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?

A voter can determine whether he or she is registered to vote by checking the Oklahoma State Election Board website and searching the Online Voter Tool: [https://services.okelections.us/voterSearch.aspx](https://services.okelections.us/voterSearch.aspx).

2. Where do I vote?

A voter can determine his or her proper polling place by checking the Oklahoma State Election Board website and searching the Online Voter Tool: [https://services.okelections.us/voterSearch.aspx](https://services.okelections.us/voterSearch.aspx).

If a voter has recently moved and has not updated his or her voter registration, refer to Question 6.

3. When do the polls open and close?

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Any voter who is in line by 7:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.
If you are a hotline or field volunteer and you learn that a polling place is not open at 7:00 a.m., or that it is closing before those who were in line at 7:00 p.m. have voted, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain or command center.

4. **When is/was the voter registration deadline?**

Voters must submit a voter registration application at least 25 calendar days prior to the election. Therefore, the last day to postmark or submit an application electronically for the general election is October 9, 2020. The last day to postmark or submit an application electronically for the Presidential Preference Primary election is February 7, 2020. The last day to postmark or submit an application electronically for the state primary election is June 5, 2020.

If the voter will turn 18 during the 60 days before an election, he/she may register between 24 and 60 days before the election.

5. **Can I vote without providing identification?**

Oklahoma law requires all registered voters to prove their identity before voting in-person at their polling place on Election Day or during early voting at their County Election Board Office. Either a valid photo identification (described below) or a County Election Board Voter Identification Card will suffice. Those voters who do not provide the requisite identification may vote by provisional ballot as set forth below. If possible, a voter should be encouraged to go and get acceptable identification and NOT cast a provisional ballot.

**Photo Identification:**
To be valid, the photo identification must satisfy all of the following:

- Show the name of the person to whom the document was issued, and the name “substantially conforms” to the name in the Precinct Registry;
- Show a photograph of the person;
- Not be expired (identification that never expires is valid); and
- Be issued by the United States, the State of Oklahoma, or a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation.

Valid forms of photo identification include but are not limited to:

- Oklahoma Driver License
- Oklahoma Nondriver ID
- Tribal Membership Card
- US Passport
- US Military ID

**Voter Identification Card:**
Voters may use the voter identification card they received by mail from their County Election Board when they registered to vote, so long as the name on the card “substantially conforms” to the name in the precinct registry. This card can be used even though it does not include a photograph or an expiration date.

**Affidavit With Provisional Ballot:**
If a voter does not have or refuses to show proof of identity, he or she may vote by provisional ballot and prove his/her identity by signing a sworn affidavit. Note that a provisional ballot will only be counted if it is cast in the precinct of the voter’s residence and if evidence of the voter’s valid voter registration and identity is found. The provisional ballot for an individual who has not shown proof of identity will be counted if: (1) the voter’s name on the affidavit substantially conforms to the voter’s name in the voter registration database, (2) the voter’s address substantially conforms to the address in the voter registration database, (3) the voter’s birth date matches the information in the voter registration database, and (4) the voter’s driver’s license number and last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number match the information in the voter registration database (unless this information was not provided upon registration, in which case this requirement will not apply). If the voter has legally changed his/her name or address prior to voting, and has not updated that information in the voter registry, the voter may note these facts on the affidavit and simultaneously submit a form to update his/her voter registration information to reflect these changes. The ballot will be counted if the voter’s previous name and/or address can be verified through the steps above.

6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

If the voter has not updated his/her voter registration with the new address, the voter will be permitted to vote the ballot of the precinct where he/she is registered (the old address) for one last time, but will be required to update his/her voter registration to reflect the new address and to vote at the new precinct in any future elections.

Upon executing a form to update his/her new address and presenting that form to either the inspector of the precinct in which the voter is registered (the old address) or to a member of an in-person absentee voting board of the county where the voter is registered, the voter will be permitted to vote a regular ballot in the precinct where he/she is registered (the old address). The updated registration form may be presented at the same time the voter appears for in-person voting.

A voter who has moved can also vote by mail. When applying for the absentee ballot, the voter must include his/her old address under which he/she is currently registered in order to qualify for the absentee ballot, but should request that the ballot be sent to his/her new address. The absentee ballot sent to the voter will be the one for the old precinct.

As of September 10, 2018, registered voters may update their registration information online using the Online Voter Registration tool: (https://services.okelections.us/VoterAppChange). Address changes may only be made if: (1) both the old address and the new address are in the same county and (2) an actual street name is used (i.e. no PO boxes, rural routes or freeform addresses). Changes to a voter’s name cannot be made online. A paper form must be used for a new registration, a name change or a change to an address that crosses a county line or is a rural route.

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the poll workers if the voting equipment breaks down. All ballots are on paper and are scanned using machines. If the machines malfunction, the poll workers should put out emergency bins to collect the paper ballots.

If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain, who will contact the relevant elections officials. If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify the command center, which will contact the relevant elections officials.
8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

A poll worker will check to see if the voter is registered.\textsuperscript{13} If the poll worker tells a voter that he or she cannot vote, the voter should inquire as to the reason. Make sure the poll worker checks the full list of voters and not just the one for that precinct.

If the poll worker says the voter is not eligible to vote in that precinct, a voter who thinks he or she is eligible may vote using a provisional ballot after executing an affidavit.\textsuperscript{14} For the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter must also satisfy the identification requirements outlined in Question 5. After Election Day, County Election Board officials will investigate the information provided by the voter on the affidavit and either will approve the provisional ballot for counting or will reject it based on the outcome of that investigation.\textsuperscript{15} A provisional ballot will only be counted if it is cast in the precinct of the voter’s residence (unless the voter has recently moved, in which case see Question 6) and if the provisional voter’s valid voter registration and identity are confirmed.\textsuperscript{16} Hotline volunteers should therefore try to verify that the voter is in the correct precinct. Because the provisional ballot may not be counted, the voter should consider going to court for an order permitting him or her to vote if the voter believes that he or she is – or should have been – duly registered.

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

A voter can voluntarily remove his or her name from the registration database by submitting a written request.\textsuperscript{17} A registration may also be cancelled due to death, a felony conviction, judicial determination of mental incapacitation, or registration in another county or state.\textsuperscript{18} A voter who has been designated as an “inactive voter” due to a failure to respond to a confirmation mailing may also have his/her registration cancelled if he/she fails to vote in two successive federal elections following the date of the confirmation mailing.\textsuperscript{19}

Any voter whose name was removed from a county’s voter registration list on the basis of a determination of ineligibility but who subsequently becomes eligible to vote will have to re-register.\textsuperscript{20}

Note that one can take steps to help determine why a voter’s name is not appearing on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure he/she is registered to vote and at the right polling place. (See Question 1)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could he/she be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See Question 1 and 6)
- Has the voter changed his/her name recently, or could he/she 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)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

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

Persons convicted of a felony are ineligible to vote for a period of time equal to the time prescribed in their judgment and sentence.\textsuperscript{21} This ineligibility period runs for the entire length of the sentence, regardless of suspension of the sentence or parole. For example, “[a] person convicted of a felony and sentenced to five years, with the sentence suspended, may not register for five years. A person convicted of a felony and sentenced to ten years and who is paroled after serving only three years may not become a registered voter for ten years.”\textsuperscript{22}
However, persons convicted of a felony, but who have received a deferred sentence, may register to vote so long as they are otherwise qualified. A person with a felony conviction is also eligible to register to vote after receiving a full pardon.

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- The voter’s name is not on the list of eligible voters for the polling place in which he or she is seeking to vote, and his or her registration cannot be verified while at the polling place;
- The voter does not have proper identification;
- A federal or state court order extends the time for closing the polls beyond that established by state law and the voter votes during the extended period of time; or
- Records indicate that the voter previously voted by mail or on an earlier day, but the voter denies having done so.

Lastly, a voter who is unregistered but is eligible to register and is a resident of a precinct, and who furnishes proof of identity (see Question 5 above), can vote a provisional ballot upon executing an affidavit certifying that the voter (1) was honorably discharged from the armed forces and returned home 90 days or less before the election, (2) is on authorized leave from the armed forces and returned home 90 days or less before the election, (3) was terminated or is on leave from his or her employment overseas and returned home 90 days or less before the election, or (4) the person is a spouse or dependent of someone meeting one of the above criteria.

A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, the voter should ask the poll worker if any additional steps will be needed to make sure the ballot is counted.

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

Yes, a college student may vote where he/she attends school if that is the voter’s legal residence and the voter meets all the other eligibility requirements imposed upon Oklahoma residents. So long as a student intends for his or her school residence to be his or her home, and intends to stay there for the time being, the student can register to vote at that address.

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

Yes. Polling places should be made accessible for elderly and disabled voters. If, however, an elderly or disabled voter is assigned to a polling place that he/she knows will be inaccessible, that voter may request, in advance of the election, to be assigned to an accessible polling place.

If the voter can reach the location of the polling place, but is unable to enter the election enclosure due to a disability or infirmity other than visual impairment, he or she will be provided with assistance to enable the voter to cast his or her vote. The voter must swear under oath to the inspector that the voter is physically disabled and needs assistance. Two members of the precinct election board (one of each political party) will give the voter any assistance the voter needs. The election officials must give the voter as much privacy as possible.

If a voter cannot reach his or her polling place, the voter may vote by mail. See Question 16 below for information regarding mail-in ballots.
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. Any voter who needs assistance due to physical disabilities, visual impairments, or the inability to read, is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union, mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking his or her choices on the ballot. The voter must swear that assistance is required and the person providing assistance must swear that the voter’s ballots are being voted in accordance with the voter’s wishes.34

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

Yes. Although voting procedures will vary depending on the type of equipment used at the polling place, instructions on how to use the voting equipment should be posted outside each polling place and inside each voting booth.35

As explained in Question 14, further assistance is available for:

- Voters who have physical disabilities and are unable to mark their own ballots
- Voters who have visual impairments
- Voters who have physical disabilities or infirmities and are unable to enter the polling place
- Voters who cannot read36

Also, poll workers may provide information on voting procedures at a voter’s request. However, poll workers are not allowed to tell a citizen for whom to vote or to attempt to influence a voter’s choices.

Oklahoma law prohibits voters who are not receiving assistance from remaining in the voting booth more than five (5) minutes if other voters are waiting. It prohibits any voter, regardless of whether he or she is receiving assistance, from remaining in the voting booth for more than ten (10) minutes.37 However, federal law prohibiting discrimination against voters with disabilities may override this restriction as applied to voters who need more time because of their disabilities.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before election day?

Early Voting
Oklahoma has early voting options. Voters can vote at the County Election Board Office in the county where they are registered from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Thursday and Friday before all elections, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Saturday before federal and state elections.38

Absentee Ballots
In Oklahoma, any registered voter can vote by mail by submitting an absentee ballot. Oklahoma does not require voters to have a reason to request an absentee ballot. There are a number of ways a voter can apply for an absentee ballot:

- A voter can apply online using the Online Absentee Ballot Request form, which is available at: https://services.okelections.us/AbsenteeApplication/.
- A voter can submit the Absentee Ballot Request Form to his or her local County Election Board by mail, e-mail, fax, or personal delivery. The Request Form is available from all County Election Boards and the State Election Board, or can be downloaded from the State Election Board’s website at https://www.ok.gov/elections/Vote_by_Mail.html.39
A voter may write a letter to his or her County Election Board to apply for an absentee ballot. The letter must contain the voter’s name, birth date, address where the voter is registered to vote, the election(s) for which the voter is requesting ballots, the address to which the ballots should be mailed, and the voter’s signature.

Absentee ballots must be requested no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding an election. An absentee ballot must be received by the county election board before 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

Mailed absentee ballots must be notarized except under the following “special conditions”:

- Physically incapacitated voters and voters who care for physically incapacitated persons who cannot be left alone are not required to have their signatures on the absentee affidavits notarized, but their signatures must be witnessed by two people.
- Voters in nursing homes in the same county where they are registered may vote absentee. They may submit their applications only by mail, fax, or telegraph. An Absentee Voting Board representative will go to the nursing home a few days before the election to allow these voters to cast their ballots.

Military or Overseas Voters

Military and other overseas citizens may use the standard procedure for voting by mail, but there are also special provisions for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with family members of all these groups, and other citizens who reside outside the United States (together these groups are called UOCAVA voters).

UOCAVA voters can also use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot. They may receive their absentee ballots through the new Oklahoma Military and Overseas Ballots Online System by filling out an FPCA form and submitting it. Voters who request absentee ballots through this Online System are notified by e-mail when a ballot for an election in which they are eligible to vote becomes available. Voters still must return voted ballots to the County Election Board by mail or fax. In order to be counted, a UOCAVA voter’s ballot must be received by the appropriate local election official by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, or the voter must fax or mail the ballot no later than 12:01 a.m. on Election Day.

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot ("FWAB") (federal form SF 186) serves as an emergency backup ballot that UOCAVA voters may use. Uniformed Service UOCAVA voters, and their dependents and spouses, may use the FWAB whether they are located inside or outside the United States (including APO and FPO addresses), provided that they are away from their voting residence for service-related activities. They must apply for a regular ballot early enough for their local election officials to receive the request at least by 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday before the election. If they do not receive their regular ballot in time, they may use the FWAB. Additional information can be found at https://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag/chapter2/oklahoma.

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

A voter who has requested an absentee ballot may vote in person after signing an affidavit swearing or affirming that he or she has not cast such absentee ballot and is entitled to vote in person.

18. Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

No, Oklahoma does not have Same Day Registration.
19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Electioneering
Oklahoma prohibits electioneering, otherwise trying to influence voters, or distributing election-related materials within 300 feet of any ballot box while an election is in progress.51

Intimidation
Voters must be able to exercise their right to vote without interference or intimidation.52 Some examples of voter intimidation are:53

• Aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, criminal record, or other qualifications to vote, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters’ rights;
• Falsely presenting oneself as an election official;
• Spreading false information about voter requirements, such as an ability to speak English, or the need to present certain types of photo identification (when there is no such requirement);
• Displaying false or misleading signs about voter fraud and the criminal penalties of voter fraud; and
• Other forms of harassment, particularly harassment targeted towards non-English speakers and voters of color.

Voter intimidation is to be taken seriously and can be reported to.54

• The Election Protection Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (in Spanish)
• The U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights Hotline: 1-800-253-3931; TTY line 1-877-267-8971
• Local and state officials, including election workers and the Oklahoma State Election Board.

Ballot Selfies
Ballot selfies are allowed. A voter may photograph his or her marked ballot and distribute the image or photograph or share it via social media as long as the disclosure is voluntary and in compliance with state and federal law. However, voters may not expose their ballots to others or disclose to others how they voted within the election enclosure.55

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?56

Voters whose registration has been challenged should contact their local County Election Board to determine the reason for the challenge and correct or add any missing information. This should be done prior to the voter registration deadline. If a voter is challenged at the polls, the voter will need to vote a provisional ballot. Voters who cast provisional ballots are required to fill out and sign an affidavit that explains why their provisional ballot should be counted.57 After election day, County Election Board officials will investigate the information provided by the voter on the affidavit and either will approve the provisional ballot for counting or will reject it based on the outcome of that investigation.58

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

Oklahoma has a “closed primary” system, meaning, in order to vote in a primary election for a political party, voters must be registered members of the political party.59 However, parties have the option of allowing non-affiliated voters to vote in their primaries.60 The Republican and Libertarian parties conduct closed primaries, meaning you must be a registered member in order to vote. Democrats conduct a semi-closed
primary, meaning registered Democrats and non-affiliated voters may vote in the primary. To vote in the Republican or Libertarian primaries, voters must be registered as a member of the party by June 5, 2020.61
The statute states that a voter who moves within the same county and executes a change of address at his/her old polling place on Election Day shall be permitted to “vote on the ballots of such precinct” in which the voter is registered (the old address). A phone call to the State Board of Elections confirmed that the voter would be able to cast a regular ballot, as opposed to a provisional ballot. The State Board of Elections also confirmed that anyone who has moved to a new county and has failed to register his/her address can also vote one last time in his/her old county pursuant to the procedure described above, even though there is no specific guidance on this for voters who have moved to a new county.

This information was obtained through a phone call to the State Board of Elections.

See https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Online_Voter_Tool/.

This information was obtained through a phone call to the State Board of Elections.


52 U.S.C. § 21082(c)-(d).


Okla. Stat. tit. 26, §§ 4-101, 4-103; Okla. Const. art. III §1; 71-328 Okla. Op. Att’y Gen. 350 (1971) ("[r]esidency is a place where one’s habitation is fixed without the present purpose of removing therefrom,” and, “[t]he answer is largely determined by the acts and intention of the particular person desiring to vote.").


Okla. Admin. Code § 230:10-7-713.


Okla. Stat. tit. 26, §§ 7-123.1, 7-123.3; https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Accessibility_for_Disabled_Voters/.


See https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Absentee_Voting/index.html.

Id.
44 See https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Absentee_Voting/index.html.
45 Id.
46 See https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Military_Overseas_Voters/index.html.
54 Id.
56 This information was obtained through a phone call to the State Board of Elections.
57 See https://www.ok.gov/elections/faqs.html.
58 Id.
60 Id.
61 See https://www.ok.gov/elections/Election_Info/2020_Election_Calendar.html.