

Voting Rights for Ohioans with Disabilities

Can I vote if I have a disability?

Yes. If you're at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen, you have the right to vote.

- If you have a guardian, you can still vote.
- If you cannot read or write, you can still vote.
- If you cannot leave a hospital, nursing home, or your house you can still vote.

The only time you may not be able to vote is if a judge in probate court decided that you do not have the "capacity" to vote. "Capacity" refers to the ability to understand voting information.

Can I vote if I have been arrested or convicted of a crime?

Yes, you can still vote:

- If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor.
- If you have been arrested for a felony but not convicted.
- If you are on parole or probation, live in a halfway house, or are on house arrest.

How do I know if I'm registered to vote?

Go to VoteOhio.gov, click [Check My Voter Registration] and type in your name and the county in which you live.

How do I sign up (register) to vote?

Complete a voter registration form. You can ask for help completing it.

- **Option 1:** Go to VoteOhio.gov and click [Register To Vote]. You can either complete a form online or print the form and mail it in
- **Option 2:** Go in-person to the Board of Elections (BOE), the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles office, a public high school, or library and ask for a voter registration form.
- The deadline to register to vote is **30 days** before Election Day (ED).

You need to complete a **new** voter registration form if you:

- Have a new address, even if it's in the same city, or have changed your legal name.

Do I have to show my ID when I vote?

Yes, but depending on if you vote by mail, or in-person, ID requirements are different.

To vote in-person, you must provide a photo ID.

- Photo ID includes: an unexpired Ohio driver's license or state ID, a U.S. Passport, or federal or state military ID (includes Ohio National Guard ID).

Can I vote absentee by mail?

Yes, if you are registered to vote, you can vote by mail with an absentee ballot.

- Voting absentee means you can vote from home and mail in your ballot, or deposit your completed ballot in the designated county dropbox, or at your BOE.
- You can provide the last four digits of your SSN as your voter ID if voting by mail.

Request an absentee ballot online at VoteOhio.gov or by calling your local BOE. A family member, support staff or friend can pick up a form for you at the local BOE.

- For persons with accessibility concerns, sensory issues and communication challenges, this may be an easier option than going to the voting polls on ED.

Will my polling place be accessible?

Contact your local BOE for questions about accessibility.

- All voting places must be physically accessible unless an exemption is granted.
 - If an exemption is given, you may ask to vote curbside.
- Each polling place must have one accessible voting machine for persons with disabilities, including those with vision disabilities.
 - When you arrive at your voting place, let a poll worker know if you would like to use the ADA-compliant voting machines.

What if I need help at the polls?

You can bring a family member, close friend or support staff into the voting booth if you need help to vote because of your disability.

- You may not bring your employer, an agent of your employer or candidate whose name appears on the ballot.
- You can also ask for help from the poll workers where you vote.

For help or more information:

- Call the **Ohio Secretary of State's office** at 877-SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446) or go to VoteOhio.gov. Email options are listed on the website.
- If you feel your right to vote has been denied, contact the **ACLU of Ohio** at 614-586-1959 or contact@acluohio.org.
- If you feel that you have been discriminated against while trying to vote because of your disability, contact **Disability Rights Ohio** at 614-728-2553, 800-858-3542 for TTY, or by emailing at disabilityrightsohio.org/contact.

Key: BOE - Board of Elections • ED - Election Day