

Ohio Voter Empowerment Card

Updated:
Jan. 2023



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).

- Absentee ballots will start being mailed to requesters the day after the voter registration deadline, which is **30 days** before ED.
- When you receive your absentee ballot in the mail, follow the instructions carefully.
- 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 early in-person at the Board of Election?

- Identify the early voting location in your county. Some counties hold early voting at the BOE office, while other counties permit early voting at a different location. Call your BOE to find out where you can vote early.
- Bring your photo ID.
- Know the dates and hours for early voting.
 - **Dates:** early voting begins 28 days prior to all primary and general elections. For special elections, voters should call their local BOE to confirm early voting schedule.
 - **Hours:** early voting hours may vary. Call your local BOE to confirm early voting schedule.

How do I vote in-person on Election Day?

- Locate your polling place and precinct.
 - **Online** by clicking on the “find your polling location” link at VoteOhio.gov.
 - **Call** your local BOE.
- 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.
- 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.
- ACLU of Ohio: 614-586-1958 or acluohio.org.

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

[ACLUOhio.org/vote](https://acluohio.org/vote)