



Frequently Asked Questions

Ohio – General Election 2022

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Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter's contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

Any individual who meets the below qualifications can register to vote in Ohio:

- Voter is a citizen of the United States;
- Voter will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the next general election. (If the voter will be 18 on or before the general election, the voter may vote in the primary election to nominate candidates, but not on issues or party central committees until the voter is 18);
- Voter will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which the voter want to vote;
- Voter is not incarcerated (in prison or jail) for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States;
- Voter has not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court; and
- Voter has not been permanently disenfranchised for violating the election laws.

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?

N/A

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

The voter can visit the Ohio Secretary of State’s “Look Up Your Voter Registration” website, which shows the voter’s registration status and precinct/polling place:

<https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

Or call the voter’s local county board of elections. Phone numbers available at this online directory:

<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

Alternatively, the voter’s local county board of elections may have its own voter lookup tool on its website.

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

The voter can register to vote online, by mail, or in person:

Online Registration: visit the Ohio Secretary of State’s Online Voter Registration System at <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov> to register to vote in Ohio or to update the voter’s registration address.

IMPT: Online registration requires an Ohio driver’s license or Ohio identification card number, and the last four digits of a Social Security number.

Registration By Mail: access Ohio’s Voter Registration form by clicking:

https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/vr_form_04-2015.pdf. The voter may also use the National Mail Voter Registration form: www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx.

Registering by mail requires a printer to print out Ohio’s Voter Registration form.

If the voter does not have access to a printer, the voter can also ask any county board of elections or the Secretary of State’s office to mail the voter a voter registration form. Phone numbers for the county boards of elections are available at this online directory:

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/electionsofficials/boeDirectory.aspx>. Alternatively, a volunteer can enter their information into the online ordering website

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/publications/order-VRForm/> and a voter registration form will be mailed to them.

Finally, the voter can register to vote in person by obtaining a voter registration form at any of the following locations, as explained here <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/#register>:

- The office of the Secretary of State;
- The office of any of the 88 county boards of elections;
- The office of the registrar or 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;
 - The Department of Health (including the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program);
 - The Department of Mental Health;
 - The Department of Developmental Disabilities;
 - Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities; or
 - The office of any state-assisted college or university responsible for providing assistance to students with disabilities.

The voter may either personally deliver, or send by U.S. Mail, their voter registration form to a county board of elections or the Secretary of State’s office. The voter, or another person acting on the voter’s behalf, also may deliver the application to one of the offices listed above, but should make sure the application reaches a board of elections or the Secretary of State by the voter registration deadline, which is 30 days before the election at which the voter wants to vote (i.e. October 11th deadline for the November 8, 2022 General Election).

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

Online: The voter must provide their Ohio driver’s license or Ohio identification card number, name, date of birth, address, and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

In Person: provide current and valid driver’s license number as identification on the registration card. If the voter does not have, or does not know, their current and valid driver license number, the voter must provide the last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number as identification on the registration card. If the voter does not have either a driver license number or Social Security number, the voter must write “None” on the line provided for identification on the voter registration card.¹ NOTE: Writing “None” does not prevent the voter from registering to vote.²

By Mail: provide a current and valid driver license number or the last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number as identification on the registration card. Alternatively, the voter must enclose with the registration card a *copy* of a current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter’s name and current address.³

6. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)

The voter must register or update their voter registration no later than 30 days prior to an election, regardless of whether the voter registers online, by mail, or in-person. If the voter registration deadline falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, then the deadline is extended to the next day that is not a Sunday or a legal holiday.⁴

Upcoming voter registration deadline: voters must register by October 11, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 General Election.⁵

7. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

No, Ohio does not have same day registration.⁶

8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)

¹ FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-08, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 4: VOTER REGISTRATION, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-08-ch04.pdf>.

² FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, VOTER REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION UPDATE FORM, https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/vr_form_04-2015.pdf.

³ FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-08, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 4: VOTER REGISTRATION, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-08-ch04.pdf>.

⁴ Ohio Secretary of State, Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration Information, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/#register>.

⁵ Ohio Secretary of State, Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration Information, <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>; Ohio Secretary of State, 2020 Elections Calendar.

⁶ <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/register/>; *Same Day Voter Registration*, NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (Sept. 20, 2021) <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/same-day-registration.aspx>; the news story cite was from 2016!

If the voter moved **before** the registration deadline (see Question #6), the voter should update their registration with the county board of elections. Voters can update their address online, by mail, or in person (see Question #4).

If the voter moved after the voter registration deadline has passed (see Question #6) but before Election Day, then the voter may file a change of residence form or vote by provisional ballot at their local board of elections (assuming the voter is registered to vote at a prior address in Ohio).⁷

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)	Moved from a different state
<p>The voter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) go to the polling place for their new/current address (which should be the same as they are still in the same precinct); (b) complete and sign a change of residence form; (c) show the required ID with the new/current address; and (d) vote a regular ballot.⁸ <p>If in a multi-precinct polling place make sure both of the voter’s addresses are actually in the same <u>precinct</u>.</p>	<p>The voter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) go to either: the polling place for their new/current address, or the local board of elections; (b) complete and sign the written affirmation on the provisional ballot envelope; (c) vote a provisional ballot; (d) complete and sign a statement attesting that the voter moved, voted a provisional ballot using their current address, and will not try to vote at another location.⁹ <p>The precinct official must make sure the voter is in the correct</p>	<p>The voter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) go to the local board of election; (b) complete and sign the written affirmation on the provisional ballot envelope; (c) vote a provisional ballot; (d) complete and sign a statement attesting that the voter moved, voted a provisional ballot using their current address, and will not try to vote at another location.¹¹ 	<p>If the voter is a primary resident of Ohio for least 30 days before the election:¹²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) register to vote in Ohio (see Question #4) before the registration deadline (see Question #6); (b) as applicable, contact their prior state of primary residency for instructions on cancelling their previous voter registration.

⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(A).

⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(B)(1)(a).

⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(B)(2).

¹¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(C).

¹² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.06(A).

	precinct or polling place. If not, the election official must direct the voter to the correct precinct and provide the telephone number of the board of elections. ¹⁰		
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9. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?

If the voter’s primary residence is in Ohio and the voter temporarily moved to another state with an intention to return to Ohio, or temporarily moved to another county within Ohio without the intention of making that county their permanent residence, and the voter is registered in Ohio before the registration deadline (see Questions #4 and #6), the voter may:

- Vote a regular ballot in-person at their designated polling place (see this link for polling place locations <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/>).
- Request in advance and vote an absentee ballot starting October 12 (see <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>), which must either be dropped off at the voter’s county Board of Elections office by 7:30 p.m. on November 8, or postmarked on or before November 7 and received by the Board of Elections by November 18.¹³

10. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

College students attending school in Ohio may register to vote and vote using their Ohio school residence address only if the student doesn’t intend to return to a different permanent address. The student must consider their school residence to be their permanent residence *at the time of voting*. Any other previous residence for voting purposes is no longer valid.¹⁴

College students with primary residence in Ohio can participate in their hometown elections, no matter where they attend college, by maintaining their permanent Ohio address as their voting residence and casting their ballot by:

- Requesting an [absentee ballot](#) from their county board of elections and voting by mail (see Question #9);
- Voting early in person during the 28 days before a primary or general election at their [home county board of elections](#) if they won’t be at home on Election Day;
- Or, if they will be at home on Election Day, going to their assigned polling location for their home precinct and voting in-person.

¹⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.181(C)(1).

¹³ Ohio Secretary of State, Current Voting Schedule, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/current-voting-schedule/>.

¹⁴ Ohio Secretary of State, Voter Eligibility & Residency Requirements, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/voter-eligibility-residency-reqs/#college>.

For more information on college voting, see <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/grads-vote-ohio/college-voters/>.

11. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

If the voter is serving in the uniformed services (U.S. Armed Services, merchant marines, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States, the National Guard and organized militia) and meets the requirements for voting at their Ohio voting residence, they may vote a uniformed services absentee ballot. The voter's spouse and dependents may also vote a uniformed services absentee ballot. The voting residence of a service member is the place in Ohio where the service member resided for at least 30 days immediately before beginning their service.¹⁵ To request an absentee ballot as an eligible voter serving in the uniformed services (or the voter's eligible spouse or dependents), the voter should visit: <https://www.fvap.gov/Ohio>.

A U.S. citizen living outside the U.S. is eligible to vote in the Ohio precinct where the voter resided immediately before leaving the U.S. if the voter (1) was, or could have been, registered to vote in Ohio while residing there, or (2) is currently eligible under Ohio law to vote in Ohio.¹⁶

A U.S. citizen who was born outside the U.S. is deemed to have a voting residence in Ohio at the place in the Ohio precinct where the person's parent or guardian continuously resided for at least 30 days immediately before leaving the United States.¹⁷ Overseas voters may request information at the following: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/VoterPassport/>.

The above voters can register to vote using any of the methods listed in Question #4. They can vote using an absentee ballot following the steps in Questions #26 – 29, or by following the steps here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?

It depends on the type of conviction(s) the person has.

A person who has two convictions for violating Ohio's elections laws is permanently barred from voting in Ohio.¹⁸

A person with a misdemeanor conviction may vote, and a person with a felony conviction may register and vote while on probation or parole, or after completing their jail or prison sentence.¹⁹

If a person is currently incarcerated on a felony conviction, their voter registration is canceled, and in order to vote, they must re-register to vote when eligible to do so. They may register to vote again once

¹⁵ Ohio Secretary of State, Military and Overseas Voters, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/military/>.

¹⁶ Ohio Secretary of State, Military and Overseas Voters, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/military/>.

¹⁷ Ohio Secretary of State, Military and Overseas Voters, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/military/>.

¹⁸ Ohio Secretary of State, Voter Eligibility and Residency Requirements: May I Vote If I Have Been Convicted of a Crime?, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voter-eligibility-residency-reqs/#convicted>.

¹⁹ Ohio Secretary of State, Voter Eligibility and Residency Requirements: May I Vote If I Have Been Convicted of a Crime?, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voter-eligibility-residency-reqs/#convicted>.

they complete their jail or prison sentence, or once they go on probation, parole, or community control.²⁰

13. INCARCERATED: [I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?](#)

It depends on the reason for the incarceration. If a person is awaiting trial in jail for a misdemeanor or felony or is imprisoned for a misdemeanor, they can vote by an absentee ballot as long as they are otherwise eligible to vote (i.e., they are registered).²¹ If the voter uses absentee ballot procedures, they must make sure that they get their application and voted ballot in by the deadlines (see Questions #6, #26 – 29).

A person who is currently imprisoned for a felony conviction cannot register to vote or vote.²² See Question #12 for information about cancelled registrations for convicted felons.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

14. HOURS: [When do the polls open/close on Election Day?](#)

On Election Day, the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET. If there are voters waiting in line to cast their ballots at 7:30 p.m., the polls must remain open until everyone in line has voted.²³

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

15. POLLING LOCATION: [Where do I vote on Election Day?](#)

All polling locations are listed at this link: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/>.

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question #8 and #9.

16. CLOSING: [What if the polls close when I am already in line?](#)

If there are voters waiting in line to cast their ballots at 7:30 p.m., the polls must remain open until everyone in line has voted.²⁴

²⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2961.01, § 3503.21(A)(4); *See also* Ohio Secretary of State, Voter Eligibility and Residency Requirements: May I Vote If I Have Been Convicted of a Crime?, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voter-eligibility-residency-reqs/#convicted>.

²¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.08(A).

²² Ohio Secretary of State, Voter Eligibility and Residency Requirements: May I Vote If I Have Been Convicted of a Crime?, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voter-eligibility-residency-reqs/#convicted>.

²³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.32(A).

²⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.32(A).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

17. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

To vote a regular ballot, voters are **required** to show some kind of proof of identity at the polls.

Acceptable forms of identification are:²⁵

- An unexpired Ohio driver's license or state identification card with present or former address, so long as the voter's present residential address is printed in the official list of registered voters for their precinct;
- An unexpired military identification;
- An unexpired photo identification that was issued by the United States government or the State of Ohio, that contains the voter's name and current address;
- An original or copy of a current utility bill with the voter's name and present address;
- An original or copy of a current bank statement with the voter's name and present address;
- An original or copy of a current government check with the voter's name and present address;
- An original or copy of a current paycheck with the voter's name and present address; or
- An original or copy of a current other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and present address.

For more information on required identification, see: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/>.

"Current" is defined as within the last 12 months. "Other government document" includes (but is not limited to) license renewal and other notices, fishing and marine equipment operator's licenses, court papers, grade reports, and transcripts. "Government office" includes any local (including county, city, township, and village), state or federal (United States) government office, branch, agency, department, division, board, commission, public college or university or public community college, both in Ohio and outside of Ohio.²⁶

The following forms of ID are **not acceptable:**²⁷

- Driver's license or photo identification card issued by a state other than Ohio;
- Social Security card;
- Passport;
- Birth certificate (unless the voter still lives at the house where they resided at birth, and the birth certificate contains that home address; if so, this is acceptable as an "other government document");
- Insurance card; or
- Any registration acknowledgment notice from a county board of elections.

²⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.18(A)(1); Ohio Secretary of State, Identification Requirements, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/>.

²⁶ Ohio Secretary of State, Identification Requirements, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/#gref>.

²⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.18(A)(1); Ohio Secretary of State, Identification Requirements, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/>.

18. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

If the voter arrives at the polls without an ID, the voter is **entitled to vote on a provisional ballot** if they provide either: (a) an Ohio driver's license number or state identification number (begins with two letters followed by six numbers), or (b) the last four digits of their Social Security number.²⁸ Once that information is reviewed and verified by the board of elections, their ballot will be counted.

If the voter does not provide proper ID, their driver's license/state identification number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number, the voter is still **entitled to vote on a provisional ballot**. However, in order for that ballot to be counted, the voter *must return to the board of elections* with proper ID within seven days following Election Day.²⁹ The voter should expect to be given information so that they can follow up on their status and confirm whether their vote was counted. If they are not given any information, they should ask.

19. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

The voter is **entitled to vote on a provisional ballot**.³⁰ However, first the precinct official must make sure that the voter is in the correct precinct or polling location and that the voter is not eligible to cast a regular ballot in a different precinct or polling place. If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the precinct official must direct them to their correct precinct.³¹

As part of the provisional ballot process, the voter must complete a written affirmation in front of an election official at the polling place. The affirmation form is printed on the provisional ballot envelope.³² It is important to fill out the affidavit on the envelope correctly, as even minor errors may result in the provisional ballot being rejected.³³

20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

If the voter fails to bring ID, the voter is **entitled to vote on a provisional ballot** as described in Question #18.

If the voter's name is not showing up on the rolls at his or her polling place, the voter is **entitled to vote on a provisional ballot** as described in Question #19.

²⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.181(B)(6); Ohio Secretary of State, Voter Identification, <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/elections/voters/FAQ/ID.aspx>.

²⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.181(B)(6); Ohio Secretary of State, Voter Identification, <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/elections/voters/FAQ/ID.aspx>.

³⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.181(A)(1)-(7).

³¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.181(C)(1).

³² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.181(A)(1), (B)(1)-(6); 3505.182.

³³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.183; *see also*, Ohio Secretary of State, Directive 2022-12, Provisional Voting, .

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

(in some states called “in-person absentee”)

21. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Yes. Early in-person absentee voting begins and is conducted on the following days:³⁴

- October 12–14: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- October 17–21: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- October 24–28: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- October 29: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- October 31: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- November 1–4: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- November 5: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- November 6: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- November 7: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

22. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No

23. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

See Question #21.

24. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

Most Ohio counties provide early voting at their board of elections office. However, certain counties have separate early voting centers:³⁵

- Summit: Early Vote Center, 500 Grant Street, Akron, Ohio 44311
- Trumbull: Early Vote Center, 2911 Youngstown Rd SE, Warren, Ohio 44484

Check with the voter’s county board of elections for more information about where to vote early, or consult the State’s list of early voting locations here by county:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/>.

25. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don’t have an ID?

The same ID requirements apply to early in-person voting as Election Day voting. See Question #17. See here for identification requirements: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/id-requirements/>.

³⁴ Ohio Secretary of State, Early In-Person Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/early-in-person-voting/>.

³⁵ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

26. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

No. Ohio voters must request an absentee ballot by submitting an absentee ballot application. However, ALL Ohio registered voters are eligible to vote by mail. The process for requesting an absentee ballot application is as follows.³⁶

- Fill out an absentee request application using the **online tool**, and then return it to the voter's county board of elections; OR download, complete, and **return by mail** Form 11-A,³⁷ found here https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_english.pdf (English), or here https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_spanish.pdf (Spanish).
 - For special types of absentee voter applications, see: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/publications/#abr>.
- If the voter does not use the prescribed form or online tool, their written application need not be in any particular format, but it must contain all of the following information:
 - Name;
 - Legal signature;
 - The address at which the voter is registered to vote;
 - Date of birth;
 - One of the following items showing proof of identification:
 - Ohio driver's license number (begins with two letters followed by six numbers);
 - Last four digits of Social Security number; or
 - A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and current address.
 - A statement identifying the election for which they are requesting an absentee ballot;
 - A statement that they are a qualified elector; and
 - The address they want the ballot mailed to (if it's different than their registration address).

The voter should submit his or her absentee ballot applications to the county board of elections at the address list here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>. The county will mail the absentee ballot to the address provided in the voter's application.

27. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

No. All Ohio voters whose registration information is up-to-date have the opportunity to vote in any election from the convenience of their own homes by requesting an absentee ballot.³⁸

³⁶ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

³⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3509.04(B); 3509.03; 3503.16(G). See Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Ballot Application Form 11-A, https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_english.pdf.

³⁸ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

28. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 12:00 p.m. (noon) three days before the election in which you want to vote (12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5 for the November 8 primary election).³⁹

29. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

Mail the request form back to the voter's own county board of elections. Board mailing addresses are available at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

The voter should wait to receive their ballot in the mail from their county board of elections. If the voter has questions about their absentee ballot request, they should call their county board of elections or track the status of their ballot request through the Voter Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.

There is no postmark requirement for an absentee ballot application, but it must be *received by* 12:00 p.m. (noon) three days before the election in which you want to vote (12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5 for the November 8 primary election).⁴⁰

30. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

Yes. Voter must include one of the following when returning an absentee ballot application:

- Ohio driver's license number (begins with two letters followed by six numbers);
- Last four digits of Social Security number; or
- A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and current address.

31. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

The absentee ballot application allows for a separate mailing address (Line #5 of the application), which can include a PO Box.

32. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

³⁹ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>; Ohio Secretary of State, Voting Schedule, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/current-voting-schedule/>.

⁴⁰ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>; Ohio Secretary of State, Voting Schedule, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/current-voting-schedule/>.

The voter can vote by another method (i.e. in-person).

33. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

The voter can track their ballot at the Voter’s Toolkit on the Secretary of State’s web page:

<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/toolkit/ballot-tracking/>.

34. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If the Board of Elections receives an absentee ballot application that does not contain all the required information listed above, it must notify the voter of the missing information and ask the voter to resubmit a complete application.⁴¹ The board of elections cannot return an incomplete application to the voter.

The voter must personally complete any missing information on the application—election officials cannot complete the application on behalf of the voter. The only exception is if the voter has paperwork on file with the board of elections to receive assistance from a designated attorney-in-fact.⁴²

35. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

Upon receiving an absentee ballot, the voter should inspect it. If there are any voter marks on it, it should be immediately returned to the board of elections. If it is unmarked, the voter should complete the ballot per the instructions included with the ballot, place it in the identification envelope, and seal it. (See Question #40 below if the ballot has voter marks on it.) The voter also must complete and sign the statement on the outside of the identification envelope, otherwise the ballot will not be counted.⁴³

In terms of identification, the voter must include their driver’s license number or the last four digits of their social security number in the applicable place on the identification envelope. If they do not do so, the voter must instead include in the return envelope a copy of the voter’s current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the name and address of the voter.⁴⁴

36. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

⁴¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.04(A). See also FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-11, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 7: ABSENTEE VOTING, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-11-ch07.pdf>.

⁴² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3501.382; 3509.03; 3511.02. See also FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-11, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 7: ABSENTEE VOTING, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-11-ch07.pdf>.

⁴³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.05(A).

⁴⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.05(A).

No. It is illegal in Ohio for a voter to show another person their voted ballot.⁴⁵

However, persons with disabilities can receive assistance when voting at polling places (see Q # 62 and Q#63,) and they can apply for an accessible absentee voting system, also known as the remote ballot marking system. It allows the voter to receive an absentee ballot in an accessible format and on any device connected to the internet. This system is briefly described below, and more information is available here: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/Votingfaqs/>.

Voters with a qualifying disability should use [Form 11-G](#), available at VoteOhio.gov or a board of elections' website.

The voter may also submit to a board of elections any written application that indicates they have a disability and wish to use the accessible absentee voting system. The board will process the request, including contacting the voter for more information. Once the board of elections approves the request, it will make the accessible absentee voting system available to the voter.⁴⁶

Through this system, the voter can access, read, and mark their ballot both privately and independently. The system allows the voter to use any necessary assistive technology. After marking their ballot, the voter must print and return it to their board of elections. The voter cannot return their ballot electronically.

The voter can return their absentee ballot using one of the following methods:

- Return by Mail by either of the following:
 - Complete electronically, print, and sign the Identification Envelope – Statement of Voter (Secretary of State Form 12-A) that the board emailed to the voter and enclose it with the ballot in any envelope.
 - Complete and sign the Identification Envelope – Statement of Voter (Secretary of State Form 12-A) that the board mailed to the voter and enclose the ballot in the Identification Envelope.
- Return by Personal Delivery:
 - The voter may deliver the absentee ballot personally, or they may have a qualified family member deliver the absentee ballot to the office of their board of elections.

If returning by mail, the accessible absentee ballot must be postmarked by the day before Election Day and received at the board of elections office by the 10th day after Election Day.

If returning in person, the accessible absentee ballot must be returned by the close of polls on Election Day at the office of the applicable board of elections. No one may return a voted absentee ballot to a precinct polling location.

For more information contact the ADA coordinator at 614.387.6039 or at <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/contact-us-ada-coordinator/> or the Secretary of State's office at 877.767.6446.

⁴⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3599.20.

⁴⁶ Ohio Secretary of State, Accessible Absentee Voting in Ohio, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/Votingfaqs/>.

37. DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT: What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

The voter can return their absentee ballot in person or by mail.

If they are returning it in person, the board of elections must receive it **by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day**.

If the voter is returning it by mail, the ballot must be **postmarked by the day before Election Day**. To be counted, the ballot must be received by Friday, November 18, 2022 (10 days after Election Day).⁴⁷

- It usually takes 2-5 days for a ballot to be delivered by mail.
- A postage label purchased at a USPS customer service window or vending machine should have the date on the label, which is the postmark.
- **Postage stamps do not have a postmark on them; the voter should be sure to ask the post office to postmark the ballot if they use postage stamps to mail the envelope.**
- Voters should not use a postage meter or an online service (such as stamps.com) to affix postage.

If the voter is a member of the uniformed services or a voter outside of the United States, the ballot must be mailed by 12:01 a.m. on Election Day at the place where they are located (i.e. 12:01 a.m. on November 8).⁴⁸

The voter can track their ballot at the Voter’s Toolkit on the Secretary of State’s web page: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/toolkit/ballot-tracking/>.

38. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

Each county in Ohio has **one drop box** that allows voters to return their Absentee Ballot Requests and Absentee Ballots **at their Board of Elections** in-person. Absentee Ballots must be dropped off at your Board of Elections no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Click [here](#) to find the address of your Board of Elections.

You can track the status of your ballot request as well as your voted absentee ballot through the [Voter Toolkit](#).

If the voter drops their ballot off in person (or if a near relative does so for them, *see* Question #39), the board of elections must receive the ballot by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.⁴⁹

39. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

Near relatives can return an absentee ballot. A “near relative” includes the voter’s spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, half-brother, half-

⁴⁷ See Ohio Secretary of State, Election Official Manual (Feb. 2, 2022), <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/rules/#manual>; Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁴⁸ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁴⁹ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

sister, son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.⁵⁰

40. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

If the voter thinks their absentee ballot is lost or they received an incorrect one, they should call their county board of elections (<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>). They can also track the status of their ballot request (as well as their voted absentee ballot) through the Voter Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.⁵¹

When receiving an absentee ballot, the voter should inspect it. If there are any voter marks on it, it should immediately be returned to the board of elections.⁵² If a voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks a paper ballot, the voter may return it to a precinct election official and receive a replacement. If the voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks a second ballot, the voter may again return it to the precinct election official and receive a third ballot. However, the voter will not be allowed to receive any additional ballots after that.⁵³

41. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

The voter should call their county board of elections (<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>). They can also track the status of their ballot request (as well as their voted absentee ballot) through the Voter Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.⁵⁴

42. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

If the voter requested an absentee ballot, but wants to vote in-person on ELECTION DAY, the voter will be required to cast a provisional ballot (even if the voter did not receive their ballot).⁵⁵

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

43. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

⁵⁰ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁵¹ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁵² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.05(A).

⁵³ FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-13, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 9: ELECTION DAY VOTING, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-13-ch09.pdf>.

⁵⁴ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁵⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.181(A)(3).

Yes. All Ohio voters whose registration information is up-to-date have the opportunity to vote in any election from the convenience of their own homes by requesting an absentee ballot.⁵⁶

44. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 12:00 p.m. (noon) three days before the election in which you want to vote (12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5 for the November 8 primary election).

45. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

Voter must include one of the following when returning voter's absentee ballot application:

- Ohio driver's license number (begins with two letters followed by six numbers);
- Last four digits of Social Security number; or
- A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and current address.

46. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Yes. If a voter or their minor child is in the hospital because of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency on Election Day, they may submit a signed request to the board of elections of their county by 3 p.m. on Election Day. If the hospital is in the county where the voter is registered, two representatives of the board of elections can deliver the ballot, wait while they mark the ballot, and return the voted ballot to the board office. Alternatively, a voter may request that the county board of elections give an unmarked ballot to a designated relative – your spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece – who shall deliver the ballot to the hospital and return the voted ballot to the board office.

Click here for Hospitalized Absentee Ballot Request Form 11-B.

47. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Mail the request form back to the voter's own county board of elections. Board mailing addresses are available at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

48. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?

Call the county board of elections or track the status of their ballot request through the Voter Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.

⁵⁶ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

49. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If the Board of Elections receives an absentee ballot application that does not contain all the required information listed above, it must notify the voter of the missing information and ask the voter to resubmit a complete application.⁵⁷ The board of elections cannot return an incomplete application to the voter.

The voter must personally complete any missing information on the application—election officials cannot complete the application on behalf of the voter. The only exception is if the voter has paperwork on file with the board of elections to receive assistance from a designated attorney-in-fact.⁵⁸

50. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Upon receiving an absentee ballot, the voter should inspect it. If there are any voter marks on it, it should be immediately returned to the board of elections. If it is unmarked, the voter should complete the ballot per the instructions included with the ballot, place it in the identification envelope, and seal it. (See Question #55 if the ballot has voter marks on it.) The voter also **must complete and sign** the statement on the outside of the identification envelope, otherwise the ballot will not be counted.⁵⁹

A voter must include their driver’s license number or the last four digits of their social security number in the applicable place on the identification envelope. If they do not do so, the voter must instead include in the return envelope a copy of the voter’s current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the name and address of the voter.⁶⁰

51. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

No. It is illegal in Ohio for a voter to show another person their voted ballot.⁶¹ However, persons with disabilities can receive assistance when voting at polling places (See Q # 62 and #63,) and they can apply for an accessible absentee voting system, also known as the remote ballot marking system. It allows the voter to receive an absentee ballot in an accessible format and on any device connected to the internet. This system is briefly described below, and more information is available here: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/Votingfaqs/>.

Voters with a qualifying disability should use [Form 11-G](#), available at VoteOhio.gov or a board of elections’ website.

⁵⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.04(A). See also FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-11, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 7: ABSENTEE VOTING, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-11-ch07.pdf>.

⁵⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3501.382; 3509.03; 3511.02. See also FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-11, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 7: ABSENTEE VOTING, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-11-ch07.pdf>.

⁵⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.05(A).

⁶⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.05(A).

⁶¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3599.20.

The voter may also submit to a board of elections any written application that indicates they have a disability and wish to use the accessible absentee voting system. The board will process the request, including contacting the voter for more information. Once the board of elections approves the request, it will make the accessible absentee voting system available to the voter.⁶²

Through this system, the voter can access, read, and mark their ballot both privately and independently. The system allows the voter to use any necessary assistive technology. After marking their ballot, the voter must print and return it to their board of elections. The voter cannot return their ballot electronically.

The voter can return their absentee ballot using one of the following methods:

- Return by Mail by either of the following:
 - Complete electronically, print, and sign the Identification Envelope – Statement of Voter (Secretary of State Form 12-A) that the board emailed to the voter and enclose it with the ballot in any envelope.
 - Complete and sign the Identification Envelope – Statement of Voter (Secretary of State Form 12-A) that the board mailed to the voter and enclose the ballot in the Identification Envelope.
- Return by Personal Delivery:
 - The voter may deliver the absentee ballot personally, or they may have a qualified family member deliver the absentee ballot to the office of their board of elections.

If returning by mail, the accessible absentee ballot must be postmarked by the day before Election Day and received at the board of elections office by the 10th day after Election Day.

If returning in person, the accessible absentee ballot must be returned by the close of polls on Election Day at the office of the applicable board of elections. No one may return a voted absentee ballot to a precinct polling location.

For more information contact the ADA coordinator at 614.387.6039 or at <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/contact-us-ada-coordinator/> or the Secretary of State's office at 877.767.6446.

Application for remote ballot marking system: [Here](#)

52. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

The voter can return their absentee ballot in person or by mail.

If they are returning it in person, the board of elections must receive it **by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.**

⁶² Ohio Secretary of State, Accessible Absentee Voting in Ohio, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/Votingfaqs/>.

If the voter is returning it by mail, the ballot must be **postmarked by the day before Election Day**. To be counted, the ballot must be received by Friday, November 18, 2022 (10 days after Election Day).⁶³

- It usually takes 2-5 days for a ballot to be delivered by mail.
- A postage label purchased at a USPS customer service window or vending machine should have the date on the label, which is the postmark.
- **Postage stamps do not have a postmark on them; the voter should be sure to ask the post office to postmark the ballot if they use postage stamps to mail the envelope.**
- Voters should not use a postage meter or an online service (such as stamps.com) to affix postage.

If the voter is a member of the uniformed services or a voter outside of the United States, the ballot must be mailed by 12:01 a.m. on Election Day at the place where they are located (i.e. 12:01 a.m. on November 8).⁶⁴

The voter can track their ballot at the Voter’s Toolkit on the Secretary of State’s web page: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/toolkit/ballot-tracking/>.

53. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** *Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?*

Each county in Ohio has **one drop box** that allows voters to return their Absentee Ballot Requests and Absentee Ballots **at their Board of Elections** in-person. Absentee Ballots must be dropped off at your Board of Elections no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Click [here](#) to find the address of your Board of Elections.

You can track the status of your ballot request as well as your voted absentee ballot through the [Voter Toolkit](#).

If the voter drops their ballot off in person (or if a near relative does so for them, *see* Question #39), the board of elections must receive the ballot by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.⁶⁵

54. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** *Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?*

Near relatives can return an absentee ballot. A “near relative” includes the voter’s spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.⁶⁶

55. **LOST OR SPOILED:** *What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?*

If the voter thinks their absentee ballot is lost or they received an incorrect one, they should call their county board of elections (<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>). They can also track the status of their ballot request (as well as their voted absentee ballot) through the Voter Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.⁶⁷

⁶³ See Ohio Secretary of State, Election Official Manual (Feb. 2, 2022), <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/rules/#manual>; Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁶⁴ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁶⁵ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁶⁶ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁶⁷ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

In terms of a spoiled ballot, after receiving an absentee ballot, the voter should inspect it. If there are any voter marks on it, it should immediately be returned to the board of elections.⁶⁸ If a voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks a paper ballot, the voter may return it to a precinct election official and receive a replacement. If the voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks a second ballot, the voter may again return it to the precinct election official and receive a third ballot. However, the voter will not be allowed to receive any additional ballots after that.⁶⁹

56. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

The voter should call their county board of elections (<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>). They can also track the status of their ballot request (as well as their voted absentee ballot) through the Voter Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.⁷⁰

57. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

If the voter requested an absentee ballot, but wants to vote in-person on ELECTION DAY, the voter will be required to cast a provisional ballot (even if the voter did not receive their ballot).⁷¹

58. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

See Questions #21 – 25.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

59. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What should I do?

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place has not opened on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

The voter should call their county board of elections if their polling place is closed or not open on time. See here for a directory of county boards of elections: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

60. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

⁶⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.05(A).

⁶⁹ FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2022-13, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 9: ELECTION DAY VOTING, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-13-ch09.pdf>.

⁷⁰ Ohio Secretary of State, Absentee Voting, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

⁷¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.181(A)(3).

See Question #14 if the voter is in line when polls are closing. The voter should stay in line and will be allowed to vote as long as the voter was in line by 7:30 p.m.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

61. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

If the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open, the voter should immediately notify the election officers and ask for another method by which to vote.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

62. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

The voter will be allowed to have another person (who may not be voter's employer, agent of elector's employer, or an officer or agent of voter's union) accompany them into the voting booth to help them **only if** the voter is blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and requires assistance in order to vote.⁷²

It is otherwise illegal in Ohio for a voter to show another person their voted ballot.⁷³ Many have interpreted this law to mean that so-called "ballot selfies" are illegal in Ohio, but the law's application to social media and the practicality of enforcement are unclear.

63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

All precincts are required to offer curbside voting to any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling location.⁷⁴ See Question #71.

READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

The voter can bring along any person of the voter's choice to assist except (i) the voter's employer; (ii) an agent of the voter's employer; (iii) an officer or agent of the voter's union; or (iv) any candidate whose name appears on the ballot.⁷⁵ The voter can also ask precinct election officials to assist. If precinct officials are to assist, two officials from different political parties must accompany the voter.⁷⁶

In some locations, the board of elections may appoint interpreters fluent in a non-English language to assist voters.⁷⁷

⁷² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.24.

⁷³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3599.20.

⁷⁴ See FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 9: ELECTION DAY VOTING, [HTTPS://WWW.OHIOSOS.GOV/GLOBALASSETS/ELECTIONS/DIRECTIVES/2022/EOM/DIR2022-13-CH09.PDF](https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-13-ch09.pdf).

⁷⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.24.

⁷⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.24.

⁷⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.221(A).

64. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Under Ohio law it is illegal:⁷⁸

- to loiter, congregate, or engage in any kind of election campaigning within 100 ft of the polling place, normally marked with 2 small flags.
- to intimidate or interfere with a voter when they are registering to vote or voting,
- if the line of people waiting to vote extends beyond 100 ft, to loiter or congregate or engage in any kind of election campaigning within 10 feet of voters in line,
- to obstruct a voter’s access to or egress from the polls,
- solicit or in any manner influence a voter,
- to engage in violence against observers, or to otherwise cause violence or disorder,
- for a precinct official to admit someone to the polling room who is not qualified by law to be there, or
- for a precinct official or police officer to display any campaign badges or signs at a polling place, express preference for any candidate, or attempt to influence any voter in casting their ballot.

Precinct officials (poll workers) must prevent intimidation of or disturbance to voters.⁷⁹ And, police can arrest people who are violating the election code.⁸⁰

If a voter faces harassment at the polls, they can bring a civil case against the harasser.⁸¹

Rules for observers:

Candidates, political parties, and ballot initiative groups can appoint one observer for each precinct and at the county board of elections. Observers must have a certificate of their appointment and must swear an oath not to “delay” voters or disclose how they voted. They are permitted to go in and out of the polling place and watch the precinct officials and the counting of votes.⁸² They can use audio/visual recording devices but not in a way that interferes with the voter or the secrecy of their ballot, and they cannot take photos or videos in the polling place. Their devices should be silenced and they can send text messages. They can use a phone to discuss the election or problems with the election administration, but only outside the polling place.

The observer cannot be a candidate, uniformed officer, member of an organized militia, or carry firearms. They cannot engage in any sort of electioneering. They are not enforcers of the law and cannot be advocates for voters. They may be removed for disruptive behavior.⁸³ There is no legal authorization for a partisan observer to formally challenge a voter.⁸⁴

⁷⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.35.

⁷⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.33.

⁸⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.34.

⁸¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.90.

⁸² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.21.

⁸³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.33, 3505.21; Ohio Secretary of State, Election Official Manual, 277–85 (Feb. 2, 2022); Ohio Secretary of State, Directive 2022-13, at 277–85.

⁸⁴ See Ohio Secretary of State, Election Official Manual, 277–85 (Feb. 2, 2022), https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/eom_fullversion_2022-02.pdf.

65. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

I'm being challenged before Election Day:

Someone can challenge the voter's registration or their right to vote or can submit an application to have the registration list corrected, but these types of challenges must be made no later than 20 days before Election Day. The challenger must state the reasons for the challenge in writing under penalty of election falsification.⁸⁵

After receiving the challenge, the board of elections must immediately consider it, and may immediately grant or deny the challenge solely on the basis of their records. If the board cannot immediately determine if the challenge should be granted or denied, the board must schedule a hearing by 10 days after the challenge is filed, except as described below. The board director must send written notice to the voter who is being challenged, or to the person whose name is alleged to be missing from the registration list. The challenger will also get notice, except as described below. The notice must inform the recipient of the time and date of the hearing, and of their right to appear and testify, call witnesses, and be represented by counsel. The notice must be sent by three days before the hearing day.⁸⁶

At the request of the challenger, the person being challenged, or any member of the board of elections, the board can issue subpoenas to witnesses to appear and testify. All witnesses must testify under oath. The board must reach a decision immediately after the hearing.⁸⁷

If the board decides that the challenged voter is not entitled to be on the registration list, their name will be removed from the list and their registration will be canceled. If the board decides that a person should appear on the registration list, their name will be added. Any changes or corrections the board decides on must appear on the poll books used in the precincts.⁸⁸ If the voter has a confidential voter registration record, meaning that their personal information is concealed from the public record (typically because they are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault), all of the following apply: The challenger will not be notified of the date and time of the hearing, will not be allowed to attend, and will not be given notice of the outcome. If the application in question is to correct the registration record, and is made by someone other than the elector, the applicant will not get notice of the hearing. Hearings in these situations are not open to the public, and the records they produce are not subject to public records requests.⁸⁹

I'm being challenged at my polling place:

⁸⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.24(A).

⁸⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.24(B).

⁸⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.24(B).

⁸⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.24(C).

⁸⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.24(D)(1)-(3).

Only precinct election officials (PEO) may challenge a voter's right to vote at the polling place; private citizens may **NOT** do so. If a challenge happens, the PEO will require the voter to swear the following oath: "You do swear or affirm under penalty of election falsification that you will fully and truly answer all of the following questions put to you concerning your qualifications as an elector at this election." PEOs may not challenge something that was already resolved by the board of elections prior to Election Day.⁹⁰

If the person is challenged on the grounds that they have not resided in Ohio for thirty days immediately preceding the election, the PEOs will ask:

- Have you resided in this state for thirty days immediately preceding this election? If so, where have you resided?
- Did you properly register to vote?
- Can you provide some form of identification containing your current mailing address in this precinct? Please provide that identification.
- Have you voted or attempted to vote at any other location in this or in any other state at this election?
- Have you applied for an absent voter's ballot in any state for this election?⁹¹

If the person is challenged as unqualified on the ground that they are not a resident of the precinct, the PEOs will ask:

- Do you reside in this precinct?
- When did you move into this precinct?
- When you came into this precinct, did you come for a temporary purpose merely or for the purpose of making it your home?
- What is your current mailing address?
- Do you have some official identification containing your current address in this precinct? Please provide that identification.
- Have you voted or attempted to vote at any other location in this or in any other state at this election?
- Have you applied for any absent voter's ballot in any state for this election?

If the PEOs determine the person is not at the right polling place, they must direct them to the right place. If the voter refuses to go, the PEOs must offer the voter a provisional ballot.⁹²

If the person is challenged as unqualified on the ground that they are not of legal voting age, the PEOs will ask:

- Are you eighteen years of age or more?
- What is your date of birth?
- Do you have some official identification verifying your age? Please provide that identification.⁹³

⁹⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.20; see also Nicolas Riley, Brennan Center for Justice, VOTER CHALLENGES, at 17, http://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/publications/Voter_Challengers.pdf.

⁹¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.20(B)(1)-(5).

⁹² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.20(C)(1)-(7).

⁹³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.20(D)(1)-(3).

The PEOs may ask voters additional questions to determine eligibility. If the voter refuses to answer any question, they will be offered a provisional ballot.⁹⁴

The voter will be directed to give their responses to these questions in writing on Form 10-U (<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/10-U.pdf>).⁹⁵

In any of the above cases, if the PEOs cannot determine the voter's eligibility, they must offer the voter a provisional ballot. The board of elections will decide whether to count the ballot consistent with the rules described above.⁹⁶

If the PEOs believe that the voter's signature does not match the one on file, they must offer a provisional ballot.⁹⁷

The voter may NOT be instructed to provide proof of citizenship.⁹⁸ The voter may still be asked if they are a citizen, but if they answer in the affirmative, they MUST be given a regular ballot.⁹⁹ (Ohio law, as written, allows PEOs to request proof of naturalization if they challenge a voter's citizenship. However, that provision was struck down by a federal court as unconstitutional, and may not be enforced.)

66. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

67. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

A voter can be removed from the list of registered voters if:

- The voter filed a request for cancellation;¹⁰⁰
- The board of elections receives notice of the voter's death;¹⁰¹
- The voter is convicted of a felony in any state or under federal law;¹⁰²
- The voter is adjudicated incompetent;¹⁰³
- The voter moved outside of the county of the voter's registration;¹⁰⁴

⁹⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.20(D).

⁹⁵ Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2022-13, at 276.

⁹⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.20.

⁹⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.181(A)(7).

⁹⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3505.20(A); *Boustani v. Blackwell* (N.D. Ohio, 2006), permanently enjoining §3505.20(A), https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCOURTS-ohnd-1_06-cv-02065/pdf/USCOURTS-ohnd-1_06-cv-02065-1.pdf; see also https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/USCOURTS-ohnd-1_06-cv-02065/USCOURTS-ohnd-1_06-cv-02065-1/content-detail.html.

⁹⁹ Ohio Secretary of State, Form 10-U, <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/10-U.pdf>.

¹⁰⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.21(A)(1).

¹⁰¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.21(A)(2)-(3).

¹⁰² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.21(A)(4).

¹⁰³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.21(A)(5).

¹⁰⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.21 (A)(6).

- After receiving a confirmation notice from the board of elections, the voter failed to do either of the following during a four-year period (including two general federal elections):
 - Respond to the notice and vote at least once,¹⁰⁵ or
 - Update their registration and vote at least once.¹⁰⁶
- If the board of elections mails a registration notification to the voter, the notification is then returned to the board as undeliverable, and the board cannot verify the correct address, the board will mark the voter's name in the official list as having the notification returned. In that scenario, the voter must vote on a provisional ballot and show ID at the polls. If their ballot is counted, then the voter's registration will be corrected. If it is not counted, the voter's registration will be canceled.¹⁰⁷

Call center and field volunteers should take steps to help determine why a voter's name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure the voter is registered to vote and at the right place. (see Question #3)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could the voter be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see Question #3 and Question #8)
- Has the voter had a name change recently, or could the voter be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (see Question #3) When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

68. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

A voter may be required to cast a provisional ballot for the following reasons:

- The voter's name is not in the poll book or on the supplemental voter list.
- The voter does not provide proper or valid identification.
- The voter changed their name and moved to a different precinct without updating their address by the voter registration deadline.
- The voter moved to a different precinct without updating their address by the voter registration deadline.
- The voter changed their name and doesn't have proof of the legal name change.
- The voter's signature does not match the signature on file with the board of elections.
- The voter has been challenged and the challenge was resolved against the voter.
- The voter's notice of registration or acknowledgement notice has been returned to the board of elections as undeliverable.
- The voter requested an absentee ballot before the election and is attempting to vote in person on Election Day.
- The voter has already cast a provisional ballot.¹⁰⁸

Other than these situations, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot.

¹⁰⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.21 (A)(7)(a).

¹⁰⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.21 (A)(7)(b).

¹⁰⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.19 (C)(1)-(2)

¹⁰⁸ Ohio Secretary of State, Directive 2022-12, .

A provisional ballot should be a last resort. As part of the provisional ballot process, the voter will be required to complete a written affirmation in front of an election official at the polling place. The affirmation form is printed on the provisional ballot envelope.¹⁰⁹

It is important that the voter fill out the affidavit on the envelope correctly as even minor errors may result in their provisional ballot being rejected.¹¹⁰

If the voter casts a provisional ballot, **remind them to ask the poll officials what (if any) additional steps they must take to ensure their ballot is counted.** A voter casting a provisional ballot may provide additional information to the election official to assist the board of elections in determining the voter's eligibility to vote in that election, including the date and location where the individual registered to vote.

Within 7 days after election day, a voter who casts a provisional ballot because they didn't have the required forms of ID or were successfully challenged **must** appear at the board of elections office and provide the appropriate identification (see above section on Voter ID) or other additional information necessary to determine the voter's eligibility.¹¹¹ Note that no follow up is required if a voter provided either the last four digits of their social security number or their full Ohio driver's license or Ohio ID card number on their provisional ballot envelope.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

69. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

See Question #64.

70. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

When the voter is physically unable to enter the polling location. Upon arriving at the polling place, the voter can send another person into the polling location to inform precinct election officials of their desire to vote.¹¹²

71. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Yes. There is no prohibition on bringing notes into the voting booth.

QUESTIONS

72. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

¹⁰⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.181(A)(1), (B)(1)-(6); 3505.182.

¹¹⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.183.

¹¹¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.181(B)(7).

¹¹² See RANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 9: ELECTION DAY VOTING, [HTTPS://WWW.OHIOSOS.GOV/GLOBALASSETS/ELECTIONS/DIRECTIVES/2022/EOM/DIR2022-13-CH09.PDF](https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/dir2022-13-ch09.pdf).

Voters can contact the Secretary of State's office using the contact information located here: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/secretary-office/contact-our-office/>. Voters can also contact their county board of elections using the directory provided here: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.