

**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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## REGISTERING TO VOTE

### 1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

You can determine if you're registered to vote by checking the Oregon Secretary of State's "My Vote" website at: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/showVoterSearch.do>. You will need to provide your first name, last name, and date of birth in order to check or update your voter registration or track your ballot.

If your information is confidential or you are not yet 18 years of age, you will need to contact your County Elections Office to determine voter registration. Contact information for each County Elections office can be found at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

**ONLINE:** You can register online at: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do>.

**BY MAIL:** You can register by mail using a voter registration form (also available in [Spanish](#)). The English form can be found online at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL500.pdf>.

**IN PERSON:** You can register in person at the County Elections Office. Contact information for each County Elections Office can be found at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**Voters displaced by the fires or the pandemic in Oregon:** You do not need to re-register to vote if you are living somewhere temporarily because you have been displaced by wildfires. You just need to let election officials know where to mail your ballot by one of the methods above. For a "Displaced Voter FAQ", visit: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Pages/fires.aspx>.

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

You will need an Oregon driver's license, permit, or ID card number issued by the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) to register to vote (but because Oregon is a vote-by-mail state, no identification is required to submit your ballot at a drop off location). If you do not have an Oregon driver's license, permit or ID card, you can still use the online voter registration application. The information you enter will display on a voter registration card (PDF document) that you will need to print, sign, and deliver to your County Elections Office to complete your registration.

To register to vote in Oregon, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of Oregon
- At least 16 years old

If you are not yet 18 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**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?**

A new registrant must submit their online registration by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the 21<sup>st</sup> calendar day before an election to be eligible to vote in that election. So, for the presidential election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the deadline for voter registration is October 13<sup>th</sup> online or in person, or postmarked October 13<sup>th</sup> if you register by mail.

**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. Oregon does not offer Same Day Registration. You must register online or in person, or have your registration post marked, by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the 21<sup>st</sup> calendar day before an election (October 13<sup>th</sup> for the presidential election) to be eligible to vote in that election. However, if your registration is active or inactive, you can update your registration any time before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.<sup>i</sup>

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

Yes. Whether you moved within the same precinct, moved to a different precinct within the same county, moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically a different county), or moved from a different state, you can *update* your voter registration information (whether your registration is active or inactive), until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day and still cast a ballot.<sup>ii</sup>

If your registration is updated close to an election (after the 21<sup>st</sup> day preceding the election), your ballot might have to be issued at your County Elections Office, as the post office will not forward or hold a ballot.<sup>iii</sup> The County Elections Office will issue a provisional ballot, if your registration was active, and mark the ballot return envelope to indicate that the ballot was reissued.<sup>iv</sup> The provisional ballot may be returned by mail or to a designated ballot drop box.

However, it is important to note that you must *register* online or in person, or have your registration post marked, by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the 21<sup>st</sup> calendar day before an election (October 13<sup>th</sup> for the presidential election), to be eligible to vote in that election.

If you [change your address with the DMV](#), your voter registration information will be updated, unless you decline at the DMV. You'll be sent a postcard at your new address confirming your voter registration information.

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

If you are living somewhere temporarily because you have been displaced by wildfires, the pandemic, or any other reason, you can still vote by mail (Oregon is a vote-by-mail state), but you will need to let election officials know where to mail your ballot by one of the following methods:

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1. Ballots will begin being mailed October 14<sup>th</sup>. If you know an address where you will be able to receive mail then, you can add a temporary mailing address at [oregonvotes.gov/myvote](https://oregonvotes.gov/myvote).
2. If you want to use a paper form to provide the state with a temporary address, download the Absentee Ballot Request Form at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL111.pdf>.
3. You can pick up all of your mail (including ballots once they are mailed) at the post office that serves your permanent residence address.
4. Contact your County Election Office after October 1<sup>st</sup> for additional options they may have for pickup. Find yours at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

The ballot you receive will contain the contests for your residential address, not your temporary mailing address. If mail cannot be delivered to your home or mailbox, it will be held at your local post office and you can pick it up there.

#### **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?**

The same residency rules apply to college students as to other voters, so 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.<sup>v</sup> 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.<sup>vi</sup>

You can register to vote in Oregon if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen;
- Have established a residential address in Oregon; and
- Are at least 16 years old.

For students, your **residential address** can be your parents' or other family home, or your home where you are a student. You get to choose, but you can only choose one. Oregon residency requirements for voting are not the same as residency for in-state tuition purposes. Your residential address is the address that you consider home and the place you intend to return to. That address determines which candidates and measures will be on your ballot. If you live on campus and provide a campus address as your residential address, be sure to list your dormitory and room number; a P.O. Box is not a residential address.

Your **mailing address** is where your ballot will be mailed. It does not impact the ballot measures and candidates that appear on your ballot. Your ballot can be sent to you anywhere in the world. For example, you may list your parents' home as your residential address, but a campus address or other P.O. Box at college as your mailing address.

You may remain registered at your home address, or you may register at your Oregon school address. You get to choose, but you can only choose one. Contact your state's election office to receive information on updating your registration information and to request an absentee ballot if you would like to remain registered in your home state but vote while in Oregon attending school.

If you are studying abroad, Update your mailing address online with MyVote at <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/myvote.aspx> or contact your county elections department at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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You may vote or be registered to vote in only one state. Voting in two places is a felony. You may only vote once; you may only vote in one county in one state. Keep this in mind when deciding if you want to list your home or school address for your voter registration. Should you accidentally receive two ballots, vote only once. If you were previously registered in another state, cancel your registration in that state when you register in Oregon.

See: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/student-voters.aspx>

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

Active-duty military, their families, and overseas citizens can register to vote and request their absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA process is done by mail, but you should [contact your election official](#) for more information about delivery and return methods, including email, fax, and state online portals.

To follow the FPCA process:

- Fill out the [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#), or [download a copy](#). Your election official may have questions, so please provide an email address or phone number where they can reach you.
- Send the application to your [election official](#).
- It is never too early to submit an FPCA! Please do so as soon as possible. You can look up [recommended mailing dates by country and region](#).

If after submitting your FPCA, your ballot does not arrive, contact your election official first. Then:

- You can still vote using the [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#). Print, sign, and mail your FWAB to your local election office.
- If you mail a FWAB and then receive your regular absentee ballot, you should complete and mail your absentee ballot also. Election officials will ensure that only one ballot is counted.
- The Federal Voting Assistance Program – [FVAP.gov](#) offers additional information on military and overseas voting in Oregon. You can also call 1-800-438-VOTE or email [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov).

Eligible voters may also [register online](#) with an Oregon driver license or state ID from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). See [Question 2](#). The [Federal Voting Assistance Program's online system](#) does not require an Oregon driver license. Eligible voters must be registered 21 days before an election in order to cast a ballot.

Due to mail disruptions throughout the world because of COVID-19, Oregon encourages all overseas Oregon voters to contact their [county election official](#), or email the State Elections Division at [elections.sos@oregon.gov](mailto:elections.sos@oregon.gov) to discuss options for you to receive/return your ballot.

Ballots are mailed to military and overseas voters at least 45 days before Election day. Ballots may be accessed on [My Vote](#) and filled in with Oregon's online ballot-marking tool.

Military and overseas voters have a number of ways to return their ballot:

- Ballots may be mailed to the appropriate [county elections office](#).
- A signed ballot may be faxed or emailed if the voter completes and returns the [Secret Ballot Waiver Form](#).

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Fill out and send back your ballot as soon as you receive it. The following are recommended return dates to make sure your ballot arrives at your election office on time:

- 35 days before election – On a ship at sea: September 28, 2020.
- 30 days before election – Outside of the US: October 2, 2020.
- 11 days before the election – Stateside: October 23, 2020.

**Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks don't count.**

States begin mailing absentee ballots at least 45 days before Election Day. If you haven't received your ballot by 30 days before Election Day, contact your [local election office](#).

See: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/militaryoverseas.aspx>

See also: <https://howto.vote/vote/en/or.html>

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

Yes. Convicted felons may vote, unless they are currently incarcerated.

**11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?**

Persons currently incarcerated in a federal correctional institution in Oregon may neither register to vote nor vote, until the person is discharged from imprisonment or the person's conviction is set aside.<sup>vii</sup>

**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?**

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state with drop box locations for delivering your ballot so being on a registration roll at a voting place should not be an issue. You do not need to use the box in your precinct. Boxes are open 24 hours a day until 8:00 p.m. Election Day. If an issue does arise, contact your County Elections Office, visit: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**13. THOUGHT 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?**

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 written 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.<sup>viii</sup>

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.<sup>ix</sup>

If the voter's name is not on the list of registered voters, the voter can vote using a provisional ballot. See [Question 48](#).

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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](#))
- 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?

See [Question 4](#) in the event there is still time to register.

## 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?**

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state and does not offer "early voting" or in-person voting, other than the standard mailing of a ballot or dropping off of a ballot at a designated drop box location. Boxes are open 24 hours a day until 8:00 p.m. Election Day.

Ballots are mailed approximately two weeks before an election you will get your ballot in the mail. If you are not yet 18 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

For your nearest drop box location, use the Oregon Drop Box Locator, which will be updated 20 days before the next statewide election, at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx>.

For more information about local elections, including drop box locations for your county, contact your County Elections Official by visiting: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

N/A. See [Question 14](#).

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

N/A. See [Question 14](#). Polls close at 8:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Election Day. A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.<sup>x</sup> Contact your county clerk for information about in-person voting in your county. Contact for each County Elections office can be found at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.



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

N/A. See [Question 14](#). Oregon does not have “early voting” but you can find your nearest drop box location using the Oregon Drop Box Locator, which will be updated 20 days before the next statewide election, at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx>.

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

N/A. See [Question 14](#). Oregon is a vote-by-mail state and does not have “early voting”. 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.<sup>xi</sup> For more on identification, see [Questions 26 and 36](#).

## 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?**

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state. Absentee ballots will automatically be sent to all registered voters. If you need your ballot sent somewhere other than your usual address, contact your local election official at least one month before the election so you have time to receive the ballot.

Students attending an out-of-state college or voters traveling during an election can still receive a ballot, by:

- filling out the [Absentee Ballot Request Form](#) at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL111.pdf> and returning it to the [county elections office](#); or
- Online using [My Vote](#) (<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/showVoterSearch.do?lang=eng&source=SOS>).

For more on student voting, see [Question 8](#).

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

See [Question 19](#).

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

For requesting an absentee ballot, see [Question 19](#).

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.<sup>xii</sup>

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

N/A. See [Question 19](#). If you did not receive your ballot in the mail, contact your County Elections Office for a replacement ballot at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

No. See [Question 19](#).

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

You can check the status of your ballot at <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/showVoterSearch.do> or with your County Elections Office at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**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 your ballot arrives damaged, you make a mistake, spill something, lose your ballot, or for any other reason, contact your County Elections Office for a replacement ballot at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

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. Voters should immediately notify the election officers if they are having trouble depositing or casting their ballots.

Voters with disabilities may request assistance from the County Elections Office or by calling 866-673-8683.<sup>xiii</sup> 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.<sup>xiv</sup> 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.<sup>xv</sup>

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.<sup>xvi</sup>

Because 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.<sup>xvii</sup>

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If it is your first time voting in a federal election, and you registered by mail to vote but did not provide verification of identification at the time you registered, you will need to provide a copy of acceptable identification with your ballot; valid forms of ID include:

- a copy of a current and valid photo identification; or
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.<sup>xviii</sup>

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

If your ballot arrives damaged, you make a mistake, spill something, lose your ballot, or for any other reason, contact your County Elections Office for a replacement ballot at:

<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

A voter that has not received his or her ballot can contact the voter's County Elections Office at:

<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

N/A. See [Question 19](#). Oregon is a vote-by-mail state. If you would prefer to drop your ballot off at a designated drop box location rather than mailing it, you may do so up until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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

**Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks don't count.**

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 is an official ballot drop box site.<sup>xix</sup> A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.<sup>xx</sup> Contact your county clerk for information about in-person voting in your county. Contact for each County Elections office can be found at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state.<sup>xxi</sup> 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>).

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Additionally, voters may submit their ballots by:

- returning the ballot by mail with adequate postage in the security envelope enclosed with the ballot;
- depositing the ballot at the office of the county clerk or a designated ballot drop box;<sup>xxii</sup> or
- marking the ballot in person at a voting booth set up by the county clerk.<sup>xxiii</sup>

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

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.<sup>xxiv</sup> Because Oregon is a vote-by-mail state, and 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.<sup>xxv</sup>

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

N/A. See [Question 19](#).

## **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?**

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state. Each county voting official establishes designated places to deposit completed ballots. You do not need to use the box in your precinct. Boxes are open 24 hours a day until 8:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Election Day.

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 is an official ballot drop box site.<sup>xxvi</sup> A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.<sup>xxvii</sup> Contact your county clerk for information about in-person voting in your county. Contact for each County Elections Office can be found at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks don't count.**

**\*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?

If you have not already mailed your ballot in, each county voting official establishes designated places to deposit completed ballots. Use the Oregon Drop Box Locator, which will be updated 20 days before the next statewide election, at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx>.

For more information about local elections, including drop box locations for your county, contact your County Elections Official by visiting: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**\*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?

Yes. Because 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.<sup>xxviii</sup>

If it is your first time voting in a federal election and you registered by mail to vote but did not provide verification of identification at the time you registered, you will need to provide a copy of acceptable identification with your ballot; valid forms of identification include:

- a copy of a current and valid photo identification; or
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.<sup>xxix</sup>

## 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.

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state with drop box locations only. You do not need to use the box in your precinct. Boxes are open 24 hours a day until 8:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Election Day.

To find your nearest drop box location, use Oregon's Drop Box Locator, which will be updated 20 days before the next statewide election, at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx>.

For more information about local elections, including drop box locations for your county, contact your County Elections Official by visiting: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**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?**

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 is an official ballot drop box site.<sup>xxx</sup> A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.<sup>xxxi</sup> Contact your county clerk for information about in-person voting in your county. Contact for each County Elections Office can be found at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines or 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.

**39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: 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. To contact your County Elections Office, visit: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of ballot-casting issues at a polling place, notify your hotline captain, who will notify election officials. Field volunteers at a polling place where any equipment is not working properly should notify the command center.

**40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?**

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state with drop box locations only.

Masks, face coverings, or face shields are currently required statewide for offices and indoor public spaces (for example, grocery stores, pharmacies, public transit, personal services providers, restaurants, bars, retail stores, and more). Masks, face coverings, or face shields are required in outdoor public spaces when physical distancing of at least 6 feet is not possible. Children age 5 and up are required to wear a face covering. People with a disability or medical condition may request accommodation from the business if they cannot wear one. See: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

If you do not feel safe at your drop box location, or if state or federal mandates are not being followed, contact your County Elections Official by visiting: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: 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. Voters should immediately notify the election officers if they are having trouble depositing or casting their ballots (<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>).

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

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state. If you have not already mailed in your ballot, there are designated drop box locations. Voters with disabilities may request assistance from the County Elections Office or by calling (866) 673-8683 or, for the hearing impaired, TTY: 800-735-2900.<sup>xxxii</sup> 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.<sup>xxxiii</sup> 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.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

**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?**

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.<sup>xxxv</sup>

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

Oregon is a vote-by-mail state with drop box locations. For your nearest drop box location, use the Oregon Drop Box Locator, which will be updated 20 days before the next statewide election, at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx>.

**45. CAMPAIGNING: 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 and from the date the ballots are mailed until all persons waiting in line at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day have finished voting.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

**46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my 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.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

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

If you are concerned about the presence of police or military at your drop box location, you should contact your County Elections Office, visit: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

**\*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?**

First, inquire why you were 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.<sup>xxxviii</sup> The County Elections Office will send the ballot to the correct precinct, and it will be processed once the voter's eligibility has been confirmed.<sup>xxxix</sup>

## QUESTIONS

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

County elections offices are responsible for mailing ballots and registering voters. Specific contact information for the different County Election Officials can be found at:

- <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>

Contact information for the Elections Division at the Secretary of State's Office:

Public Service Building Suite 501  
255 Capitol St. NE  
Salem OR 97310  
Phone: (503) 986-1518  
Toll free: (866) 673-VOTE // (866) 673-8683  
Fax: (503) 373-7414  
TTY: (800) 735-2900  
Email: [elections.sos@oregon.gov](mailto:elections.sos@oregon.gov)

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- <sup>i</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.
  - <sup>ii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.
  - <sup>iii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. §§ 247.013, 254.470.
  - <sup>iv</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 247.307.
  - <sup>v</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 247.035.
  - <sup>vi</sup> *West v. Bowers*, 502 P.2d 270, 276 (1972).
  - <sup>vii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.
  - <sup>viii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 247.555.
  - <sup>ix</sup> OR. REV. STAT. §§ 247.555; 247.025.
  - <sup>x</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(10).
  - <sup>xi</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.
  - <sup>xii</sup> Voter Assistance Quick Guide, <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL620.pdf>
  - <sup>xiii</sup> Services for Voters with Disabilities, <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/disabilities.aspx>.
  - <sup>xiv</sup> Vote by Mail Manual, at 15, [http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm\\_manual.pdf](http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf).
  - <sup>xv</sup> Services for Voters with Disabilities, <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/disabilities.aspx>.
  - <sup>xvi</sup> Voter Assistance Quick Guide, <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL620.pdf>
  - <sup>xvii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.
  - <sup>xviii</sup> 52 U.S.C.A. § 21083.
  - <sup>xix</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(1).
  - <sup>xx</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(10).
  - <sup>xxi</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.465(1).
  - <sup>xxii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(6).
  - <sup>xxiii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.474.
  - <sup>xxiv</sup> Voter Assistance Quick Guide, <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL620.pdf>
  - <sup>xxv</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.
  - <sup>xxvi</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(1).
  - <sup>xxvii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(10).
  - <sup>xxviii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.
  - <sup>xxix</sup> 52 U.S.C.A. § 21083.
  - <sup>xxx</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(1).
  - <sup>xxxi</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470(10).
  - <sup>xxxii</sup> Services for Voters with Disabilities, <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/disabilities.aspx>.
  - <sup>xxxiii</sup> Vote by Mail Manual, at 15, [http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm\\_manual.pdf](http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf).
  - <sup>xxxiv</sup> Services for Voters with Disabilities, <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/disabilities.aspx>.
  - <sup>xxxv</sup> Voter Assistance Quick Guide, <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL620.pdf>
  - <sup>xxxvi</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 260.695.
  - <sup>xxxvii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.426.
  - <sup>xxxviii</sup> OR. REV. STAT. § 254.408, Vote by Mail Manual, at 49, [http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm\\_manual.pdf](http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf).
  - <sup>xxxix</sup> Vote by Mail Manual, at 49, [http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm\\_manual.pdf](http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf).