Ohio Voter Empowerment Card

Step 1: Registration

How do I register to vote?
• Online registration: VoteOhio.gov
• Paper registration: (voter registration form)
  1. Obtain a form at the Board of Elections (BOE), on the Secretary of State website, Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles offices, any public high school, and at public libraries.
  2. Fill out the form and mail it to the BOE or hand deliver it to any of the above agencies.

How do I check the status of my registration?
• Online: go to VoteOhio.gov
• By phone: call your county BOE.

Do I need to update my registration?
If you moved or changed your name, file a new voter registration form.

Step 2: Identification

What forms of ID are acceptable?
• ID card such as:
  • An unexpired Ohio driver’s license/state ID with current or former address;
  • A U.S. passport;
  • A federal or state issued military ID (includes Ohio National Guard ID).
  • Social Security Number (SSN), the last four digits.

When is ID required?
• Mail-in voters: must provide the last four digits of your SSN, or a photo copy of your photo ID.
• In-person voters: Either voting early in-person, or on Election Day, you must provide your photo ID.
  • If you do not have a photo ID, you may cast a provisional ballot. You must return to your county BOE within four days and provide a photo ID. Election officials are required to verify your information before counting your ballot.

Step 3: Decide when and where to vote.

How do I vote by mail?
1. You must submit an absentee ballot request form to your local BOE. Obtain the form:
   • Online by clicking on the [request an absentee ballot] button at VoteOhio.gov.
   • Telephonically by calling your local BOE.
     • You may request your absentee ballot starting 90 days before Election Day (ED) through Tuesday the week before ED (seven days before ED).
2. Absentee ballots will start being mailed to requesters the day after the voter registration deadline, which is **30 days** before ED.

3. When you receive your absentee ballot in the mail, follow the instructions carefully.

4. Completed absentee ballots must be returned either:
   - **By mail:** Ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before ED, and received by your county BOE no more than four days after ED.
   - **In-person:** Ballots must be physically returned to the county dropbox or the BOE by close of polls on ED.

   *Special rules for military and overseas voters:*
   - Ohio voters who serve in the military, or who are overseas and wish to vote by mail, have extra time. Mail-in voting begins **45 days** before ED, and the completed absentee ballot must be received by the BOE no later than **four days** after ED.

**How do I vote in-person on Election Day?**

1. Locate your polling place and precinct.
   - **Online** by clicking on the “find your polling location” link at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov).
   - **Call** your local BOE.

2. Vote in the correct precinct. If you vote in the wrong precinct, you may be required to cast a provisional ballot that may not count. If you are unsure of your precinct, ask a poll worker for assistance.

3. Bring your photo ID.

   * Polls are open from **6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.** on ED. By law, you have a right to vote if you are in line when the polls close.
   * If you have a disability, poll workers are required to provide assistance. You may qualify for curbside voting. Refer to the ACLU of Ohio’s *Voting Rights for Ohioans with Disabilities*.
   * If you have limited English proficiency, it is your right for a person of your choice (with only a couple exceptions) to assist you in voting.

**For more information or to report a problem:**

- Ohio Secretary of State: 877-767-6446 or [OhioSoS.gov](http://OhioSoS.gov).

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

[ACLUOhio.org/vote](http://ACLUOhio.org/vote)