What you need to know for Election Day

Voting for state, local races will be held on Tuesday

BY STEVE ROBERTS JR. STAFF WRITER

WILLIAMSBURG — Whether you’ll vote a straight ticket or pick and choose, Tuesday’s midterm election is an important check-in on the state of the country.

At the top of the ticket in 2018, the U.S. Senate race in which incumbent Democrat Tim Kaine seeks a second term as he faces Republican Corey Stewart and Libertarian Matt Waters.

While the list of candidates isn’t as long as 2017’s ballots, congressional contests for the 1st and 2nd districts will be on the ballot, depending where you live in Greater Williamsburg.

In the 1st District, incumbent Rob Wittman, R-Montross, is set to square off against newcomer Vangie Williams, D-King George. Wittman seeks re-election for the sixth time. The race would be historic if Williams wins, as she would be the first African-American woman sent to Congress by the state, she said.

In the 2nd District, Elaine Luria, D-Norfolk, looks to unseat incumbent freshman Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, in a race the Cook Political Report has called a toss-up.

Further down the ballot, voters will weigh in on two proposed constitutional amendments.

Question 1 asks voters if they’d like to see a locality be able to provide tax relief to a property if it floods frequently and if flooding resiliency projects have occurred on the property.

Question 2 asks voters if they’d like to see the home of a disabled veteran be exempted from property taxes and allow a surviving spouse to move to a different primary residence and keep the tax exemption.

In York County, voters will choose either David Westcott Jr. or Candice Kelley to be county treasurer for an unexpired term set to end Dec. 31, 2019.

Voting
The polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, but if you’re in line by 7 p.m. you will not be turned away to vote. All voters will need a valid photo ID.

Saturday is the last day to vote absentee in-person in Virginia. Ballots can be cast at the voter registrar’s office at 5300 Palmer Lane in James City County, the County Administrative Center at 224 Ballard St. in York County, or the Municipal Building at 401 Lafayette St. in Williamsburg.

Not sure where to cast your ballot? Check out the Virginia Department of Elections polling place look-up at elections.virginia.gov/voter-outreach/where-to-vote.html. Or, call your registrar’s office to find out where you need to cast your ballot: Williamsburg, 220-6517; James City County, 259-4949; and York County, 890-3440.

Law school students at the College of William and Mary will run a nonpartisan hotline for Virginia voters on Tuesday. Students will help callers determine what their rights are on Election Day. The phones will be staffed from 8 a.m. Call 757-742-3095 to speak with a law school student.

If voters have any questions, they can call their local general registrar’s office with questions at the numbers listed above.

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