote, and your vote is your voice.

>> Till the next time.

>> Thank you very much.

This was fun.

>> We got to make this land a better land than the world in which we live.

>> And we got to help each man be a better man with the kindness that we give.

>> I know we can make it.

>> I know that we can.