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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1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Colorado Secretary of State’s website: [www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com). In the event that a voter is not registered to vote, the voter can register online at the same website or by completing the paper registration form.1

2. Where do I vote?

Voters can vote a few different ways. Every active registered voter should receive a mail ballot delivered to the mailing address they have on file with the Secretary of State. Ballots for the 2020 presidential primary election will be mailed beginning February 10; ballots for the June 30 state primary will be mailed beginning June 8; ballots for the November 3 general election will be mailed beginning October 9.2

  a. Voters can mail their voted ballot using the return envelope provided (postage is required).
  b. Voters can go in-person to a designated drop-off location and deposit their voted ballot. Voters may also give their ballot to a third-party to deposit at a drop-off location. To find a drop-off location, visit: [https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml](https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml).
c. Voters can go in-person to a designated Voter Service and Polling Center (“VSPC”) and deposit their voted ballot. Voters may also give their ballot to a third-party to deliver to a VSPC. To find a VSPC, visit: https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml.

d. If voters want to vote in-person, they can go to a VSPC in their county beginning on February 24 and do so. Go to https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml to find the nearest VSPC location.  

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration address, see Question #6.

3. When do the polls open and close?

Every county is required to have a certain number of Voter Service and Polling Centers (“VSPCs”). Prior to Election Day, the number of VSPCs and ballot drop boxes in a particular county may vary, and the hours that VSPCs are open may vary. 

Visit https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml, to verify locations and operating hours.

On Election Day, VSPCs must be open continuously from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. A VSPC must remain open after 7:00 p.m. until every eligible voter who was at that VSPC at or before 7:00 p.m. has been allowed to vote, however, any voter arriving after 7:00 p.m. will not be entitled to vote.

If you are a field volunteer at a VSPC and it is not open at the correct time, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a VSPC prohibits those who were in line at or before 7:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the VSPC and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

For a voter to receive a mail ballot, the voter should do one of the following:

a. Register to vote or update their voter registration online at www.govotecolorado.com through February 24;

b. Submit an application through the mail, at a voter registration agency, or at a local driver’s license examination facility through February 24;

c. Submit an application through a voter registration drive no later than February10.

If a voter has missed the above deadlines, the voter may appear in person at a Voter Service and Polling Center in their county through Election Day where they can register to vote and then vote in person or pick up a ballot.  

Visit https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html to find the location and hours of the VSPC near you.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

All voters who vote in person must provide identification. Voters voting by mail for the first time who did not register online or show an ID when they registered must provide a photocopy of their identification with their mail ballot. If you receive a mail ballot and you are required to provide a photocopy of your ID, the ballot will be marked to indicate this requirement.
A voter who is unable to provide a valid form of identification is still entitled to cast a provisional ballot.10

Acceptable forms of identification include:

- A valid Colorado driver’s license;
- A valid identification card issued by the Colorado Department of Revenue (except for cards issued to not lawfully present and temporarily lawfully present individuals);
- A valid U.S. passport;
- A valid employee identification card with a photograph of the voter issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. government or of Colorado, or by any county, municipality, board, authority, or other political subdivision of Colorado;
- A valid pilot’s license issued by the FAA or other authorized agency of the U.S.;
- A valid U.S. military identification card with a photograph of the voter;
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. “Current” means dated within 60 days of the date submitted unless the document states a longer billing cycle;
- A certificate of degree of Indian or Alaskan Native blood;
- A valid Medicare or Medicaid card issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly the U. S. Health Care Financing Administration);
- A certified copy of a birth certificate for the voter issued in the U.S.;
- Certified documentation of naturalization;
- A valid student identification card with a photograph of the eligible voter issued by an institute of higher education in Colorado;
- A valid veteran identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans’ Health Administration with a photograph of the voter;
- A valid ID card issued by a federally recognized tribal government certifying tribal membership;
- Verification that a voter is a person committed to the Colorado Department of Human Services and is eligible to register and vote;
- A letter from the director or administrator of a group residential facility indicating that the voter resides at the facility and at the street address listed in the voter registration database; or
- Written correspondence from the county sheriff or their designee to the county clerk indicating that the elector is confined in a county jail or detention facility (see Question #10).11

If the identification shows an address, it must show a Colorado address.12

6. I have moved and didn’t update my voter registration. Can I still vote?

Yes. A voter can still receive a mail ballot if they update their registration online at www.govotecolorado.com, (if they have a Colorado driver’s license or ID card) or by mail by the 8th day before Election Day (February 24 is the deadline for the March 3rd primary; June 22 is the deadline for the June 30 state primary; October 26 is the deadline for the November 3 general election).13 Voters can also change their address in person at any Voter Service and Polling Center (“VSPC”) in the voter’s new county of residence up to and on Election Day, although they will not receive a mail ballot, they can vote in person when registering at the VSPC.14 Visit https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html to find a VSPC in your county and to verify its hours.

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my Voter Service and Polling Center?
Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. If the problem cannot be fixed in a timely manner, a voter should ask if a provisional ballot is available as a backup option. Because voters can vote at any Voter Service and Polling Center in their county, it is also possible to direct the voter to another location in the county. If you are a hotline volunteer or field volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly, notify your hotline captain, who will notify a voting machine expert or speak with election officials.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the Voter Service and Polling Center. Can I vote where I am?

Yes, as long as the voter resides in the county where the Voter Service and Polling Center (“VSPC”) is located. Any eligible voter whose name is not in the statewide voter registration database when they arrive at a VSPC in their county is entitled to register to vote there and can vote a regular ballot.

9. My name isn’t showing up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

If you were removed from the list of registered voters but you are eligible to register to vote, you can register to vote at any Voter Service and Polling Center in the county where you live up to and on Election Day.

The Colorado Secretary of State maintains the master list of registered voters of the entire state on as current a basis as is possible. Pursuant to list maintenance, the Secretary of State may remove voters on notification of their death or felony conviction.

To help determine why a voter’s name is not showing up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place (see Question #1).
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool (see Question #1 and Question #6).
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they 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 #1).

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

It depends. In Colorado, it is illegal to register to vote or cast a vote while serving a sentence of detention or confinement in a correctional facility, jail, or other location (which may include DOC inmate status, living in a community corrections halfway house or on non-residential status) for a felony conviction. However, a voter has the right to vote after having served a sentence of detention or confinement. In 2019, Colorado amended its election laws so that an individual serving a sentence of parole is eligible to register to vote and to vote in any election. If a voter was previously registered, that registration will have been canceled and they must re-register to vote. An individual currently serving a sentence in jail for a misdemeanor, being held in jail prior to trial on misdemeanor or felony charges, serving a sentence of parole for a misdemeanor or felony, or on probation for a misdemeanor or felony can register and vote.

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?
Provisional ballots ensure that no voter is turned away from the polls, and as a general principle no voter shall be denied the right to cast a provisional ballot. However, a provisional ballot should be a last resort. The most common reasons provisional ballots may be offered to a voter are:

- The voter is not in their county of residence;
- The statewide voter registration system shows that the voter already voted in the election, or the registration status of a voter claiming to be properly registered cannot be immediately established at the Voter Service and Polling Center; or
- The voter did not present a form of approved identification.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. If the voter casts a provisional ballot remind them to ask the poll worker if any additional steps will be needed to make sure the ballot is counted. If the voter completes the provisional ballot affidavit and their eligibility to vote is confirmed, the provisional ballot should be counted. The election judge is required to give the voter a receipt when they cast a provisional ballot. Typically, provisional ballots are verified and counted after regular ballots.

12. I am a college student. Can I vote where I go to school?

Students have the right to register to vote at the location where they go to school if they consider their school address in Colorado to be their primary home - the place that for the time being they return to after a departure or absence. However, if students do not consider the school address to be their primary home, then they should register to vote at the location that is their primary home. Note that if students register to vote in Colorado, they cannot claim residency in any other state.

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. Accessible voting machines are required to be available at every Voter Service and Polling Center (“VSPC”). In addition, all VSPCs are required to be located in buildings that are accessible for voters with disabilities.

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. A voter that needs assistance due to a disability, the inability to read or write, or difficulties with the English language should inform an election judge that they will be unable to vote without assistance. Once the voter asks for help, they are entitled to assistance from an election judge or a person of the voter’s choosing. In 2019, Colorado enacted SB 19-202 which requires the secretary of state to establish procedures to enable voters with disabilities to independently mark a ballot or use an electronic voting device that produces a paper record using nonvisual access or low vision access technology whether the voter is voting in a mail ballot election or voting at a polling location.

15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. Any voter that does not know how to use the voting equipment can ask an election judge for help. The election judge can give the voter instructions for using the voting equipment but cannot enter the immediate voting area to provide assistance unless the voter elects to receive help with their ballot (see Question #14).

16. Can I vote by mail or in person before Election Day?
Yes. Mail ballots are sent out to every registered active voter; there is no need to request one. If a person is not registered to vote, they must submit their registration by 8 days before the election (February 24 is the deadline for the March 3rd primary; June 22 is the deadline for the June 30 state primary; October 26 is the deadline for the November 3 general election), ballots must be received by Election Day by the later of 7:00 p.m. or when the polls close (see Question 3). 

Alternatively, if the voter wants to vote in person at a Voter Service and Polling Center, they are open starting eight days before the election (see Question 3). Visit https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/home.xhtml to find information for the operating hours in specific counties.


17. What if I received a mail ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

The voter should go to a Voter Service and Polling Center (“VSPC”) in their county and indicate that they want to vote in person. The voter does not need to physically bring in the mail ballot that they received. As long as the voter has not voted the mail ballot, they will be entitled to vote in person at the VSPC. Visit https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html to find a VSPC in your county and to verify its hours. Voters must show ID to vote in person (see Question #5).

18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?

Yes, voters can register up to and on Election Day (see Question #4). Voters can register to vote on Election Day at any Voter Service and Polling Center in their county, but they must bring valid identification (see Question #5).

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Electioneering includes campaigning for or against any candidate who is on the ballot or any ballot issue or ballot question that is on the ballot, and soliciting signatures for a candidate petition, a recall petition, or a petition to place a ballot issue or ballot question on a subsequent ballot. It is prohibited within polling places and within 100 feet of them on Election Day or other time when voting is permitted for any election.

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Voters may only be challenged in writing (which should set forth the name of the person challenged and the specific factual basis for the challenge, and shall be signed by the challenger under the penalty of perjury in the second degree). After receiving the challenge, the designated election official may ask questions regarding the eligibility of the voter; the voter will be given a regular ballot if they affirm their eligibility and sign an oath. If a voter whose right to vote is challenged refuses to answer the questions asked or take the prescribed oath, the person shall be offered a provisional ballot.
21. Can I vote in the primary election?

Colorado will hold a presidential primary election on March 3, 2020. The presidential primary election in Colorado will be “semi-closed” meaning that voters affiliated with a party will be eligible to vote for candidates in their party while unaffiliated voters will be eligible to vote for a candidate in any one party’s election. Voters affiliated with a major party may cast a ballot for candidates of the party they are affiliated with.

Most unaffiliated voters will receive the ballots of both major political parties during a primary election. This allows an unaffiliated voter to choose which party’s primary they will vote in. An unaffiliated voter may only return one party’s ballot. If an unaffiliated voter returns a ballot with more than one political party, the ballot will be rejected and none of the votes will be counted.

Every person who is seventeen years of age on the date of the Presidential primary election and who will be eighteen years of age on the date of the next general election is entitled to vote in the presidential primary election. Like other elections, voters will receive a ballot in the mail. 42