

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING?

Absentee Voting is the term used to describe any voting that is not done at an assigned polling location on an Election Day. That includes voting by mail or in person at a location designated by your county board of elections. Persons wishing to vote by absentee ballot do not have to give a reason but must complete an application for a ballot. The voter must also affirm that he or she is a qualified elector or voter.

The absentee ballot application must contain the voter's name, date of birth, current home address and personal signature as they appear on file at the county board of elections, date of signature, as well as either the voter's Ohio driver license number, the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, or a copy of current, accepted identification.

The application must also state the election type and date for which ballots are being requested, and if the election is a primary, the application must contain the voter's party affiliation. The county board of elections must receive mailed

WHAT ASSISTANCE AND ACCOMMODATIONS CAN A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY RECEIVE AT THE POLLING LOCATION?

Federal and state laws provide voters with disabilities with the right to assistance and accommodations at the polling location.

VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

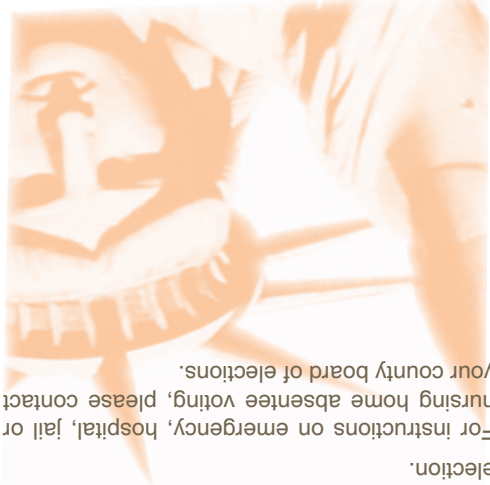
- A voter with disabilities may bring a person of his or her choice into the voting booth to assist in casting the ballot, except for an employer, an agent of the employer or labor union or a candidate in that election.
 - If a voter needs assistance, and has no one to help, two poll workers of two major political parties must provide the voter assistance in marking the ballot.
 - Any person providing assistance in marking the ballot is prohibited from disclosing the vote of the person requiring assistance.
- Each polling location must have available for use at all elections at least one voting machine that

applications by noon on the Saturday before an election.

(Ohio's voter registration deadline).

"Early Voting" often refers to voting that is done before an actual Election Day. It especially applies to people who vote in person at the location designated by a county board of elections before Election Day. Once ballots are available, a voter only needs to appear at the location designated by his or her county board of elections. Early voting continues until the close of regular business hours on the day before an election.

For instructions on emergency, hospital, jail or nursing home absentee voting, please contact your county board of elections.



According to Ohio law absentee ballots must be available 35 days before a general election or non-presidential primary election. Therefore, it is possible to register and vote on the same day during the time between the 35th day prior to the election and the 30th day prior to the election

same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as for other voters.

IS MY POLLING LOCATION ACCESSIBLE?

The polling locations in the State of Ohio are required to be accessible to people with disabilities in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, the Help America Vote Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

WHAT IS CURBSIDE VOTING?

At any polling place that is exempted from compliance by the secretary of state, the board of elections must permit any elector who is unable to enter the polling place due to a disability, to vote with the assistance of two polling place officials of two major political parties. This action will be permitted either in the vehicle that conveyed that elector to the polling place, or the officials must provide the elector's ballot at the door of the polling place.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Secretary of State's ADA Coordinator at (614) 466-2585, toll free at (877) 767-6446 or by TTY at (614) 466-0562.

OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS?"



- You'll play a vital role in the election process;
 - Your community needs you! Being a poll worker is an excellent service opportunity; it is ideal for students, retired citizens, part-time employees and those with flexible schedules; and
 - You can earn extra money while being a good citizen.
- REQUIREMENTS TO BE A POLL WORKER:**
- You must be at least 17 years of age and a registered voter;
 - You must be registered to vote in the county you plan to work as a poll worker; and
 - You must not have been convicted of a felony (unless the conviction has been reversed, expunged or pardoned).
- To serve your community as a poll worker, please contact your county board of elections.

BE A POLL WORKER!



WHYVOTE?

Have you ever wondered, “Why should I cast a vote? It won’t make any difference.”

Yes, your vote does make a difference. You have power if you VOTE!

Those whom we elect to public office make choices that affect many aspects of our lives. When you participate in the election process, you help determine who decides how much money our cities spend on trash pick-up, safe water, summer pools, recreational centers and educating our children. Voting also helps determine how Ohio’s state government spends money on schools and how the federal tax system works.

Many people, from the Founding Fathers, to Women’s Suffragists, to the participants in the civil rights movement, fought tirelessly to earn the right to vote. When you vote you speak in a democracy. Voting is one key way to have a voice in the decisions that affect our lives.



WHERE DO I VOTE?

If you have registered for the first time or have notified your county board of elections of a new address, the county board of elections will send a notice with information on where you are assigned to vote on Election Day.

If you are a registered voter and need to locate your polling place or update your personal information, you may contact your county board of elections or search via the Ohio secretary of state’s Web site at www.sos.state.oh.us.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO UPDATE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

Voting and other election-related activities will be much easier and faster if you keep your county board of elections updated with your current residential and mailing addresses and any name changes. This will eliminate the need for you to use a provisional ballot.

For a complete contact listing of all 88 county boards of elections, please visit www.sos.state.oh.us.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IF YOU MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS:

- You are a citizen of the United States;
- You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election;
- You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election for which you are registering;
- You are not incarcerated (in prison) for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state, or the U.S. (Even if you have been convicted of a felony, as long as you are currently not incarcerated you can vote in Ohio if you meet the other requirements);
- You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court;
- You have not been permanently denied the right to vote for criminal violations of election laws; and
- You are currently registered to vote.

WHEN DO I REGISTER?

Voter registration can be done year-round, but you must be registered 30 days before an election in order to vote in that election;

If you register by mail, your registration must be postmarked by the 30th day before the election for you to be eligible to vote in that election; and

If you are already a registered voter in Ohio who has moved within Ohio or changed your name, you must report the change by completing a new registration form, including your new address and or name, at least 30 days before an election in which you want to vote.

For a complete contact listing of all 88 county boards of elections, please visit www.sos.state.oh.us.

WHERE DO I REGISTER?

If you have Internet access, you may download and print a voter registration form from the secretary of state’s Web site: www.sos.state.oh.us. You also may ask your county board of elections or the secretary of state’s office to mail a registration form to you, and you may return the completed form by mail to either your county board of elections or the secretary of state’s office.

You may obtain a form in person, and register in person, at any of the following locations:

- The office of the secretary of state or any of the 88 county boards of elections;
- The office of any Deputy Registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- Public libraries;
- Public high schools or vocational schools;
- County treasurers’ offices; or
- Offices of designated agencies including: - The Department of Job and Family Services;

WHY SHOULD I CHECK MY REGISTRATION BEFORE VOTING?

It’s a good idea for voters to make sure they are registered before an election by making sure all of the information in the county board of elections’ records is correct. Remember, any corrections or new registrations need to be submitted at least 30 days before the election to vote a regular ballot. Voters should give themselves ample time in case another registration is necessary. A voter may check his or her registration on the Ohio secretary of state’s Web site: www.sos.state.oh.us.

Or, a voter may contact his or her county board of elections to check on registration status.

VOTER REGISTRATION



JENNIFER BRUNNER OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

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