

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.

THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA WEBSITE IS VERY INFORMATIVE AND WILL BE REFERENCED THROUGHOUT THESE FAQS. WWW.VOTE.PA.GOV

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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

The voter can check the voter’s registration status [here](#).

In addition, the voter can check the voter's registration status (if unable to check online):

- **Via email or phone** by contacting the voter's [county registration office](#); or
- **Via phone** by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).¹

2. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

MAY 2, 2022 IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER BEFORE THE MAY 17, 2022 ELECTION!²

To register to vote, an individual must meet the following **requirements**:

- Citizen of the United States for at least one month before the election.
- Resident of Pennsylvania and of the election district where the individual wants to register for at least 30 days prior to the election.
- 18 years old on or before Election Day.³

The voter must fill out the [Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application](#), which can be accessed in the following ways:

- **Online** (user can toggle back and forth between English and Spanish versions using the corresponding buttons in the blue header),
- **By printing and completing the** Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application [\(English version / Spanish version\)](#) **and mailing it to** [the voter's county registration office](#). (If the voter does not have access to a printer, the voter should register either online or in-person),
- **By requesting** that a copy of the registration form be mailed to the voter by emailing st-voterreg@pa.gov or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772), OR
- **In-person** at [the voter's county registration office](#), PennDOT, and some other locations including:
 - State offices that provide public assistance and services to persons with disabilities
 - Armed Forces Recruitment Centers
 - County Clerk of Orphans' Court offices, including each Marriage License Bureau
 - Area Agencies on Aging
 - Centers for Independent Living
 - County Mental Health and Mental Retardation offices
 - Student disability services offices of the State System of Higher Education
 - Offices of Special Education
 - DA Complementary Paratransit offices
 - Any agency using the Compass application⁴

¹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/Check-Your-Voter-Registration-Status.aspx>.

² <https://www.vote.pa.gov/about-elections/pages/election-calendar.aspx>.

³ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/Voter-Registration-Requirements.aspx>.

⁴ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Register-to-Vote.aspx>.

For primaries, a voter MUST be registered and enrolled in a political party to vote in that party's primary.⁵

- If a voter is registering to vote for the first time, the voter can select the voter's political party at the time the voter registers.
- Additionally, the voter can change the voter's political party at any time by selecting the box that says "Change of Party" on the voter registration form.
- To vote in the May 17, 2022 primary election for candidates of a particular party, a voter must register in that political party by **Monday, May 2, 2022.**⁶

Importantly, if there are general ballot questions on the ballot during the election on May 17, 2022, or other non-primary issues, the voter will be able to vote on those matters, even if not registered and enrolled in a political party.⁷

Voter Registration Cards: If a voter's registration is accepted by the voter's county registration office, a voter registration card will be mailed to the address the voter used in the application. The voter registration card will show the voter's name, address, party affiliation (if applicable), **and the address of the polling location where the voter will vote.**⁸

Check Status of Application: A voter can check the status of the voter's application [here](#). If the voter does not receive a registration card, the voter should call [the voter's county registration office](#).⁹

More information is available at [Register to Vote \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

A voter **does not need identification** to register but **does need** to provide:

- Either PA Driver's License number or PennDOT ID number (if the voter has either of these numbers, the voter must use it), OR
- the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, OR
- if the voter does not have a PA Driver's License number or ID card or Social Security number, the voter should check the appropriate box on the application form.¹⁰
 - *Note*: PA DOS has stated that if a voter has a SSN and does not provide it, their application will be rejected.

If the voter has a PA driver's license or PennDOT ID number, the signature on file at PennDOT will be sent to the voter's county registration office and become part of the voter's record.¹¹

⁵ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/About-Elections/Pages/Types%20of%20Elections.aspx>.

⁶ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/readytovote/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁷ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/About-Elections/Pages/Types%20of%20Elections.aspx>.

⁸ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Register-to-Vote.aspx>.

⁹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Register-to-Vote.aspx>.

¹⁰ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Use-Online-Voter-Registration.aspx>, See Video: Registering to Vote in Pennsylvania is Easy & Convenient

¹¹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Use-Online-Voter-Registration.aspx>.

If the voter does not have a PA driver's license or PennDOT ID number, the voter must provide a signature to complete the voter registration process, which the voter can do in one of three ways:

- If registering online, upload a digital image of the voter's signature to submit with the voter registration form. To do this, the voter must take a photograph of the voter's signature in blue or black ink on white paper.
- Print, sign, and mail the [voter registration application](#) to the voter's [county registration office](#).
- Request a signature form from the Department of State. Sign the form and mail it back to the voter's county registration office.¹²

The state encourages voters to use either option 1 or 2, as option 3 – requesting a signature form – significantly delays the voter registration process.¹³ If the voter still decides to request and mail in the voter's signature form, that form must be received by the registration deadline, May 2, 2022. Additionally, if the voter receives an error message from the system when trying to upload a digital image of the signature, the voter should mail in the application.¹⁴

More information is available at [How to Use Online Voter Registration \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, or online?

May 2 is the deadline to register for the May 17, 2022 election.

[Applications](#) submitted by mail **MUST be received** by the voter's county election office by May 2; it does not matter when they are postmarked.¹⁵ **IT IS BEST TO** mail in the application by April 25 or to hand deliver it to the [County Election Office](#).

More information is available at [Register to Vote \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?

For most people, the answer is no. Only members of the military may register to vote in-person at their [County Election Office](#) on Election Day, and then vote there.¹⁶

More information is available at [Military and Overseas Voters \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

¹² <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Use-Online-Voter-Registration.aspx>.

¹³ Information obtained by calling state at 1-877-VOTESPA.

¹⁴ Information obtained through phone call with the state on March 8, 2022 (1-877-VOTESPA).

¹⁵ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3071.

¹⁶ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Military-and-Overseas-Voters.aspx>. and 25 P.S. § 3146.7

6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently, and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

When a voter moves, the voter should [update the voter's registration](#). However, if the voter hasn't updated the voter's registration, the voter may still may be able to vote, see below:

Within Pennsylvania

- **If the voter moved within 30 days before an election**, the voter may vote at the polling place for the voter's old address. When at the polling place:
 - The voter must tell the election official that the voter has moved.
 - The voter will then have to fill out a form to update the voter's registration to reflect the new address.
 - The voter will then be permitted to vote at the old polling place.
 - The voter will be sent an updated registration card reflecting the new address.
 - For all subsequent elections, the voter **MUST** vote at the new polling place.
- **If the voter moved within Pennsylvania more than 30 days before an election** but did not update the voter's registration, the voter can vote at the polling place for the voter's old address for one election.
 - **If the voter moved within the same county**, the voter must tell the election officials at the polling place of the voter's new address. They will update the registration and send the voter a new voter registration card.
 - **If the voter moved to a different county**, the voter needs to fill out a form with the voter's new address and the county where the voter moved. After the election, the county election office for both the voter's old and new addresses will update the voter's registration. The voter will receive a new voter registration card matching the voter's new address.¹⁷

Moved from Another State

- The voter must be a resident of Pennsylvania and the voter's election district for at least 30 days before May 17, 2022 AND have registered to vote by no later than May 2, 2022.¹⁸

More information is available at See [How to Update Your Registration \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?

If a voter who is already registered in Pennsylvania wants to vote in Pennsylvania, but has moved temporarily, the voter should request an [absentee ballot or mail-in ballot request](#), and have it sent to the voter's temporary location.¹⁹

¹⁷ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Update-Your-Registraton.aspx>.

¹⁸ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Update-Your-Registraton.aspx>.

¹⁹ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 2814(b).

8. 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 in Pennsylvania who have lived in Pennsylvania **and** in the election district for at least 30 days can register to vote in Pennsylvania. If the student is registered in another jurisdiction besides the student’s college voting district, the student must first contact the Board of Elections in the student’s previous voting district to cancel the student’s previous registration before registering to vote in Pennsylvania.²⁰ Alternatively, the student may also choose to register and vote at the student’s prior home address, provided the student’s family or guardian still reside there.²¹

The key is whether the student meets the 30-day residency requirement. For example,

- A student who has resided for more than 30 days in the election district where the student wants to register is eligible to vote there even if the student has been temporarily displaced – so long as the student intends to return to that election district to continue the student’s studies or otherwise.²²
- A freshman or new student who has never actually resided in Pennsylvania is not eligible.

More information is available at [Information for College Students \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

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

Members of the military (and their eligible dependents) and U.S. citizens living outside of the United States may register to vote and may vote by absentee ballot. The voter should refer to [www.fvap.gov](#), which should have all the information and forms the voter will need.

More information is available at [Military and Overseas Voters \(vote.pa.gov\)](#) and the US Vote Foundation, <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/>.

10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

AN INDIVIDUAL CANNOT VOTE if the individual was convicted of a willful violation of ANY provision of the Pennsylvania Election Code within the last four years.

AN INDIVIDUAL CAN VOTE if the individual was previously convicted of a non-election code **felony** and is no longer incarcerated in a penal institution or a halfway house or other alternative correctional facility and will not be released until after the election (the individual can vote if the voter is on probation or parole, even if the individual is living in a halfway house).

AN INDIVIDUAL CAN VOTE if the individual was convicted of a non-election code **misdemeanor**.

²⁰ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/College-Student.aspx>, See “What if I’m registered in another jurisdiction besides my college voting district?”

²¹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/College-Student.aspx>, See “Registering to Vote.”

²² 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 2814(b).

People on parole or probation and people under house arrest (home confinement) are eligible to vote.

If an individual was incarcerated for a felony, the individual may need to re-register to vote, especially if the individual lives at a different address after release.²³

More information is available at [Criminal Status & Voting \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?

AN INDIVIDUAL CAN VOTE by absentee ballot if

- the voter is confined for a misdemeanor offense, or
- the voter is being held pre-trial.

AN INDIVIDUAL CAN VOTE if the voter will be released from confinement before the election.

AN INDIVIDUAL CANNOT VOTE if the voter is in a penal institution for a felony conviction and will not be released before the next election.²⁴

More information is available at [Criminal Status & Voting \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

The voter must vote at the voter's assigned precinct. If the voter is not certain that the voter is at the correct location, check [here](#). If the voter is not on the registration roll, the voter should ask the poll worker to check the supplemental pollbook.

If the voter's name cannot be found and the voter believes that the voter is at the correct location, the voter may vote using a provisional ballot.²⁵

If the voter casts a provisional ballot at the wrong precinct/division, it should be counted as long as the voter lives in that county, is eligible to vote in the election, and did not intentionally vote in the wrong precinct/division.²⁶ Only that portion of the ballot that the individual would have been eligible to vote in his proper division will be counted.

The County Board of Elections has seven days to determine the validity of a provisional ballot.²⁷ The voter may check the status of the voter's provisional ballot after seven days at [check status of provisional ballot](#) or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).

More information is available at [Voting by Provisional Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

²³ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/Convicted-Felon,-Misdemeanant-or-Pretrial-Detainee.aspx>.

²⁴ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/Convicted-Felon,-Misdemeanant-or-Pretrial-Detainee.aspx>.

²⁵ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(1).

²⁶ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(7).

²⁷ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(4).

13. THOUGHT THEY WERE REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll, but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?

Use the [Find Voter Registration Status](#) website to make sure the voter is registered to vote and is at the right place.

If the voter cannot find the voter's registration, consider the following:

- Did the voter recently move? Check old address to see if voter is still registered there.
- Did the voter's name change recently, or could the voter be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool.
- Did the voter register before the deadline?

Voters should only be removed from the voting list due to:²⁸

- The voter's request;
- The elections office receiving notice of the voter's death;
- Upon confirmation that the voter has moved to a residence outside the county; or
- Under a "voter removal program," which might remove a voter from the voter rolls based on (1) the voter's failure to respond to a notice requesting that the voter confirm that the voter lives in the district, and (2) the voter's failure to vote over two federal election cycles after receiving that notice.

Any voter whose name was properly removed from the voter registration list must re-register. If a voter thinks the voter was improperly removed from the voter registration list, the voter may vote using a provisional ballot. If the voter casts a provisional ballot at the wrong precinct/division, it should be counted as long as the voter lives in that county, is eligible to vote in the election, and did not intentionally vote in the wrong precinct/division but only those races that the voter would have been eligible to vote in the proper division will be counted.²⁹ The County Board of Elections has seven days to determine the validity of a provisional ballot.³⁰ The voter may check the status of the voter's provisional ballot after seven days at [check status of provisional ballot](#) or calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772). More information is available at [Voting by Provisional Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

What does it mean if my voter registration status is "inactive"?

A voter's registration may be "inactive" if the voter has not voted in a recent election and has failed to respond to a mailing from their county confirming their address. A voter can still vote if the voter is listed as inactive. When the voter goes to the voter's polling place on Election Day, the voter will be asked for identification and required to sign an affirmation confirming their address. Once the person votes, the voter's status will be changed back to active status.³¹

²⁸ 25 Pa. C.S.A. § 1901; see also <https://www.mcall.com/news/pennsylvania/mc-nws-voter-registration-purge-process-20180611-story.html>; and <https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/VotingElectionStatistics/Documents/Annual%20Reports%20on%20Voter%20Registration/2020-Annual-Voter-Registration-Report.pdf>, at 19

²⁹ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(7).

³⁰ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(4).

³¹ <https://www.votespa.com/Resources/Documents/PA-Voter-Registration-Guide.pdf>, at 21.

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in-person absentee voting)? When is it?

May 10, 2022 is the last day to vote early in-person for the May 17, 2022 Primary Election.

In Pennsylvania, early in-person voting is by mail-in ballot³² or absentee ballot. This means that while the voter does not vote on a voting machine, the voter can vote in-person early by going to the voter's [county election board](#), requesting a mail-in or absentee ballot, filling in the voter's choices, and returning it to the county election office, all in one visit.

With this option, there is no need to use the mail at all, and the voter can cast a vote at the voter's convenience. The voter should check the voter's [county's website or call the voter's county](#) to see if ballots are finalized and available. If ballots are available, the voter can go to the voter's county election board or other designated location in-person and apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot. The county will process the voter's application while the voter waits and, if the voter is eligible, the county will give the voter a ballot.

At the County Election Board or other designated location, the voter will:

1. Be provided with and submit a completed mail-in or absentee ballot application;
2. Wait for the completed application to be verified and processed (which will take a few minutes);
3. Receive the ballot and mark the ballot in either blue or black ink (just one color);
4. Seal the ballot in the white inner secrecy envelope — "official election ballot," making sure not to make any marks on the envelope. **The voter's ballot must be enclosed and sealed in the white inner secrecy envelope or it will not be counted;**
5. Seal the inner secrecy envelope inside the pre-addressed outer return envelope, which the voter must date and sign. **The voter must seal the ballot in both envelopes, or it will not be counted;**
6. Complete, sign, and date the voter's declaration on the outside of the outer return envelope. **If the voter does not sign and date the outer return envelope, the voter's ballot will not be counted;**
7. Hand in the ballot.³³

More information is available at [Voting early in-person by mail-in or absentee ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

³² While the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court struck down mail-in voting in February 2022, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has stayed that order while it considers the issue. Therefore, voters should be advised that vote by mail still exists in Pennsylvania at least for the May 2022 Primary.

³³ 25 P.S. § 3150.11, 25 P.S. § 3150.12; <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/pages/early-voting.aspx>.

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

No, a voter does not need a reason to vote early.³⁴

16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?

As soon as ballots are ready, a voter can cast a mail-in or absentee ballot by going to their county voter services office. Pennsylvania does not have true early voting. The voter should check the voter's county's website or call the voter's county to see if ballots are available. **May 10, 2022** is the last day to vote early in-person in the May 17, 2022 Primary Election.³⁵

More information is available at [Voting early in-person by mail-in or absentee ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

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

Voters in Pennsylvania can vote before Election Day through in-person mail-in voting at their [County Election Office or other Designated Location](#) in their county.³⁶

18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote early without providing identification?

To apply to vote by mail-in or absentee ballot in early voting, a voter must provide one of the following ID numbers:

- Current and valid PA driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card OR,
- If the voter does not have one of these documents, the last 4 digits of the voter's Social Security number

IF THE VOTER DOES NOT HAVE ONE OF THE ABOVE, the voter can provide a photocopy of one of the following that shows name, photo, and a current expiration date:

- US passport
- US military ID
- Employee photo ID issued by Federal, PA, PA county, or PA municipal government
- Photo ID from accredited PA public or private institute for higher education
- Photo ID from PA care facility including long-term care, assisted living and personal care homes³⁷

More information is available at [Identification for Mail Voting \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

³⁴ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Early-Voting.aspx>.

³⁵ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Early-Voting.aspx>.

³⁶ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Early-Voting.aspx>, See "Where do I vote early?"

³⁷ 25 P.S. § 2602(z.5(3))

<https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx#id-mail>.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE and/or VOTE BY MAIL

19. **AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee or mail-in ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?**

Pennsylvania³⁸ does not automatically provide an absentee or mail-in ballot for voters. Voters must request an absentee or mail-in ballot; however, voters can sign up to receive mail-in ballots for all elections in a single calendar year (see, [Annual Mail Ballot List](#) for more information).

With both types of ballots:

- The voter **must** be registered to vote;
- Applications must be received by the voter's [county election board](#) no later than **May 10, 2022 at 5 p.m.**³⁹

There are three ways to obtain either a mail-in or absentee ballot:

- [Online](#) – to apply online, the voter will need to provide:
 - Either a valid PA driver's license or PennDOT ID number, OR
 - If the voter does not have a PennDOT ID, the voter will need to provide the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, and:
 - Upload the voter's signature, or
 - Download and print the application and mail/bring it to the County Board of Elections.
 - If the voter does not have a valid PA driver's license or PennDOT ID number or a Social Security number, the voter will need to apply by mail or in-person following the below procedure.
- By Mail – the voter can either:
 - Download and complete a paper [mail-in](#) or [absentee](#) ballot application (applications are also available in Spanish: [mail-in](#) / [absentee](#)), OR
 - If the voter does not have a printer, the voter can either:
 - Complete the [online request form](#) to have a paper application mailed to the voter;
 - Contact the voter's [county election board](#) directly to request a paper application; or
 - Contact the Department of State to request an application by either calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) or by emailing ra-voterreg@pa.gov
 - NOTE: if the voter does not have a valid PA driver's license, PennDOT ID number, or Social Security number, the voter will have to send in the voter's application by mail and include a photo copy of one of the following that shows name, photo, and an expiration date that is current:

³⁸ While the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court struck down mail-in voting in February 2022, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has stayed that order while it considers the issue. Therefore, voters should be advised that vote by mail still exists in Pennsylvania.

³⁹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

- US passport
 - US military ID
 - Employee photo ID issued by Federal, PA, PA county, or PA municipal government
 - Photo ID from accredited PA public or private institute for higher education
 - Photo ID from PA care facility including long-term care, assisted living and personal care homes
- In-Person – the voter can apply in-person at the voter’s [county election board](#) or other designated location. The voter will have to include on the absentee or mail-in ballot application either (1) a current and valid PA driver’s license or PennDOT ID number, or if the voter does not have a PennDOT ID, (2) the last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number. If the voter does not have (1) or (2), the voter should provide a photo copy of one of the following that shows name, photo, and an expiration date that is current:
 - US passport
 - US military ID
 - Employee photo ID issued by Federal, PA, PA county, or PA municipal government
 - Photo ID from accredited PA public or private institute for higher education
 - Photo ID from PA care facility including long-term care, assisted living and personal care homes⁴⁰

More information is available at [Voting by Mail-In or Absentee Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee or mail-in ballot?

The deadline for applications for a mail-in or absentee ballot is **May 10, 2022 at 5 p.m.** The **application must be received by that time.** NOTE that this is only one week before the election. Given transit times, it is best to apply well before May 10th.⁴¹

If an emergency arises beyond the deadline, there are opportunities to apply for an emergency absentee ballot ([refer to Question below](#)).

More information is available at [Voting by Mail-In or Absentee Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot or mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

The voter can apply for an absentee ballot or a mail-in ballot online, here: [Ballot Request Application](#).

The voter may also return the voter’s application by mailing it to the voter’s [county election office](#).

Voters can also apply for, obtain, and submit a mail-in ballot in-person at their county election office or designated satellite office. The voter can find locations and hours here: [Where do I return my ballot or vote in person?](#) If the voter has a disability that prevents the voter from applying in

⁴⁰ 25 P.S. § 2602(z.5(3)); <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

⁴¹ 25 P.S. § 3146.2a; 25 P.S. § 3150.12a <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>, See “Deadlines for the May 17 Primary Election.”

person for a mail ballot, the voter may fill out a [Certification of Designated Agent form](#), which allows the voter to designate a representative, in writing, to deliver the application from the voter.⁴²

22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?

If the voter has not requested an absentee ballot by May 10, 2022, then the voter must vote in-person.

BUT, if the voter has an emergency and is unable to go to the polls at the last minute, the voter may submit an [Emergency Absentee Ballot Application](#) to the County Board of Elections **between 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2022 and 8:00 p.m. on Election Day**. Given the short window between filing the application and when the ballot must be submitted, the voter may also want to consider [authorizing a representative](#) to pick up and/or drop off the voter's ballot with the County Board of Elections.⁴³

More information is available at [Voting by Mail-In or Absentee Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?

While any voter can apply for a mail-in-ballot for ANY REASON,⁴⁴ only the following people may vote by absentee ballot, if they are registered to vote:⁴⁵

- Members of the military, regardless of whether or not the individual is present in the voter's municipality of residence on Election Day and regardless of whether the voter is registered or enrolled;
- Members of the Merchant Marines, religious or welfare groups officially attached to and serving with the armed forces, spouses and dependents of such individuals, and spouses and dependents of members of the military, provided, however, the individual is absent from the voter's municipality of residence on Election Day;
- A voter who is ill or physically disabled and unable to attend their polling place on Election Day;
- A voter who expects to be away from the voter's municipality of residence on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. because the voter's duties, occupation, or business requires the voter to be elsewhere;
- A county employee who will be unable to attend the polls due to Election Day obligations;
- A voter is unable to go to the polls on Election Day due to a religious holiday.

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

[Click here to check status of absentee or mail-in ballots.](#)

⁴² <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>, See "Third Party Ballot Delivery for Mail Voting;" see also [Certification of Designated Agent form](#), Page 2.

⁴³ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx#emergency%20absentee>.

⁴⁴ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

⁴⁵ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3146.1.

A voter may also call the voter's [County Election Officials](#).

25. APPLICATION REJECTED: I learned my absentee or mail-in-ballot application was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If the voter's application is rejected, the voter should contact the voter's [County Election Officials](#) to get more information.

The voter should check the [Ballot Tracking](#) website to see if the voter previously applied for a vote by mail or absentee ballot. In some counties, voters who are on the annual mail-in list or who have already applied for a mail-in ballot may receive notice that their ballot has been rejected if they try to reapply. It may be that only their duplicate request has been rejected.⁴⁶

The voter may reapply for another ballot. A county board of elections cannot decline the voter's application for a mail-in or absentee ballot without a bona fide objection to the mail-in or absentee ballot application.⁴⁷

26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee or mail-in ballot? Are there any identification requirements?

To complete the ballot, the voter must take the following steps:⁴⁸

- Read instructions and fill out the front and back of the ballot, using either blue or black ink.
- Seal the ballot in the inner envelope that says "official election ballot."
 - Be sure not to make any marks on the inner secrecy envelope. The voter's ballot MUST be enclosed and sealed in the inner secrecy envelope or it will not be counted.
- Seal the inner envelope within the outer envelope.
- Fill out the declaration on the outside of the outer envelope.
 - Sign and date the outer envelope – if the voter does not sign and date the declaration on the return envelope the ballot WILL NOT be counted.
- Mail in the ballot, leaving enough time for it to be received by May 17, 2022, **or** deliver it in-person to the [County Election Office or other Designated Location](#) in the voter's county by **May 17, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. The voted ballot cannot be returned to the voter's polling place.**

14. Identification is not needed for submitting an absentee or mail-in ballot. However, if the voter did not provide a PennDOT ID number or last 4 digits of their SSN on the application for an absentee or mail-in ballot then they will have to provide a copy of an acceptable photo ID.

19. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee or mail-in ballot or it is spoiled (i.e. ruined) or I received an incorrect one?

⁴⁶ See e.g., <https://www.montcopa.org/Faq.aspx?QID=575>.

⁴⁷ https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/Documents/PADOS_Act%2077_Absentee%20and%20Mail-in%20Guidance.pdf, at 3-4.

⁴⁸ <https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

The voter can ask the voter's county elections office to send the voter a new ballot and void the old one. If the voter finds or receives the original ballot, the voter must make sure not to use it as it will not be counted once it's been voided in the system.⁴⁹ If the voter received an incorrect ballot, the voter should not vote with it; the voter cannot return a ballot that does not belong to the voter.⁵⁰

If a mail-in or absentee ballot is spoiled (ruined) and there is not enough time to receive another ballot from the county elections office, or if the voter decides not to vote by the mail-in or absentee ballot, and instead to vote in-person, the voter can bring the ballot and the pre-addressed outer return envelope to the voter's polling place on Election Day to be voided. Best practice, however, to avoid confusion, is to bring the whole package (the ballot, the inner secrecy envelope, and the pre-addressed outer return envelope). After the voter surrenders the voter's original ballot and the return envelope to the Judge of Elections and signs an affirmation that the voter has not voted previously in the election, the voter will be permitted to vote a regular ballot.⁵¹

If the voter is not able to surrender the ballot that the voter received in the mail, the voter can only vote by provisional ballot, which is a paper ballot that is set aside and counted once it is clear that the voter is eligible to vote and has not already voted.⁵²

The County Board of Elections has seven days to determine the validity of a provisional ballot.⁵³ The voter may check the status of the voter's provisional ballot after seven days at [check status of provisional ballot](#) or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).

More information is available at [Voting by Provisional Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

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

If the voter is concerned that the ballot will not arrive in time or that it has gone missing, the voter can check the status of the ballot [here](#).

Pennsylvania voters who have not yet received their absentee or mail-in ballot and are worried that it will not arrive in time [can call or visit their county election office \(and in some counties at satellite election offices\)](#) and **ask that their ballot be cancelled and that they be reissued a new ballot**. Not all counties allow for this at satellite elections offices, but all of them should allow this at county elections offices.⁵⁴ If the voter finds or receives the original ballot, the voter must not use it as it will not be counted once it's been voided in the system.⁵⁵

⁴⁹ <https://www.inquirer.com/politics/election/ing/2020-election-pennsylvania-mail-in-person-voting-guide-20200918.html>.

⁵⁰ See, e.g., <https://www.montcopa.org/3523/I-Received-the-Wrong-Ballot>.

⁵¹ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3146.6(b)(3); § 3150.16(b)(3); see also <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>, see FAQ.

⁵² See, e.g., 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3146.6(b)(2); § 3150.16(b)(2).

⁵³ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(4).

⁵⁴ <https://www.inquirer.com/politics/election/pennsylvania-mail-ballot-havent-received-20201020.html>

⁵⁵ <https://www.inquirer.com/politics/election/ing/2020-election-pennsylvania-mail-in-person-voting-guide-20200918.html>.

If the voter has not received a requested mail-in or absentee ballot, the voter can vote at the voter's voting place, though if the county has a record of sending the voter a ballot, the county may provide the voter with a provisional ballot.⁵⁶

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

A voter who has received an absentee or mail-in ballot, but now wants to vote in-person on Election Day, should bring the ballot and the pre-addressed outer return envelope to the polling place, and the voter must have that ballot voided before the voter can vote in-person. Best practice, however, to avoid confusion, is to bring the whole package (the ballot, the inner secrecy envelope, and the pre-addressed outer return envelope).

If the voter is not able to provide the ballot and the return envelope that the voter received in the mail, the voter will only be permitted to vote on a provisional ballot, which is a paper ballot that is set aside and counted once it is clear the voter is eligible to vote.⁵⁷

The County Board of Elections has seven days to determine the validity of a provisional ballot.⁵⁸ The voter may check the status of the voter's provisional ballot after seven days at [check status of provisional ballot](#) or calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).

More information is available at [Voting by Provisional Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

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

The ballot must be **RECEIVED** by 8:00 p.m. on May 17, 2022, the day of the election.⁵⁹

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

A voter may return the voter's ballot to the voter's [County Election Office or other Designated Location](#) in the voter's county.⁶⁰

24. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?

If the voter has a disability that prevents the voter from returning the voter's ballot, the voter may fill out a [Certification of Designated Agent form](#) that allows the voter to name a person to return the voter's ballot. The form can also be used to designate an agent to submit a paper application for a mail-in or absentee ballot and obtain the mail-in or absentee ballot in-person on the voter's behalf.⁶¹

⁵⁶ See, e.g., 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3146.6(b)(2); § 3150.16(b)(2).

⁵⁷ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>, see FAQ.

⁵⁸ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(4).

⁵⁹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

⁶⁰ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

⁶¹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>, See "Third Party Ballot Delivery for Mail Voting;" see also [Certification of Designated Agent form](#), Page 2.

- An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered. [Click Here for DOJ's Guide To Disability Right Laws](#).

25. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?

In Pennsylvania, early in-person voting is by mail-in ballot⁶² or absentee ballot. This means that while the voter does not vote on a voting machine, the voter can vote in-person early by going to the voter's [county election board](#), requesting a mail-in or absentee ballot, filling in the voter's choices, and returning it to the county election office, all in one visit. Refer to Question 14 above.

Otherwise, the voter can return the voter's absentee ballot by mail or the voter may deliver it in-person to the voter's [County Election Office or other Designated Location](#) in the voter's county.

For in-person drop-off, the voter must complete the ballot and submit it to the County Board of Elections in-person or through a drop-box or other designated location, and the board must actually receive the ballot by 8:00 p.m. on May 17, 2022.

For return by mail, the voter should complete the ballot and mail it to the County Board of Elections, making sure that it is mailed with enough time to be received by the County Board of Elections by 8:00 p.m. on May 17, 2022.⁶³

ALL MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE SUBMITTED INSIDE THE INNER SECURITY ENVELOPE OR THEY WILL NOT BE COUNTED.⁶⁴

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. A voter in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.⁶⁵ Voters may line up prior to 7:00 a.m.⁶⁶

⁶² While the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court struck down mail-in voting in February 2022, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has stayed that order while it considers the issue. Therefore, voters should be advised that vote by mail still exists in Pennsylvania at least for the May 2022 Primary.

⁶³ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

⁶⁴ Pa. Democratic Party v. Boockvar, 238 A.3d 345, 380 (Pa. 2020).

⁶⁵ <https://www.pa.gov/guides/voting-and-elections/#VotingataPollingPlace>.

⁶⁶ Confirmed with state on March 8, 2022, via phone call (1-877-VOTESPA).

***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.

More information is available at [Voting in Pennsylvania](#) (click on Vote at the Polls).

35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

Polling locations often change. Check [here](#) to find the voter's polling place.

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated the voter's registration, refer to [Questions #6 and 7](#).

More information is available at [Voting at a Polling Place \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?

Pennsylvania voters only have to show identification if they are voting for the first time or if they have not previously voted in their current election district.

Any of the following forms of photo ID are acceptable:

- Pennsylvania driver's license;
- PennDOT ID card;
- ID issued by any Commonwealth agency;
- ID issued by the U.S. Government;
- U.S. Passport;
- U.S. Armed Forces ID;
- Student ID; or
- Employee ID.

If voters do not have photo ID, they can also present a document that includes their name and address. These include:

- Registration confirmation issued by the County Voter Registration Office (voter registration card);
- Firearm permit;
- Current utility bill;
- Current bank statement;
- Current paycheck;
- Government check;
- Non-photo ID issued by the Commonwealth; or
- Non-photo ID issued by the U.S. Government.⁶⁷

More information is available at [Voter ID for First Time Voters \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

⁶⁷ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/Voter-ID-for-First-Time-Voters.aspx>.

A first-time voter who does not have proper ID can vote a provisional ballot.⁶⁸ The provisional ballot will not be counted unless the voter submits proof of identification and/or an affirmation affirming, under penalty of perjury, that the voter is the same individual who cast the provisional ballot, to the county election office within 6 days of Election Day, either in person, via email, or via fax.⁶⁹

The County Board of Elections has seven days to determine the validity of a provisional ballot.⁷⁰ The voter may check the status of the voter's provisional ballot after seven days at [check status of provisional ballot](#) or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).

More information is available at [Voting by Provisional Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

Urge voters to stay in line or to return later in the day.

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

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

A voter who is in line when the polling place closes at 8 p.m. must be allowed to vote.⁷¹

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

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

In most counties (47) in Pennsylvania voters cast their vote on pre-printed ballots. If the scanners in these counties are malfunctioning, voters can still mark their ballots and there is no need for emergency ballots. Voters should be permitted to continue to mark their ballots. The poll worker should insert those ballots in a special slot for tabulating when the scanner is working.

⁶⁸ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4).

⁶⁹ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(5)(ii)(D)-(E).

⁷⁰ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Voting-by-Provisional-Ballot.aspx>.

⁷¹ <https://www.pa.gov/guides/voting-and-elections/#VotingataPollingPlace>.

In the other 20 counties⁷², equipment failure may or may not mean that voters cannot mark their ballots; more than likely they won't be able to mark ballots and emergency paper ballots will be necessary.

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

40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

If there are rules in effect at the time of the Election, the voter may fill out an [Online Complaint Form](#) and/or call the state election number: 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) (interpreters available).

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

Yes. Any voter may request instructions on how to operate the voting machine from poll workers before or after entering the voting machine booth but before the voter closes the booth.⁷³

Voters who would like information about using the machines in their county can find information about their county's equipment here: [Voting System Demos](#).

42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Some polling places are accessible to those with disabilities.

- If a voter lives in the City of **Philadelphia**, the voter can check [here](#) to see if the voter's polling place is fully accessible (most are not).
- For those **outside of Philadelphia**, click [here](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn an inaccessible polling place, document the issue clearly in the ticket and notify your captain.

If a voter is over 65 or has a disability, the voter can bring someone to help the voter. The person **cannot** be:

- A Judge of Elections
- A union representative
- The voter's employer⁷⁴

⁷² Berks, Bradford, Cameron, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Elk, Forest, Greene, Luzerne, McKean, Northampton, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Potter, Susquehanna, Union, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland

⁷³ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3056(a)-(b).

⁷⁴ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Accessible-Voting.aspx>.

The first time a voter has someone help the voter, the voter will need to fill out a [Declaration of Need of Assistance](#).

If a voter over 65 or with a disability is assigned to a polling place deemed inaccessible by the County Board of Elections, the voter may also vote by absentee or “alternative” ballot.⁷⁵ The voter must be:

- Registered to vote and assigned to a polling place that the voter’s county board of elections says is not accessible, and
- Has a disability or is 65 years of age or older, regardless of disability status.⁷⁶

The Board of Election must receive a [request for an alternative ballot](#) by 5 p.m. on May 10, 2022.⁷⁷ However, a disabled or elderly voter may make an [emergency application](#) for alternative ballot at any time until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Both application forms are available using the links above or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).⁷⁸

Pennsylvania also offers [Accessible Remote Ballot Marking Solution for Mail Voting](#), which will allow registered voters who use screen readers and assistive devices to vote a mail ballot privately and independently.⁷⁹

If the voter is ill or permanently disabled, and the voter’s attending physician certifies that the voter is physically unable to go to the voter’s polling place or operate a voting machine, then the voter may apply to be on the annual absentee ballot list by filling out the “Certificate of Permanent Illness or Permanent Physical Disability” at the bottom of the [Absentee Ballot Application](#) as shown below. The voter will then receive an absentee ballot for every election that year and an application to renew the request each year.⁸⁰ Once the physician’s certification is obtained, the voter does not need to obtain a physician’s certification with each application.

Annual absentee request <small>See "What is an annual absentee ballot request?" for more information.</small>	C1	If you would like to receive absentee ballots for the remainder of this year and if you would like to automatically receive an annual application to automatically receive absentee ballots each year, please indicate below. <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive absentee ballots this year and receive annual applications for absentee ballots each year. <small>(Please have your physician sign the certification in Section C2.)</small>
Certificate of permanent illness or permanent physical disability <small>Have your physician sign this certification if you indicated you would like to be an annual absentee voter in section C1.</small>	C2	I hereby certify that the above named voter is permanently disabled, and either physically unable to attend the polls or physically unable both to operate a voting machine (or mark the ballot) and to orally request assistance to do so. Signature of physician X Print physician name Date

⁷⁵ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3146.2; Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, 52 U.S.C. § 201 formerly U.S.C. §§ 1973ee-1–6.

⁷⁶ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Alternative-Ballot.aspx>.

⁷⁷ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Alternative-Ballot.aspx>.

⁷⁸ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3146.2a; Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, 52 U.S.C. § 201 formerly 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973ee-1–6; *see, e.g.*, N.A.A.C.P. v. Philadelphia Bd. of Elections, No. CIV. A. 97-7085, 1998 WL 321253 (E.D. Pa. 1998) (explaining that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has instituted the process of voting by “alternative ballot” to comply with the provisions of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act).

⁷⁹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/voting-in-PA/Pages/Accessible-Remote-Ballot-Marking-Solution-for-Mail-Voting.aspx>.

⁸⁰ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3146.2(e)(2)(e.1).

More information is available at [Accessible Voting \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

43. 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?

Yes. A voter who is blind, disabled or illiterate may select a person of the voter's choice (except the judge of elections, the voter's employer or an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union) to enter the voting machine booth with the voter to assist the voter in voting. If information about the voter's disability is not recorded on the voter's registration record, the voter will have to fill out a [Declaration of Need of Assistance](#), at the polling place.⁸¹

More information is available at [Accessible Voting for Citizens with a Disability \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act also guarantees a voter the right to have an assistor of choice in the voting booth who can provide language interpretation and translation.⁸²

Under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, Philadelphia, Lehigh and Berks Counties must provide all voting materials, including ballots, instructions, signage and other times in both English and Spanish.⁸³

Philadelphia must also provide voting materials in simplified and traditional Chinese.

44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?

Pennsylvania does not permit curbside voting.⁸⁴ Voters should utilize absentee or mail-in voting to avoid in-person voting.

45. CAMPAIGNING: What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?

No individual is permitted to campaign within 10 feet of the door an active polling place.⁸⁵ Examples of prohibited behavior include, but are not limited to, attempting to solicit, persuade, or influence any voter/person within 10 feet of the entranceway of an active polling site. Voters are allowed to wear shirts and campaign buttons that show support for a candidate without

⁸¹ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3058.

⁸² 52 U.S.C.A. § 10508

⁸³ 52 U.S.C.A. § 10503

⁸⁴ Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of State, Procedures to Assure Compliance with the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act and Other Laws Assuring the Voting Rights of Individuals with Disabilities and Language Needs, §4(c), <https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Documents/Elections%20Division/Administration/Voting%20Procedures%20for%20the%20Elderly%20and%20Handicapped.pdf>.

⁸⁵ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3060(d).

violating this statute. Campaign literature is not permitted in the polling place and poll workers should remove any that has been left behind.⁸⁶

46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?

Poll watchers, poll workers, or any voter present in the precinct, may challenge a voter's right to vote if they (a) believe the voter falsified the voter's identity, or (b) believe the voter is not a resident of the precinct. These are the only 2 grounds for challenge on Election Day. Further, if a poll worker, upon comparison of the voter's signature in the poll book deems it not authentic, the voter is considered challenged as to identity. If the Judge of Elections is satisfied with the voter's identity or residence, the voter may vote normally. If not, the voter has two options:⁸⁷

- Have another voter from the precinct sign an affidavit vouching for the voter
- Vote provisionally

More information is available at [Guidance Concerning Poll Watchers and Authorized Representatives \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you are on the phone with someone whose vote is being challenged, raise this to your hotline captain immediately. **Please make note of multiple challenges in a precinct especially if only a distinct category of voter is challenged, all Black voters, all students, etc.**

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

Generally, the police and military are not allowed within 100 feet of a polling place unless they are voting themselves. Additionally, police officers may be within 100 feet of a polling place if they are serving warrants, are called upon to clear the path for voting or quell any disturbance, or are headquartered in the same building as the polling location (which shall be in a separate room).⁸⁸

If a voter believes this statute has been violated, the voter may [file an election complaint](#) and/or call the state election number: 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) (interpreters available).

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

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

A voter should only be offered a provisional ballot for one of the following reasons:

- The voter's name was not in the poll book or supplemental poll book.

⁸⁶ See Letter dated Sept. 4, 2008 from Chet Harhut, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation to County Boards of Election, <https://www.aclupa.org/sites/default/files/legacy/7714/1442/1550/PassiveElectioneering.pdf>.

⁸⁷ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.2)(2), (d).

⁸⁸ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3047.

- For example, the voter reported to the wrong precinct; or
- The voter did not report a recent change in residence to the county election office.
- The voter is required to show ID, but cannot show ID.
- The voter's identity or residence was challenged by an election official.
- The voter was issued but did not successfully vote an absentee or mail-in ballot and the voter did not surrender the voter's ballot at the polling place to be spoiled.
- The voter returned a completed absentee or mail-in ballot that was rejected by the county board of elections and the voter believes the voter is eligible to vote.
- There is a special court order with respect to the voter's registration status.
- There is a special court order related to extending the hours of voting.
- The voter believes that the voter is registered in a political party, but the voter's voter record indicates otherwise (for primary elections only).

The voter should ask the poll worker if any additional steps will be needed to make sure the ballot is counted. If the voter was not registered, the provisional ballot will not be counted. If the voter was eligible to vote but not at the election district where the ballot was cast, the county board of elections will only count that portion of the ballot that the voter would have been eligible to vote in their proper election district.⁸⁹

The County Board of Elections has seven days to determine the validity of a provisional ballot.⁹⁰ The voter may check the status of the voter's provisional ballot after seven days at [check status of provisional ballot](#) or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).

More information is available at [Voting by Provisional Ballot \(vote.pa.gov\)](#).

QUESTIONS

49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Call 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) for official answers from the Pennsylvania Department of State (interpreters available).⁹¹

⁸⁹ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050

⁹⁰ 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 3050(a.4)(4).

⁹¹ <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Pages/Contact-us.aspx>.