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 visiting https://votesearch.utah.gov/voter-search/search/search-by-voter/voter-info and entering the voter’s information or by contacting the voter’s county clerk’s office. Contact information for the county clerks can be found here: https://voteinfo.utah.gov/county-clerk-contact-information/.

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine a voter’s proper polling place by checking the “vote.utah.gov” website (https://votesearch.utah.gov/voter-search/search/search-by-address/how-and-where-can-i-vote). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their registration, refer to Question 6.

3. When do the polls open and close?

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mountain Time on Election Day. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 7:00 a.m., advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. A voter who arrives at the polls by
8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were at the polls by 8:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

The deadline for registering to vote by mail is 30 days before an election. For the 2020 General Election, the deadline for registering to vote by mail is October 4, 2020 (voter registration form must be postmarked by this date).

The deadline for online or in-person voter registration is 7 days before an election. For the 2020 General Election, the deadline for registering to vote online is October 27, 2020. You can register to vote in person at your county clerk’s office. You can register to vote online on the “online voter registration website” (https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg/login.html?selection=REGISTER). You need to have a current Utah driver’s license or Utah state ID card in order to register to vote using the online system. If you register to vote online or in-person, you will not be able to participate in early voting but will be able to vote on Election Day.

Utah allows same-day voter registration. You may register to vote on Election Day and vote by provisional ballot so long as you are otherwise legally entitled to vote.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

In order to vote a regular ballot, Utah voters are required to show valid voter identification to the poll worker.

A registered voter may vote without providing valid voter identification, but the voter will be issued a provisional ballot. Then, the voter must present valid voter identification to the county clerk or to an election officer before the close of normal office hours on the first Monday after the election.

Acceptable forms of voter identification include:

- Utah driver license;
- ID card issued by the state or a branch, department, or agency of the United States;
- Utah permit to carry a concealed weapon;
- United States passport;
- United States military identification card; or
- Tribal ID card, Bureau of Indian Affairs card or tribal treaty card (whether or not the card includes a photograph of the voter).

If the voter does not have any of the above valid forms of identification, the voter may provide two forms of identification that bear the name of the voter and provide evidence that the voter resides in the voting precinct, which may include:

- Current utility bill or copy thereof dated within 90 days before the election;
- Bank or other financial account statement, or legible copy thereof;
- Certified birth certificate;
- Valid Social Security card;
- Check issued by the state or federal government or legible copy thereof;
- Paycheck from the voter’s employer, or legible copy thereof;
- Currently valid Utah hunting or fishing license;
• Certified naturalization documents (not a green card);
• Currently valid license issued by an authorized agency of the United States;
• Certified copy of court records showing the voter’s adoption or name change;
• Valid Medicaid or Medicare or Electronic Benefits Transfer card;
• Currently valid ID card issued by a local government within the state;
• Currently valid ID card issued by an employer;
• Currently valid ID card issued by a college, university, technical school or professional school within the state; or
• Current Utah vehicle registration.  

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

If the voter has moved within the same precinct, the voter should go to the appropriate polling place for that precinct. If the voter registration list still lists the voter’s old address, the voter will be allowed to vote with a regular ballot so long as the voter affirms the change of address (orally or in writing) before the election judges.  

If the voter’s name is not found on the official register, but the voter provides the poll worker with valid identification establishing the voter’s identity and place of residence in the voting precinct, the voter will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.  

If the voter does not provide valid identification, the voter will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until the close of normal office hours on Monday after Election Day to present valid voter identification to the county clerk at the county clerk’s office, or to an election officer who is administering the election.  

If the voter has moved to a different precinct within the same county, and the voter provides the poll worker with valid identification establishing the voter’s identity and place of residence in the voting precinct, the voter will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. The voter must cast the provisional ballot in the precinct of their current legal residence. Votes cast in the wrong precinct will not be counted. If the voter does not provide valid identification, the voter will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until the close of normal office hours on Monday after Election Day to present valid voter identification to the county clerk at the county clerk’s office, or to an election officer who is administering the election.  

Except for an active uniformed services voter or a member of their family, a voter who changes addresses and moves from one county to another may not change their legal residence at the polls and vote a regular ballot. The voter will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot at the polling place for their new address. In order for the provisional ballot to count as a vote, the voter must show photo identification and proof of current residence. If the poll worker can verify that the voter is registered and they are voting at the correct precinct, the vote will be counted. If the voter does not provide valid identification, the voter will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until the close of normal office hours on Monday after Election Day to present valid voter identification to the county clerk at the county clerk’s office, or to an election officer who is administering the election.  

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

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. Additionally, a voter should ask if an emergency paper ballot is available.  

If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain, who will notify a voting machine expert or speak with election officials.
If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify the command center, which will notify a voting machine expert. Advise voters to request an emergency paper ballot if one is not offered.

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?

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the polling place where they are attempting to vote, a deputy clerk will check the county rolls. If the voter is still not found, the clerk must call the county clerk’s office to check the state-wide database to confirm the voter is registered and that they are in the correct precinct. If the voter is registered and in the correct precinct, they will be able to vote a regular ballot. If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the voter should be given the location of the correct precinct and told that votes cast at the wrong precinct are not counted.

If a poll worker says the voter is not eligible to vote but the voter thinks they are eligible, the voter may vote by provisional ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort, as it will not be counted unless it is later determined that the voter was eligible to vote and voted in the right precinct. The voter must be in the correct precinct (the precinct in which the voter resides) in order for the provisional ballot to count. Votes cast in the incorrect precinct will not be counted unless the voter uses a ballot from the voter’s resident county and the ballot includes one or more candidates or propositions from the voter’s precinct.

 Volunteers should verify that the voter is in the correct precinct. If the poll worker tells a voter that they cannot vote, the voter has the right to know the reason. If a voter is forced to vote a provisional ballot, remind the voter to verify with the county clerk’s office that the ballot was counted.

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

A voter’s name will be removed from the official register if:

- The county clerk has received confirmation from the Department of Health’s Bureau of Vital Records that the voter is deceased;
- The county clerk receives written confirmation from the voter that the voter no longer resides within the county clerk’s county;
- The county clerk has obtained evidence that the voter’s residence has changed, the clerk mailed notice to the voter, the voter failed to respond to the notice or did not submit information that confirms the voter’s residence, and the voter failed to vote or appear to vote in either of the next two regular general elections after the date of the notice;
- The voter requests, in writing, that the voter’s name be removed from the official register;
- The county clerk receives a returned voter identification card, determines there was no clerical error causing the card to be returned, and has no further information to contact the voter;
- The county clerk receives notice that a voter has been convicted of any felony or certain misdemeanors and the voter’s right to vote has not been restored; or
- The county clerk receives notice that a voter has registered to vote in another state after the day on which the voter registered to vote in Utah.

The county clerk may not remove the names of voters from the official register during the 90 days before Election Day unless the voter requests, in writing, that the voter’s name be removed, or the voter has died.

If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a voter’s name has been removed from the list of registered voters for any reason other than the reasons listed above, contact your hotline captain/command
center. If a voter’s name has been removed from the list of registered voters, and none of the above reasons apply, the voter may request a provisional ballot. (see Question 11 for information regarding provisional ballots)

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/she is registered to vote and at the right 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 Question 6)
- Has the voter changed 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?

A citizen is not eligible to vote in Utah if they have been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court in the United States unless their right to vote has been restored. After a felony conviction, the right to vote is restored when: (i) the felon has been sentenced to probation; (ii) the felon is granted parole; or (iii) the felon has successfully completed the term of incarceration to which the felon was sentenced.

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

The voter should inquire why they were offered a provisional ballot. A voter may be offered a provisional ballot when:

- The voter’s right to vote is challenged;
- The voter’s name is not found on the official register; or
- The poll worker is not satisfied that the voter has provided valid voter identification

Other than for the above 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, they should receive with the ballot instructions regarding presenting additional evidence of eligibility, how to check the status of the ballots with the county clerk’s office and notice of the deadline for doing so.

If the voter does not have valid voter identification (see Question 5), they will have until the close of normal office hours on Monday after Election Day to present valid voter identification to the county clerk at the county clerk’s office, or to an election officer who is administering the election in order to have their provisional ballot counted.

If you are a field or hotline volunteer, make sure the voter is in the right precinct for their current address before the voter casts a provisional ballot. Give the poll worker the voter’s current address and verify the voter is in the right precinct. If a voter uses a provisional ballot in the wrong precinct, his or her vote will not count. If you are at the polling pace and cannot verify this, call your command center or the hotline and they will be able to check the voter’s precinct.

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

A college student may register to vote where they go to school provided that they: (i) are a citizen of the United States; (ii) have been a resident of Utah for at least the 30 days immediately before the election; (iii) will be at least 18 years old on the day of the election; and (iv) currently reside within the voting district or precinct in which they are applying to register to vote. A person resides in Utah if: (i) the person’s principal place of residence (i.e., the single location where a person’s habitation is fixed and to which, whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention of returning) is within Utah; and (ii) the person has a present intention to maintain the person’s principal place of residence in Utah permanently or indefinitely. A person resides within a particular voting precinct, if, as of the date of registering to vote, the person’s principal place of residence is in that voting precinct.

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

Yes. Polling places are required to be accessible to voters with disabilities and to have at least one voting booth or voting device that is useable by persons with disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired.

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 employer, an officer or agent of the voter’s union, or a candidate, 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?

Yes. The voter may ask poll workers for instructions on how to operate the voting devices before the voter enters the voting booth. If the voter requests additional instructions after entering the voting booth, two poll workers of different political parties may, if necessary, enter the booth and give the voter additional instructions.

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

Any person who is registered to vote may vote by absentee ballot; however, they may not vote in person if they already voted by absentee ballot. Unless a voter lives in a county that sends all voters an absentee ballot (e.g., San Juan County and Salt Lake County), a voter who wishes to vote by absentee ballot must file an application for an absentee ballot with the lieutenant governor or appropriate election official no later than Tuesday, October 27, 2020. To apply for an absentee ballot, voters should fill out an absentee ballot application and drop off the completed application at the voter’s county clerk’s office, or request an absentee ballot online (https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg/login.html?selection=VOTE_BY_MAIL). In order for an absentee ballot voted in person to be valid, it must be received by the county clerk’s office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, or submitted on Election Day at the polling location in the political subdivision where the absentee voter resides. In order for an absentee ballot submitted by mail to be valid, it must be clearly postmarked before Election Day or otherwise clearly marked by the post office as received before Election Day, or received in the office of the election officer before noon on the day of the official canvass following the election.
As of May 8, 2018, Utah permits early voting, which begins 14 days before the election and continues through the Friday before the election. (Oct 20, 2020 - Oct 30, 2020). Each county has its own specified dates within the early voting period and some counties only permit early voting by mail. You can find more information regarding your county’s early voting location, including exact dates and times, by contacting your county election officials (https://voteinfo.utah.gov/county-clerk-contact-information/).

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

A registered voter who has received an absentee ballot can decide to vote in person as long as they have not filled out and returned the absentee ballot by mail. The voter should fill in the absentee ballot and vote it in person at a polling location in the political subdivision where the absentee voter resides.

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

Election Day voter registration is permitted in Utah. An individual may register to vote on Election Day and vote by provisional ballot so long as the individual is otherwise legally entitled to vote, the ballot is from the individual’s resident precinct, the ballot is complete, and the individual provides valid voter identification and proof of residence. The provisional ballots will be counted with the absentee ballots.

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

Campaigning is allowed more than 150 feet from a polling location. This includes passing out fliers and asking for signatures. Campaigning is not allowed within 150 feet of a polling location and the local county or municipality may regulate the place and manner of campaigning to protect public safety. Disrupting the administration of the polling place, obstructing the doors, or preventing free access to the polling place is prohibited. Interfering with a voter’s right to vote through violence, threats, or harassment is illegal.

A voter may not photograph someone else’s ballot, but Utah does permit a voter to take voter selfies.

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

A person may challenge an individual’s eligibility to vote based on the following grounds:

• The individual is not the person in whose name the individual is trying to vote;
• The individual is not a resident of Utah;
• The individual is not a citizen of the United States;
• The individual has not resided in Utah for 30 days;
• The individual’s principal place of residence is not in the voting precinct;
• The individual’s principal place of residence is not in the geographic boundaries of the election area;
• The individual has already voted in the election;
• The individual is not at least 18 years of age;
• The individual has been convicted of a misdemeanor for a voting offense and the individual’s right to vote has not been restored; or
• The individual is a convicted felon and the individual’s right to vote has not been restored.

A challenger may submit a challenge in writing up to 45 days before an election or orally during an election. A written challenge must identify the person being challenged, contain the last known address
or telephone number of the challenged individual, provide the basis for the challenge, provide facts or circumstances that support the challenge, and include a signed affidavit. A challenger may not base a challenge on unsupported or anonymous allegations. The challenger must prove the basis for the challenge is valid by clear and convincing evidence. A challenger is subject to criminal penalties for any false statements.

At least 28 days before the election, the election officer will attempt to notify the challenged individual of the basis of the challenge, and that the challenged individual may be required to vote by provisional ballot. If the challenge is made within 45 days before the election, then the challenged voter must be notified within one business day of the challenge. The challenged individual may submit evidence such as a sworn statement or supporting documents no later than 21 days before the election. The election officer must determine whether the challenged individual is eligible to vote before early voting begins based on the facts and information submitted. If the election officer determines the challenged individual is not eligible to vote, the challenged individual may appeal the decision in the district court with jurisdiction. The court will uphold the election officer’s decision unless it determines that the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful.

A poll worker, watcher, or individual who lives in the precinct may orally challenge an individual’s eligibility to vote during the election when the individual applies for a ballot. Both the challenger and challenged individual must be present at the polling place when the challenge is made. The poll worker will record the names of the challenger and challenged individual and the basis for the challenge. The poll worker will request voter identification from the challenged individual and will allow the challenged individual to vote by provisional ballot if satisfied the identification is valid.

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

The Republican presidential primary in Utah is “closed,” meaning that voters must be registered members of the Republican party to vote in the Republican primary. The Democratic presidential primary in Utah is “open,” meaning that both Democratic party members and unaffiliated voters may participate in the Democratic primary. Voters have until 30 days before the primary election to change their party affiliation. The deadline for registered voters to change party affiliation for the primary election is February 2, 2020.

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1 Utah Code § 20A-1-302
2 Utah Code § 20A-1-302
3 Utah Code § 20A-2-102.5
4 Utah Code § 20A-2-207
5 Utah Code § 20A-3-104
6 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(a)(i)
7 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(a)(ii)(A)
8 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(a)(ii)(B)
9 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(a)(iii)
10 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(a)(iv)
11 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(a)(v)
12 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(b)
13 This clause should not be read to mean that the above forms of identification (cited as notes 6–12) are superior/inferior to the following forms of identification simply because two forms of identification are required rather than just one—the statutory language makes no such distinction.
14 Utah Code § 20A-1-102(82)(c)