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 Oregon Secretary of State’s “My Vote” website (https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/showVoterSearch.do).

Oregon voters can register online at: https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do?lang=eng&source=SOS.

2. Where do I vote?

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state. Voters have several options to return their ballots including:

- returning the ballot by mail with adequate postage in the return envelope enclosed with the ballot;
- depositing the ballot at the office of the county clerk or a designated ballot drop box; or
- marking the ballot in person at a voting booth set up by the county clerk.

You can determine the location of designated ballot drop boxes by checking the Oregon Secretary of State’s “Oregon Drop Box Locator” website (http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question 6.
3. **When do the polls open and close?**

Each county voting official establishes designated places to deposit completed ballots. On Election Day, designated ballot drop boxes must be open for at least 8 hours, stay open until at least 8:00 p.m. Pacific Time, and have a prominent sign stating that the location as a ballot drop box. A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote. Contact your county clerk for information about in-person voting in your county.

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

Voters must apply to register to vote 21 calendar days before an election they intend to vote in. For the May 19, 2020 primary election, voters must register by April 28, 2020.

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

Yes. As Oregon is a vote-by-mail state, ballots are mailed in advance to registered voters. No identification is required to either return a ballot to a designated ballot drop box or to fill out a ballot in person at voting booths established by the County Elections Official.

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

Yes. A voter who has moved and has not updated his or her registration will need to go to the County Elections Office to update his or her registration as the post office will not forward or hold a ballot. A voter’s registration can be updated any time before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Once the voter has updated his or her registration, the County Elections Office will issue a provisional ballot if the voter’s registration was active and mark the ballot return envelope to indicate that the ballot was reissued. The provisional ballot may be returned by mail or to a designated ballot drop box as explained above.

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

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if they are having trouble depositing or casting their ballots. If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of ballot-casting issues at a polling place, notify your hotline captain, who will notify election officials. If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify the command center.

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?**

Yes. A voter whose eligibility cannot be verified or who lives in another precinct or county can vote using a provisional ballot. If the voter has used the wrong ballot style or party ballot but is eligible to vote, the contests that the voter was eligible to vote in will be counted. Volunteers should tell voters to go to their assigned polling place if at all possible so that they can vote in all contests they are eligible for.

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

Yes. A voter’s registration may be cancelled:

- at the request of the voter;
• upon the voter’s death;
• if the County Elections Office receives evidence that the voter is registered in another county or state; or
• if the County Elections Office has sent the voter a notice that his or her registration needs to be updated and the voter does not update the registration or vote in either of the next two general elections.13

If a voter’s registration has been cancelled, the voter must re-register 21 calendar days before the next election he or she wishes to vote in.14

If the voter’s name is not on the list of registered voters, the voter can vote using a provisional ballot. See Question 11.

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:
• Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure he or she is registered to vote and at the right place. (see Question 1)
• Has the voter moved recently? Could he or she be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see Question 1 and Question 6)
• Has the voter changed his or her name recently, or could he or 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?**

Yes. Convicted felons may vote unless they are currently incarcerated. Persons currently incarcerated in a federal correctional institution in Oregon may neither register nor vote.15

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.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. If the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, the voter will also need to complete and sign a provisional registration card.16 The County Elections Office will send the ballot to the correct county and it will be processed once the voter’s eligibility has been confirmed.17

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

Yes. The same residency rules apply to college students as to other voters. A student can establish residency and vote in Oregon if he or she, when absent, has a present intent to return to his or her Oregon address.18 A college student does not need to be considered a resident by his or her college to be considered an Oregon resident for voting purposes.19
13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. Voters with disabilities may request assistance from the County Elections Office. The voter may request that he or she be assisted at his or her home, the County Elections Office, a designated place of deposit, a community service center, a senior center or an assisted living facility. If requested, election workers will bring an electronic tablet and a portable printer to the voter’s home to assist with voting. The tablets can accommodate multiple 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. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the voter’s 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.

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

Other than assistance for people who are disabled or unable to read or write, Oregon law does not specifically address whether assistance is available for persons who do not know how to use voting materials.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state, which allows voters to vote absentee and to vote once they have received their ballots. Ballots must be turned in by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. For locations where ballots can be returned, refer to Question 2.

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

A voter may take their ballot to a voting booth set up by a County Elections Official.

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

No, Oregon does not have Same Day Registration. However, a voter’s registration can be updated any time before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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

A person may not do any electioneering within any building designated for the deposit of ballots or within 100 feet from any entrance to the building. This applies during the business hours of the building or, if the building is a County Elections Office, during the hours the building is open to the public from the date the ballots are mailed until all persons waiting in line at 8:00 pm on Election Day have finished voting.
20. **Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?**

The county clerk will mail a written statement describing the nature of the challenge to the voter. The voter must provide evidence sufficient to verify their registration within 14 calendar days after the date of the election. The county clerk will count the ballot if the voter is determined to be validly registered.26

21. **Can I vote in the primary election?**

Both the Democratic and Republican presidential primaries in Oregon are “closed,” meaning that for each of these two parties, a voter must be a registered member of such party to vote in such party’s primary election. Unaffiliated voters may not participate in either of the Democratic or Republican primaries.27

A voter can change his or her party selection at any time by updating his or her registration at https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/myvote.aspx?lang=en or by filling out a new Oregon Voter Registration Card. However, if a voter wants to receive a ballot for a major party’s primary election, he or she must make changes to party selection no later than the Voter Registration and Party Change Deadline, 21 calendar days before Primary Election Day. The deadline for registered voters to change party affiliation for the May 19, 2020 Primary Election is April 28, 2020.

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1 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.465(1).
2 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(6).
3 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.474.
4 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(1).
5 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(10).
7 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.
9 OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.
10 OR. REV. STAT. § 247.307.
11 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.408.
13 OR. REV. STAT. § 247.555.
14 OR. REV. STAT. §§ 247.555; 247.025.
15 OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.
18 OR. REV. STAT. § 247.035.
24 OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.
25 OR. REV. STAT. § 260.695.
26 OR. REV. STAT. § 254.426.