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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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS – Last Updated 10/26/2020

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)
2. **HOW:** [How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?](#)
3. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)
4. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)
5. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)
6. **PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)
7. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily due to COVID-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?](#)
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?](#)
9. **LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)
10. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?](#)
11. **INCARCERATED:** [I am currently in jail. Can I vote?](#)
12. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** [I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?](#)
13. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** [My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What do I do?](#)

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?](#)
15. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a reason to vote early?](#)
16. **WHEN:** [When do the polls open/close during early voting?](#)
17. **WHERE:** [Where do I vote during early voting?](#)
18. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE and/or VOTE BY MAIL

19. **AUTOMATIC:** [Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically?](#)
20. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** [What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?](#)
21. **APPLICATION RETURN:** [Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?](#)

22. **APPLICATION - DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME:** [What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?](#)
23. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote absentee whether in person or by mail-in or drop off ballot?](#)
24. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** [How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?](#)
25. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** [I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)
26. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** [How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?](#)
27. **LOST OR SPOILED:** [What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?](#)
28. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?](#)
29. **IN PERSON OPTION:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?](#)
30. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** [What is the deadline for the **ballot** to be mailed and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?](#)
31. **BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)
32. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)
33. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** [Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. **HOURS:** [When do the polls open/close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?](#)
35. **POLLING LOCATION:** [Where do I vote on Election Day?](#)
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required to vote? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** [The polling place is not open. What do I do?](#)
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?](#)
39. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** [What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?](#)
40. **NO PPE/COVID:** [What if my polling is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?](#)
41. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** [I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?](#)
42. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** [I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?](#)
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?](#)
44. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** [When can I request curbside voting?](#)
45. **CAMPAIGNING:** [What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?](#)
46. **CHALLENGE:** [Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?](#)
47. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** [There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?](#)
48. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** [I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?](#)

QUESTIONS

49. [Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?](#)

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

You can visit the Ohio Secretary of State's "My Voter Information" website, which shows the voter's registration status and precinct/polling place <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>.

Or call the voter's local county board of elections. Phone numbers available at this online directory: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/electionofficials/boeDirectory.aspx>. Alternatively, the voter's local county board of election may have its own voter lookup tool on its website.

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

The voter can also register to vote online, by mail, or in person. (Note: the registration deadline to vote in the 2020 General Election was October 5, 2020. That deadline has passed, and registrations for the 2020 General Election will no longer be accepted.)

The voter can visit the Ohio Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration System at <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/> to register to vote in Ohio or to update the voter's registration address.

The voter can access Ohio's Voter Registration form by clicking:

https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/vr_form_04-2015.pdf. The voter may also use the National Mail Voter Registration form: www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx.

The voter can also ask any county board of elections or the Secretary of State's office to mail the voter a voter registration form. Phone numbers for the county boards of elections are available at this online directory: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/electionofficials/boeDirectory.aspx>. If the voter does not use the computer or have access to a printer, a volunteer can enter their information into the online ordering website <https://www.ohiosos.gov/publications/order-VRForm/> and a voter registration form will be mailed to them.

Finally, a voter may register to vote in person by obtaining a voter registration form at any of the following locations, as explained here <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/#register>:

- The office of the Secretary of State;
- The office of any of the 88 county boards of elections;
- The office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- Public libraries;
- Public high schools or vocational schools;
- County treasurers' offices; or
- Offices of designated agencies, including:
 - The Department of Job and Family Services;
 - The Department of Health (including the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program);
 - The Department of Mental Health;
 - The Department of Developmental Disabilities;
 - Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities; or
 - The office of any state-assisted college or university responsible for providing assistance to students with disabilities.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The voter may either personally deliver, or send by U.S. Mail, their voter registration form to a county board of elections or the Secretary of State's office. The voter, or another person acting on the voter's behalf, also may deliver the application to one of the offices listed above, but should ensure the application reaches the office of a board of elections or the Secretary of State no later than the voter registration deadline, the 30th day before the election at which the voter wants to vote (i.e. October 5th deadline for the November 3rd General Election).

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

If registering to vote online, the voter must provide their Ohio driver's license or Ohio identification card number, name, date of birth, address, and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

If registering to vote in person, the voter must provide their current and valid driver's license number as identification on the registration card. If the voter does not have, or does not know, their current and valid driver license number, the voter must provide the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number as identification on the registration card. If the voter does not have either a driver license number or Social Security number, the voter must write "None" on the line provided for identification on the voter registration card.ⁱ Writing "None" does not prevent the voter from registering to vote.ⁱⁱ

Whenever a person registers to vote by mail, the person must provide the voter's current and valid driver license number or the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number as identification on the registration card, or the voter must enclose with the registration card a copy of a current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and current address.ⁱⁱⁱ

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

The voter must register or update their voter registration no later than 30 days prior to an election, regardless of whether the voter registers online, by mail, or in-person. If the voter registration deadline falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, then the deadline is extended to the next day that is not a Sunday or a legal holiday.^{iv} **Upcoming voter registration deadline: voters must register by October 5, 2020 for the November 3, 2020 General Election.**^v

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?

No, Ohio does not have same day registration.^{vi}

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

If the voter moved **before** the registration deadline (see Question #4), the voter should update his or her registration with the county board of elections. Voters can update their address online, by mail, or in person (See Question #2).

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If the voter moved after the voter registration deadline has passed (see Question #4), but before Election Day, then the voter may file a change of residence form or vote by provisional ballot at his or her local board of elections (assuming the voter is registered to vote at a prior address in Ohio).^{vii}

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)^{viii}	Moved from a different state
<p>The voter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) go to the polling place for their new/current address (which should be the same as the polling place for the old address, if they are in the same precinct); (b) complete and sign a change of residence form; (c) show the required ID (see Question #3) with the new/current address; and (d) vote a regular ballot.^{ix} <p>Multiple precincts may have the same polling place. Make sure both the voter’s addresses are actually in the same <u>precinct</u>.</p>	<p>The voter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) go to either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the polling place for their new/current address, or (ii) the local board of elections (or a different place if the board of elections has designated such a different place); (b) complete and sign the written affirmation on the provisional ballot envelope; (c) vote a provisional ballot; and (d) complete and sign a statement attesting that the voter moved, voted a provisional ballot at their current address, and will not try to vote at another location.^x <p>Before the voter is offered a provisional ballot the precinct official must make sure the voter is in the correct precinct or polling and is not eligible to cast a regular ballot in a different precinct or polling place. If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the precinct election official must direct the voter to the correct precinct and provide the telephone number of the board of elections in case the individual has additional questions.^{xi}</p>	<p>The voter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) go to the local board of elections (or a different place if the board of elections has designated such a different place); (b) complete and sign the written affirmation on the provisional ballot envelope; (c) vote a provisional ballot; and (d) complete and sign a statement attesting that the voter moved, voted a provisional ballot at their current address, and will not try to vote at another location.^{xii} 	<p>If the voter is a primary resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which they want to vote, the voter should:^{xiii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) register to vote in Ohio (See Question #2) before the registration deadline (See Question #4); and (b) as applicable, contact their prior state of primary residency for instructions on cancelling their old voter registration.

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

If the voter's primary residence is in Ohio and the voter temporarily moved to another state with an intention to return to Ohio, or to another county within Ohio without the intention of making that county their permanent residence, and the voter is registered in Ohio before the registration deadline (See Question #2 and #4), the voter may:

- Vote a regular ballot in-person at their designated polling place (see this link for polling place locations <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/>).
- Request in advance and vote an absentee ballot starting October 6 (see <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>), which must be either dropped off at the Board of Elections office by 7:30 p.m. on November 3, or postmarked on or before November 2nd and received by the Board of election by November 13.^{xiv}

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 attending school in Ohio may register to vote and vote using their Ohio school residence address if both: (1) the student's school residence is fixed and whenever the student is away, the student intends to return, and (2) the student considers school to be his or her permanent residence at the time of voting.^{xv}

College students with primary residence in Ohio can participate in their hometown elections, even if at school in a different county or out of state, by maintaining their permanent home address as their voting residence and casting their ballot by:

- Requesting an [absentee ballot](#) from their county board of elections and voting by mail;
- Voting early in person during the 28 days before a primary or general election at their [home county board of elections](#) if they won't be at home on Election Day,
- Or, if they will be at home on Election Day, going to their assigned polling location for their home precinct and voting in-person.

For more information on college voting, see <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/grads-vote-ohio/college-voters/>.

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

If you are serving in the uniformed services (U.S. Armed Services, merchant marines, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States, the National Guard and organized militia) and meet the requirements for voting at your Ohio voting residence, you may vote a uniformed services absentee ballot. Your spouse and dependents may vote a uniformed services absentee ballot if they left their Ohio voting residence to be with or near you. The voting residence of a service member is the place in Ohio where the service member resided for at least 30 days immediately preceding the commencement of his or her service.^{xvi}

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A U.S. citizen living outside the U.S. is eligible to vote in the Ohio precinct in which the voter resided immediately before leaving the U.S. if the voter was, or could have been registered to vote in Ohio while residing there, or currently is eligible under Ohio law to vote in Ohio.^{xvii}

A U.S. citizen who was born outside the U.S. is deemed to have a voting residence in Ohio at the place in the Ohio precinct where the person's parent or guardian continuously resided for at least 30 days immediately before leaving the United States.^{xviii}

The above voters can register to vote using any of the methods listed in Question #2. They can vote using an absentee ballot following the steps in Questions #19, #20, and #21, or by following the steps here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>.

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

A person who has twice been convicted of a violation of Ohio's elections laws is permanently barred from voting in Ohio.^{xix}

An otherwise qualified person convicted of a misdemeanor may vote, and an otherwise qualified person who had been convicted of a felony may register and vote while on probation or parole, or after completing his or her jail or prison sentence.^{xx}

The voter registration of a person who is incarcerated on a felony conviction is cancelled; once that person has completed his or her jail or prison sentence, or is on probation, parole or community control, he or she must re-register to vote by the registration deadline before voting.^{xxi}

If you are not in prison for a felony conviction but are awaiting trial in jail or imprisoned for a misdemeanor, you can vote by an absentee ballot as long as you are otherwise eligible to vote (e.g., you are registered).^{xxii} If you are using absentee ballot procedures, make sure that you get your application and voted ballot in by the deadlines (see Questions #4, #19, #20, and #21).

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail following a felony conviction. Can I vote?

No. A person currently serving time in jail or prison for a felony conviction can neither register to vote nor vote.^{xxiii}

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 is **entitled to vote on a provisional ballot**.^{xxiv} Before you are offered a provisional ballot the precinct official must make sure that you are in the correct precinct or polling location and not eligible to cast a regular ballot in a different precinct or polling place. If you are in the wrong precinct, the precinct election official must direct you to your correct precinct.^{xxv}

As part of the provisional ballot process, the voter has to complete and execute a written affirmation before an election official at the polling place. The affirmation form is printed on the provisional ballot envelope.^{xxvi} It is important to fill out the affidavit on the envelope correctly as minor errors may result in the provisional ballot being rejected.^{xxvii}

13. I THOUGHT I WAS 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?

A voter can be removed from the list of registered voters if:

- The voter filed a request for cancellation;^{xxxviii}
- The board of elections receives notice of the voter's death;^{xxix}
- The voter is convicted of a felony under the laws of Ohio, or any other state, or the United States;^{xxx}
- The voter is adjudicated incompetent;^{xxxi}
- The voter moved to an address outside of the county of the voter's registration;^{xxxii}
- The voter failed, after receiving a confirmation notice from the board of elections, to do either of the following during a four-year period (including two general federal elections):
 - Respond to such notice and vote at least once;^{xxxiii} or
 - Update the voter's registration and vote at least once.^{xxxiv}
- If the board of elections mails a registration notification to the voter, the notification is returned to the board as undeliverable, and the board cannot verify the correct address, the board will mark the voter's name in the official list as having the notification returned. If the voter's name is marked in the official voter list as having the notification returned, the voter must vote on a provisional ballot and show ID at the polls. If the ballot is counted, then the voter's registration will be corrected. If it is not counted, the voter's registration will be cancelled.^{xxxv}

Call center and field volunteers should 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 the voter is registered to vote and at the right place. (see Question #1)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could the voter be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see Question #1 and Question #6)
- Has the voter had a name change recently, or could the voter 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?

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?

Yes. Early in-person absentee voting begins and is conducted on the following days:^{xxxvi}

- October 6 -16 (Weekdays Only - Monday through Friday), 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- October 19 – 23 (Weekdays Only - Monday through Friday), 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 24, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 25, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- October 26 -30, (Weekdays Only - Monday through Friday), 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 31, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 1, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 2, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

No.

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

See Question #14.

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

Most Ohio counties provide early voting at their board of elections office. However, certain counties have separate early voting centers:^{xxxvii}

- Lucas: Ohio Means Jobs Building, 1301 Monroe Street, Toledo Ohio 43604(opens in a new window)
- Summit: SCBOE Early Vote Center, 500 Grant Street, Akron Ohio 44311

Check with the voter’s county board of elections for more information about where to vote early, or consult the State’s list of early voting locations here by county:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/>.

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

18. The same ID requirements apply to early in-person voting as Election Day voting. See Question #3. See here for identification requirements: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/id-requirements/>.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

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

The state will automatically mail all registered voters an absentee ballot application.^{xxxviii} If the voter has not received an absentee ballot application by September 14, 2020,^{xxxix} the voter should immediately request an absentee ballot application by following the below process.^{xl}

- Fill out an absentee request application using the online tool here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-request/>, OR by downloading, completing, and return mailing Form 11-A,^{xli} found here https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_english.pdf (English), or here https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_spanish.pdf (Spanish).
 - For specific absentee voter considerations, see: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/publications/#abr>.

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- If the voter does not use the prescribed form or online tool, their written application need not be in any particular format, but it must contain all of the following information:
 - Name;
 - Legal signature;
 - The address at which they are registered to vote;
 - Date of birth;
 - One of the following items showing proof of identification:
 - Ohio driver's license number (begins with two letters followed by six numbers);
 - The last four digits of their Social Security number; or
 - A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and current address.
 - A statement identifying the election for which they are requesting an absentee ballot;
 - A statement that they are a qualified elector;
 - If they want the ballot to be mailed to a different address than where they are registered, the address to which you want it mailed.
- As part of the application, provide one of the proper forms of ID: (a) Ohio driver's license number; (b) the last four digits of their SSN; OR (c) one of the following documents, showing the name and address of the voter:
 - A copy of the voter's current and valid photo identification,
 - A copy of a military identification, or
 - A copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections.^{xlii}

The county will mail you your absentee ballot to the address provided in the voter's application.

20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 12:00 p.m. (noon) three days before the election in which you want to vote (12:00 p.m. on Saturday October 31 for the November 3 general election).^{xliii}

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

Mail the request form back to your own county board of elections. Board mailing addresses are available at [OhioSoS.gov/boards](https://www.ohiosos.gov/boards). Voters can also return their completed ballot applications to county boards of elections drop boxes.^{xliiv}

Wait to receive your ballot in the mail from your county board of elections. If the voter has questions about their absentee ballot request, they should call their county board of elections or track the status of their ballot request through the Voter Toolkit here:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.

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

The voter can vote by another method (i.e. in-person).

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

No.

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

The voter can track their ballot at the Voter's Toolkit on the Secretary of State's web page:

<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/toolkit/ballot-tracking/>.

25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If the board receives an application for an absentee ballot that does not contain all the required information listed above, it promptly must notify the voter of the missing information and ask the voter to resubmit a complete application containing all required information.^{xlv}

The board may not return an incomplete application of any type to the voter, as once an application is received at the board office, it is a public record. In addition, election officials may not complete an application's missing information on behalf of the voter. The voter must personally complete any missing information on the application, unless the voter has paperwork on file with the board of elections to receive assistance from a designated attorney-in-fact.^{xlvi}

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

Upon receiving an absentee ballot, the voter should inspect it. If there are any voter marks on it, it should be immediately returned to the board of elections. If it is unmarked, the voter should complete the ballot by marking it with the voter's selections, folded in a manner that the stub on it and the indorsements and facsimile signatures of the members of the board of elections on the back of it are visible, and placed and sealed within the identification envelope. The voter must complete and sign the statement on the outside of the identification envelope, otherwise the ballot will not be counted.^{xlvi}

If the voter does not provide their driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number on the statement of voter on the identification envelope, the voter must also include in the return envelope with the identification envelope a copy of the voter's current valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections, that shows the name and address of the voter.^{xlvi}

27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

Upon receiving an absentee ballot, the voter should inspect it. If there are any voter marks on it, it should be immediately returned to the board of elections.^{xlix} If a voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks a paper ballot, the voter may return it to a precinct election official and receive a replacement. If the voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks a second ballot, the voter may return it to the precinct election official, and a third ballot must be issued to the voter. In no case may more than three ballots be issued to a voter.^l

If you have questions about your absentee ballot request, you should call your county board of elections (<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>) or you can track the status of your ballot request as well as your voted absentee ballot through the Voter Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.^{li}

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

If you have questions about your absentee ballot request, you should call your county board of elections (<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>) or you can track the status of your ballot request as well as your voted absentee ballot through the Voter

Toolkit here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/>.^{lii}

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

If you requested an absentee ballot, but want to vote in-person EARLY, then you may vote using a non-provisional ballot. Voters may be asked to return the mailed ballot, but such voters do NOT need to return their original absentee ballot as a condition of casting a non-provisional ballot. However, if you requested an absentee ballot, but want to vote in-person on ELECTION DAY, the voter will be required to cast a provisional ballot (even if the voter did not receive their ballot).^{liii}

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

You can return your absentee ballot in person or by mail.

If you are returning it in person or at a drop box at the county board of elections, then make sure the board of elections **receives it by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day**. If you are a member of the uniformed services or a voter outside of the United States, the ballot must be mailed not later than 12:01 a.m. on Election Day at the place where you are located (i.e. 12:01 a.m. on November 3rd).^{liv}

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If you are returning it by mail, then make sure that your ballot is **postmarked by the day before Election Day**. To be counted, your ballot must be received by Friday, November 13, 2020 (10 days after Election Day).^{lv}

- It usually takes 2-5 days for a ballot to be delivered by mail.
- A postage label purchased at a USPS customer service window or vending machine should have the date on the label, which is the postmark.
- **Postage stamps do not have a postmark on them; be sure to ask the post office to postmark the ballot if you use postage stamps to mail the envelope.**
- Voters should not use a postage meter or an online service (such as stamps.com) to affix postage.

The voter can track their ballot at the Voter’s Toolkit on the Secretary of State’s web page:

<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/toolkit/ballot-tracking/>.

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

Boards of election are required to have a secure receptacle (drop box) outside the office for the return of absentee ballots.^{lvi} If you return your ballot to the board in person, or if a near relative delivers it for you, the board of elections must receive your ballot no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.^{lvii}

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

Near relatives can return an absentee ballots. A “near relative” includes the voter’s spouse or the voter’s father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, or sister of the whole or half blood, or the son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.^{lviii}

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

Starting the day after the close of voter registration, all registered voters may request and vote an absentee ballot in person at their county board of elections or early voting center as designated by the county, and may return absentee ballots in person to their county board of elections before the close of the polls at 7:30 PM on Election Day. For specific times designated for early in-person absentee voting, see the current voting schedule: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/current-voting-schedule/>.

Most Ohio counties provide early voting at their board of elections office. You can look up a voter’s early voting site here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/>.

- Lucas: Ohio Means Jobs Building, 1301 Monroe Street, Toledo Ohio 43604
- Summit: SCBOE Early Vote Center, 500 Grant Street, Akron Ohio 44311

You can also check with the voter’s county board of elections for more information about where to vote early: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

Note: the same ID requirements apply to early in-person voting as Election Day voting. See Question #3.

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?

On Election Day, the polls must be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST. If there are voters waiting in line to cast their ballots at 7:30 p.m., then the polls must remain open until those in line have voted.^{ix}

***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.

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

You can find a voter's polling location by visiting this link:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/>.

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

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

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

If you want to vote a regular ballot, then you are **required** to show some kind of proof of identity when you come to vote at the polls. **Acceptable forms of identification are:**^{ix}

- An unexpired Ohio driver's license or state identification card with present or former address so long as the voter's present residential address is printed in the official list of registered voters for that precinct;
- An unexpired military identification;
- An unexpired photo identification that was issued by the United States government or the State of Ohio, that contains the voter's name and current address and that has an expiration date that has not passed;
- An original or copy of a current utility bill with the voter's name and present address;
- An original or copy of a current bank statement with the voter's name and present address;
- An original or copy of a current government check with the voter's name and present address;
- An original or copy of a current paycheck with the voter's name and present address; or
- An original or copy of a current other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and present address.

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For more information on required identification, see: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/>.

“Current” is defined as within the last 12 months. “Other government document” includes license renewal and other notices, fishing and marine equipment operator’s license, court papers, or grade reports or transcripts. “Government office” includes any local (including county, city, township, school district and village), state or federal (United States) government office, branch, agency, commission, public college or university or public community college, whether or not in Ohio.^{lxi}

Ohio law **prohibits** acceptance of the following forms of ID:^{lxii}

- Driver’s license or photo identification card issued by a state other than Ohio;
- Social Security card;
- Passport;
- Birth certificate, unless voter still lives at the house where they resided at birth, and the birth certificate contains that home address, in which case this is acceptable as an "other government document";
- Insurance card; or
- Any registration acknowledgment notice from the county board of elections.

If you show up to the polls without ID, you must vote on a provisional ballot and provide either: (a) an Ohio driver’s license number or state identification number (begins with two letters followed by six numbers), or (b) the last four digits of their Social Security number.^{lxiii} Once the information is reviewed and verified by the board of elections, your ballot will be counted.

If you do not provide one of the above documents or your driver’s license/state identification number or the last four digits of your Social Security number at the precinct, you will still be able to vote using a provisional ballot. However, in order for that ballot to be counted, you must return to the board of elections no later than seven days following Election Day to provide a qualifying form of identification. You should expect to be given information so that you can follow up on the status and confirm whether votes are counted. If you are not given any information, then ask for information to follow up.^{lxiv}

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

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

You should call your county board of elections if your polling place is closed or not open in time. See here for a directory of county boards of elections: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

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?

See Question 34 for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing. Voter should stay in line and will be allowed to vote as long as the voter was in line by 7:30 p.m.

***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?

The voter should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open and ask for another method by which to vote.

If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify your command center. They will contact the county board of election.

***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?

Precinct officials have been instructed to follow specific precautionary measures:
<https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/media-center/news/2020/2020-08-12.pdf>.

All precincts are required to offer curbside voting to any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling location or concerned about entering a polling location. Curbside voting is the process followed when a person who is physically unable to enter a polling location can send another person into the polling location to inform precinct election officials of their desire to vote.^{lxv}

When precinct election officials are made aware of the name of a voter who is physically outside of the polling location, but is physically unable to enter the polling location, the following should be done:

- One of the election officials checks the Signature Poll Book for the name of the voter.^{lxvi}
- If the voter is a qualified elector and in the correct precinct, the election official places the voter's name and address on a blank sheet of paper.
- Two election officials of different political parties take the sheet containing the voter's name and address outside the polling location to the voter.
- The voter confirms the name and address are correct.
- The voter provides appropriate identification for voting purposes.
- The voter's identification is examined.
- The voter signs the sheet containing their name and address.
- The two election officials return the sheet containing the voter's signature to the polling location and attempt to verify the voter's signature in the Signature Poll Book.
- The two election officials should verify that the voter's signature substantially conforms to the voter's signature in the Signature Poll Book.
- The two election officials record next to the voter's name in the Signature Poll Book "Curbside Voter."

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- The two election officials determine the type of ballot to be issued to voter.
- The two election officials obtain the paper ballot and the appropriate ballot envelope or secrecy sleeve (an envelope provided in the precinct election supply kit which is labeled: “Curbside Ballot Envelope or secrecy sleeve” for voted regular curbside ballots or “Provisional Curbside Ballot Envelope” for voted provisional curbside ballots).
- The two election officials take the appropriate ballot (regular or provisional) and corresponding envelope or secrecy sleeve to the voter located outside the polling location.
- The two election officials provide instructions to the voter on how to mark the ballot.
- The voter marks the ballot and places it in the appropriate envelope or secrecy sleeve (if a provisional ballot, the voter must complete the Identification Envelope – Provisional Affirmation (Form 12-B) and be given a copy of the Provisional Ballot Notice (Form 12-H).
- The two election officials take the appropriate envelope or secrecy sleeve containing the corresponding voted ballot back into the polling location and place it in the appropriate ballot container.
- If a voter who wishes to utilize the curbside voting process is unable to sign their name:
- The two election officials witness the voter’s mark on the sheet containing the voter’s name and address that was taken outside the polling location.
- The two election officials return the sheet containing the voter’s mark to the polling location.
- The two election officials record next to the voter’s name in Signature Poll Book “Curbside Voter – Unable to Sign.”

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

Another individual may not accompany the voter into the voting booth, except if the voter is blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and requires assistance in order to vote.^{lxvii} But, voters can still speak with election officials outside of the voting booth to clarify non-political questions.^{lxviii}

It is illegal in Ohio for a voter to show another person their voted ballot.^{lxix} Many have interpreted this law to mean that so-called “ballot selfies” are technically illegal in Ohio, but the law’s application to social media and the practicality of enforcement is unclear.^{lxx}

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

All precincts are required to offer curbside voting to any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling location or concerned about entering a polling location.^{lxxi} See Question #40.

Ohio’s accessible absentee voting system, also known as the remote ballot marking system is a ballot delivery option that allows you to receive an absentee ballot in an accessible format and on any device connected to the internet. This system is briefly described below, and more information is available here: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/Votingfaqs/>.

If you have a qualifying disability, you must provide a written request to the board of elections, by using [Form 11-G](#). This form can be obtained by going to your Ohio Secretary of State website at VoteOhio.gov or from a board of election’s website. After filling out and signing the form, it must be returned to the board of elections.

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You may also submit any written application to a board of elections that indicates you have a disability and wish to use the accessible absentee voting system. Upon receipt, the board will process the request, including contacting you for more information. Once the board of elections approves the request, it will make the accessible absentee voting system available to you.^{lxxii}

You can access, read, and mark your ballot both privately and independently. This system allows you to use any necessary assistive technology. After a ballot is marked, you must print and return it to your board of elections. You cannot return your ballot electronically.

You can choose to return your absentee ballot using one of the following methods:

- Return by Mail by either of the following:
 - Complete electronically, print, and sign the Identification Envelope – Statement of Voter (Secretary of State Form 12-A) that the board emailed to you and enclose it with your ballot in any envelope.
 - Complete and sign the Identification Envelope – Statement of Voter (Secretary of State Form 12-A) that the board mailed to you and enclose your ballot in the Identification Envelope.
- Return by Personal Delivery:
 - You may deliver the absentee ballot personally, or you may have a qualified family member deliver the absentee ballot to the office of the board of elections only.

If returning by mail, the accessible absentee ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day and received at the board of elections office no later than the 10th day after Election Day.

If returning in person, the accessible absentee ballot must be returned by the close of polls on Election Day at the office of the board of elections only. No one may return a voted absentee ballot to a precinct polling location.

If you are a voter with a disability and you have questions about how to vote, please contact the ADA coordinator at 877.767.6446 or at <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/contact-us-ada-coordinator/>.

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?

The voter can bring along any person of the voter's choice to assist except (i) the voter's employer; (ii) an agent of the voter's employer; (iii) an agent of the voter's union; or (iv) any candidate whose name appears on the ballot.^{lxxiii} The voter can also ask precinct election officials to assist. If precinct officials are to assist, two officials from different political parties must accompany the voter.^{lxxiv}

In some locations, the board of elections may appoint interpreters fluent in a non-English language to assist voters.^{lxxv}

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

Upon arriving at the polling place, the voter can send another person into the polling location to inform precinct election officials of their desire to vote.^{lxxvi} See Question #40.

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

Under Ohio law it is illegal:^{lxxvii}

- to intimidate or interfere with a voter when they are registering to vote or voting,
- to loiter or congregate in the space between the polling place and the flags placed outside of it, or within 10 feet of voters in line,
- to obstruct the access of the voter to the polls,
- engage in violence against observers, or to otherwise cause violence or disorder,
- for a precinct official to admit someone to the polling room who is not qualified by law to be there, or
- for a precinct official or police officer to display any campaign badges or signs at a polling place, express preference for any candidate, or attempt to influence any voter in casting their ballot.

Precinct officials (poll workers) must prevent intimidation of or disturbance to voters.^{lxxviii} And, police can arrest people violating the election code.^{lxxix}

If a voter faces harassment at the polls, they can bring a civil case against the harasser.^{lxxx}

Rules for observers:

Candidates, political parties, and ballot initiative groups can appoint one observer for each precinct and at the county board of elections. Observers must have a certificate of their appointment and swear an oath not to “delay” voters or disclose how they voted. They are permitted to go in and out of the polling place and watch the precinct officials and the counting of votes.^{lxxxii} They can use audio/visual recording devices but not in a way that interferes with the voter or the secrecy of their ballot, and they cannot take photos or videos in the polling place. Their devices should be silenced and they can send text messages. They can use a phone to discuss the election or problems with the election administration, but only outside the polling place.

The observer cannot be a candidate, uniformed officer, member of an organized militia, or carry firearms. They cannot engage in any sort of electioneering. They are not enforcers of the law and cannot be advocates for voters. They may be removed for disruptive behavior.^{lxxxii} There is no legal authorization for a partisan observer to formally challenge a voter.^{lxxxiii}

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

I'm being challenged before Election Day:

Someone can challenge your registration or your right to vote or submit an application to have the registration list corrected but these types of challenges must be made 20 days before Election Day. The challenger must state the reasons for the challenge in writing under penalty of perjury.^{lxxxiv}

After receiving the challenge, the board must immediately consider it, and may immediately grant or deny the challenge solely on the basis of the records they maintain. If the board cannot immediately determine if the challenge should be granted or denied, the board must schedule a hearing not later than 10 days after the challenge is filed, except as described below. The board director must send written notice to the voter who is being challenged, or to the person whose name is alleged to be missing from the registration list. The person offering the challenge will also get notice, except as described below. The notice must inform the person of the time and date of the hearing, and of their right to appear and testify, call witnesses, and be represented by counsel. The notice must be sent by no later than three days before the day of any scheduled hearing.^{lxxxv}

At the request of either the challenger or person being challenged, or any member of the board, the board can issue subpoenas to witnesses to appear and testify. All witnesses must testify under oath. The board must reach a decision immediately after the hearing.^{lxxxvi}

If the board decides that the challenged voter is not entitled to be on the registration list, their name will be removed from the list and their registration will be canceled. If the board decides that the name of any person should appear on the registration list, it shall be added. Any changes or corrections the board decides on must appear on the poll books used in the precincts.^{lxxxvii}

The board may choose to postpone a hearing on a challenge offered within 30 days of the election, until after the election (no more than 10 days after). However, a note will be made on the poll book that that voter has been challenged. Such a voter is entitled to cast a provisional ballot, and the hearing on the challenge will determine if the provisional ballot is counted.^{lxxxviii}

If the voter has a confidential voter registration record, meaning that their personal information is concealed from the public record (typically because they are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault), all of the following apply: The challenger will not be notified of the date and time of the hearing, will not be allowed to attend, and will not be given notice of the outcome. If the application is to correct the registration record, and is made by someone other than the elector themselves, the applicant will not get notice of the hearing. Such challenge or application hearings are not open to the public, and the records they produce are not subject to public records request.^{lxxxix}

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I'm being challenged at my polling place:

Only precinct election officials (PEO) may challenge a voter's right to vote at the polling place; private citizens may **NOT** do so. If this happens, the PEO will require the voter to swear the following oath: "You do swear or affirm under penalty of election falsification that you will fully and truly answer all of the following questions put to you concerning your qualifications as an elector at this election." PEOs may not challenge something that has already been resolved by the board of elections prior to Election Day.^{xc}

If the person is challenged on the grounds that the person has not resided in Ohio for thirty days immediately preceding the election, the PEOs will ask:

- Have you resided in this state for thirty days immediately preceding this election? If so, where have you resided?
- Did you properly register to vote?
- Can you provide some form of identification containing your current mailing address in this precinct? Please provide that identification.
- Have you voted or attempted to vote at any other location in this or in any other state at this election?
- Have you applied for an absent voter's ballot in any state for this election?^{xc}

If the person is challenged as unqualified on the ground that the person is not a resident of the precinct, the PEOs will ask:

- Do you reside in this precinct?
- When did you move into this precinct?
- When you came into this precinct, did you come for a temporary purpose merely or for the purpose of making it your home?
- What is your current mailing address?
- Do you have some official identification containing your current address in this precinct? Please provide that identification.
- Have you voted or attempted to vote at any other location in this or in any other state at this election?
- Have you applied for any absent voter's ballot in any state for this election?

If the PEOs determine the person is not at the right polling place, they must direct them to the right place. If the voter refuses to go, the PEOs must offer the voter a provisional ballot.^{xcii}

If the person is challenged as unqualified on the ground that the person is not of legal voting age, the PEOs will ask:

- Are you eighteen years of age or more?
- What is your date of birth?
- Do you have some official identification verifying your age? Please provide that identification.^{xciii}

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The PEO may ask voters additional questions to determine eligibility. If the voter refuses to answer any question, they will be offered a provisional ballot.^{xciv}

The voter will be directed to give their responses to these questions in writing on Form 10-U (<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/10-U.pdf>).^{xcv}

In any of the above cases, if the PEOs cannot determine the voter's eligibility, they must offer the voter a provisional ballot. The board of elections will decide if they will count the ballot consistent with the rules described above.^{xcvi}

If the PEOs believe that the voter's signature does not match the one on file, they must offer a provisional ballot.^{xcvii}

Ohio law, as written, allows PEOs to request proof of naturalization if they challenge a voter's citizenship. However, that provision was struck down by a federal court, and may not be enforced. **The voter may NOT be instructed to provide proof of citizenship.**^{xcviii} **The voter may still be asked if they are a citizen, but if they answer in the affirmative, they MUST be given a regular ballot.**^{xcix}

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

***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?

The reasons that a voter may be required to cast a provisional ballot are:

- The voter's name is not in the poll book or on the supplemental voter list.
- The voter does not provide or is unable to provide proper or valid identification.
- The voter has changed his or her name and moved to a different precinct without updating his or her address by the voter registration deadline.
- The voter has moved to a different precinct without updating his or her address by the voter registration deadline.
- The voter has changed his or her name and does not have proof of the legal name change.
- The voter's signature does not match the signature on file with the board of elections.
- The voter has been challenged, and the challenge has not been resolved or has been resolved against the voter.
- The notice of registration or acknowledgement notice has been returned to the board as undeliverable.
- The voter requested an absentee ballot before the election.
- The voter has cast a provisional ballot.^c

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot.

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A provisional ballot should be a last resort. As part of the provisional ballot process, the voter will be required to complete and execute a written affirmation before an election official at the polling place. The affirmation form is printed on the provisional ballot envelope.^{ci}

It is important that the voter fill out the affidavit on the envelope correctly as even minor errors may result in their provisional ballot being rejected.^{cii}

If the voter casts a provisional ballot, **remind them to ask the poll officials what (if any) additional steps they must take to ensure their ballot is counted.** A voter casting a provisional ballot may provide additional information to the election official to assist the board of elections in determining the voter's eligibility to vote in that election, including the date and location at which the individual registered to vote.

Within 7 days after election day, a voter who casts a provisional ballot because they did not have the required forms of ID or were successfully challenged, **must** appear at the board of elections office and provide the appropriate identification (see below section on Voter ID) or other additional information necessary to determine the voter's eligibility. But, no follow up is required if a voter who did not provide a proper ID wrote on the provisional ballot envelope either the last four digits of their social security number or their full Ohio driver's license or Ohio ID card number.^{ciii}

QUESTIONS

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

Voters should contact either the Secretary of State's office using the contact information located here: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/secretary-office/contact-our-office/>. Voters can also contact their county board of elections here using the directory provided here: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

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- ⁱ FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2019-13, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 3: VOTER REGISTRATION, https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2019/eom_12-2019/eom_ch3_2019-12-18.pdf.
- ⁱⁱ FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, VOTER REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION UPDATE FORM, https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/vr_form_04-2015.pdf.
- ⁱⁱⁱ FRANK LAROSE, OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, DIRECTIVE 2019-13, UPDATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MANUAL, CHAPTER 3: VOTER REGISTRATION, https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/directives/2019/eom_12-2019/eom_ch3_2019-12-18.pdf.
- ^{iv} Ohio Secretary of State, Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration Information, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/#register>.
- ^v Ohio Secretary of State, Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration Information, <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>; Ohio Secretary of State, 2020 Elections Calendar, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/publications/2020-elections-calendar/#gref>.
- ^{vi} <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/register/>; *Same Day Voter Registration*, NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (Mar. 27, 2018); Zachary Roth, *Court Upholds Ohio's Cuts to Early Voting, Same-Day Registration*, NBC NEWS (Aug. 3, 2016, 3:17 PM) <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/same-day-registration.aspx>.
- ^{vii} Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(A).
- ^{viii}
- ^{ix} Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(B)(1)(a).
- ^x Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(B)(2).
- ^{xi} Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3505.181(C)(1).
- ^{xii} Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.16(C).
- ^{xiii} Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3503.06(A).
- ^{xiv} Ohio Secretary of State, Current Voting Schedule, <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/current-voting-schedule/>.
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