



## Know Your Rights: Information for Voters

This guide covers what you need to vote in the primary election and general election as well as what you need to know to vote in Pennsylvania. Check out our [Down Ballot Guide](#) for information about all the offices on the ballot.

- The primary election for Governor, United States Senator, and more on **TUESDAY, MAY 17**. Check out our Down Ballot Guide for information about all the offices on the ballot.
- The general election for Governor, United States Senator, and more will occur on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**. Check out our Down Ballot Guide for information about all the offices on the ballot.

### Never registered before? Moved since you last voted?

If you have never voted before the first step is to register. If anything has changed since the last time you voted, new address, change of name or you want to change party affiliation, you should update your registration. It is important that you are registered at your current address so you can get the correct ballot, especially if you plan to vote by mail.

- The deadline is **Monday, May 2**. You can register or update your address [online with the PA Department of State](#).
- The deadline is **Monday, October 24**. You can register or update your address [online with the PA Department of State](#).

### Key Dates for Vote by Mail or Absentee Ballot

- The deadline to [request a mail-in or absentee ballot](#) before the Primary Election is **May 10**. **Recommended to request by April 29.**
- The deadline to [request a mail-in or absentee ballot](#) before the General Election is **November 1**. **Recommended to request by October 21.**

If you want to register in person, or on paper, call **1-877-VOTESPA** for help.

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## YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

You can register and vote if you are:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years old or older by Election Day
- A resident of Pennsylvania

Everyone who is eligible has a right to vote. To get the most up-to-date information about the election, get help with any voting-related issue, or report a problem on Election Day, you can call one of these nonpartisan voter hotlines:

English: **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Español and English: **888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)**

NALEO Educational Fund

(عربي Arabic and English: 844-YALLA-US **(844-925-5287)**)

Arab American Institute (AAI)

Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi, Bengali and English - **888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)**

APIAVote & Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)

American sign language video call: **301-818-VOTE (8683)**

National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

You can also call the state's election's bureau for help, including how to find your city or county's election office: **1-877-VOTESPA**

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

### REGISTERING TO VOTE

#### **I recently registered to vote. How do I make sure I really am registered?**

It takes a few days for the county election office to review your registration form and add you to the list.

- You can check your registration status by calling your county board of election or going online at <http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx>
- If you get a notice that your registration has been rejected, or you have a question, call **866-OUR-VOTE** for assistance.

#### **I am a registered voter, but I recently moved. Am I still registered to vote?**

- Yes. But, if you want to vote close to your new home, or if you want to vote by mail, you will need to update your registration with your new address. You can change your address [online with the PA Department of State](#). If you want to register in person, or on paper, call **1-877-VOTESPA** for help.

- You may also go back to your old polling place and vote there. If you moved less than 30 days before an election, you *must* vote at your old polling location. If you moved from out-of-state, you need to register to vote in Pennsylvania.

#### **Can I register and vote if I have a criminal record?**

- [Yes, you can vote](#) as long as you are not currently incarcerated for a felony. You can vote if you are on probation or parole, are under house arrest, or are serving time for a misdemeanor conviction.

#### **I was born in Puerto Rico. Can I vote in Pennsylvania?**

- If you were born in Puerto Rico, you are automatically a U.S. citizen and are able to register to vote in Pennsylvania (or the state where you live).

***Voting or even registering to vote when you are not a U.S. citizen is a crime and can prevent you from becoming a citizen.***

## **VOTING BY MAIL**

#### **How do I request a mail-in ballot?**

- Submit an [online application](#) for a mail-in or absentee ballot.

#### **What do I do if my request for a mail-in ballot is denied?**

- If you get a notice that your request was denied, call **866-OUR-VOTE** to get free assistance from a lawyer.

#### **When will I get my ballot?**

- By law the county must send your mail-in ballot two weeks before the election. If it doesn't arrive, or you lose it, or make a mistake while you are marking the ballot, call your county election office for a replacement.
- You can check or track your ballot at <https://vote.pa.gov/mailballotstatus>.

#### **Can someone else drop off my mail ballot for me?**

- You must return your own ballot. If you have a disability you can designate someone else to return your ballot for you by filling out [the Authorized Designated Agent form](#) at [votepa.gov](http://votepa.gov).

#### **Can I change my mind about voting by mail after I've applied?**

- Yes. Bring your ballot and the return envelope to your polling place on Election Day. Poll workers will cancel it, and you can vote in person in a polling booth. If you don't have your ballot, you will have to vote on a provisional ballot.

#### **Will my vote really be counted if I vote by mail?**

- Voting by mail is safe. There are checks in place that can prevent your vote from not being counted. If you suspect it is lost in the mail, or if you lose it in the house, you can call your county election office and request a replacement. Google your county's election office or call **1-877-VOTESPA** to be connected.

#### **What must I do for my ballot to be counted?**

- Insert your marked ballot into the secrecy envelope, the one marked “Official Election Ballot.” Seal the envelope and do not make any marks on that envelope.
- Insert the sealed secrecy envelope into the outer return envelope addressed to the county.
- You **MUST** sign your name and handwrite the date on the return envelope.
- If you do not sign and date the envelope your ballot will **NOT** be counted.

## VOTING IN PERSON

### Where do I go to vote?

- You can find your polling place at [vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov), by calling **866-OUR-VOTE** or by calling your county election office.

### Do I need a photo ID to vote in person?

- No. Only voters who are voting for the first time in their polling location need to show ID. You can use a photo ID, including an employee or student ID if you have one. You can also use a non-photo ID, like a utility bill or bank statement that has your address. You should not be asked for your ID if you have voted before at that polling location.

### What if they tell me I am not on the list of voters?

- First, ask the election official to check the list again or to look at the supplemental poll book (a list of recent changes to the voting rolls). Offer to spell your name. If you believe you’re at the right polling place but your name isn’t on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot, they are required to give you one. Please report your experience to **866-OUR-VOTE**.

### What is a provisional ballot?

- A provisional ballot is used to record your vote when there’s a question about your eligibility or if you requested a mail-ballot. It will be counted if election officials determine that you were eligible to vote.

### Can my right to vote be challenged at the poll?

- Yes, but only for certain reasons and by certain people. An election official, poll watcher, or other voter may only challenge a voter if they think the voter does not live in the precinct or is not the person the voter says they are.

### Key dates for the primary election

- Registration deadline: May 2.
- Request a mail ballot by 5 p.m. on May 10. Recommended to request by April 29.
- Return the mail ballot by 8 p.m. on May 17. Recommended to return by May 11.

### Key dates for the general election

- Registration deadline: October 24.
- Request a mail ballot by 5p.m. on November 1. Recommended to request by October 21.
- Return the mail ballot by 8 p.m. on November 8. Recommended to return by November 2.

### Disclaimer

*This guide to voting in Pennsylvania is not legal advice. If you have questions about your eligibility or rights, please call 866-OUR-VOTE or consult a lawyer.*

**For More information, visit [vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov).**