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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.

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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Washington Secretary of State website (<https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>).

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

Registration Eligibility: To register to vote, you MUST be:

- A United States citizen;
- A resident of Washington;
- 18 years of age or older on election day;
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
- Not under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington felony conviction.

How to Register:

Online

Individuals may [register to vote online](#) in Washington. The Online Voter Registration Form asks for your Washington State driver's license or a current Washington State identification card. Visit: <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>.

In Person

You may find a voter registration application at any voting center, such as the county auditor's office, division of elections office or DMV office and other state agencies, such as the health benefit exchange.¹ If you register at the DMV or other location, retain proof of your voter registration application in case your application is not properly transmitted to the Secretary of State.

By Mail

Voter registration forms are also available by mail. Applicants may visit the [Washington Secretary of State website](#) to request a voter registration form. Forms requested online are available in the English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese language.

You can also visit <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/print-voter-registration-forms.aspx> to print out a paper form, available in various languages. Mail it to your county elections office.

Applicants may also contact their [county elections office](#) to receive a voter registration form.

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

When you register, you must provide your Washington state driver's license, permit, or identification or the last 4 digits of your social security number. If you vote in person at a voting center, you will need to sign a ballot declaration and your signature will be compared to your registration signature.² Otherwise, you will need to provide valid photo identification, such as a driver's license, state identification card, student identification card, tribal identification card, or employer identification card.³

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If you do not have one of these forms of ID, then you will need to vote by provisional ballot, which shall be accepted if your signature on the ballot declaration matches the signature on your voter’s registration record.⁴

If voters are shown as not registered, they may still vote by provisional ballot⁵ Before it is counted, a provisional ballot will be investigated by the county auditor to confirm a voter’s registration status.

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?

For the General Election, online and mail registration must be *received* 8 days before the day of election, October 26, 2020.

In-person registrations (or updates) may be done between business hours and any time *before* 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

Military and Overseas Voters are exempt from the regular voter registration deadlines, but they must provide their last Washington State residential address when they request a ballot.

The last day to register and request a ballot is Election Day. Military and overseas voters may qualify to receive their ballot as early as 90 days before the election. For more information, see the Military and Overseas Voters webpage <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/military-and-overseas-voters.aspx>.

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?

A person who is not registered to vote may register in person at the county auditor’s office, the division of elections if in a separate city from the county auditor’s office, a voting center, or other location designated by the county auditor in his or her county of residence no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day of the General Election.⁶

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

Moved within the same county	Moved to a different county
A registered voter can update their address by appearing in person before the county auditor, or at a voting center or other location designated by the county auditor, no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. ⁷	A registered voter can update their address by appearing in person before the county auditor, or at a voting center or other location designated by the county auditor, no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. ¹⁰
A registered voter may also update their address by (1) sending the county auditor a request stating both the voter’s previous and present addresses; (2) submitting information to the department of licensing; (3) telephoning or emailing the county auditor to transfer the registration; (4)	The voter may also update their address by submitting a voter registration form or by submitting information to the department of licensing, the health benefit exchange, or an agency that has implemented automatic voter registration, to their new county

<p>submitting voter registration information through the health benefit exchange; (5) submitting an updated voter registration application; or (6) submitting information to an agency that implements automatic voter registration as designated by the governor, provided that receipt of information is <i>received</i> by an election official at least eight days prior to an election.⁸</p> <p>If the voter has missed the deadline, the voter may contact the county auditor, and vote according to their previous address.⁹</p>	<p>auditor no later than 8 days before the election.¹¹</p> <p>If the voter has missed the deadline, the voter may contact their new county auditor, and vote according to their previous address.¹²</p>
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As a new resident of Washington State, you can register to vote online with, by mail, in person, or when you get your new state driver license or ID at the Department of Licensing. New enhanced drivers' licenses are automatically registered to vote. (See Question 2 for how to register to vote online, by mail and in person)

You may not vote in multiple states. Be sure to cancel any previous voter registration before you register in Washington.

If the voter moved out of Washington State and has not yet registered in their new home state, the voter may still vote in Washington State, as long as the voter has not canceled their registration.

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

You can still vote in the county where you have your residential address. Contact your county elections department and ask for a temporary change in your mailing address. You should also contact the county elections department when you return to the address where you are registered to vote, or if you have permanently moved.¹³

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?

You may register to vote in Washington if you have lived in the State for at least 30 days and have established a *residential address* in the state. If you live on campus, provide your dormitory and room number. Do not provide a P.O. Box. Remember to update your voter registration every time you move. You can update your address online, by mail, or in person. (See Question 2)

If you are living outside Washington State, you will retain residency if you are a student and will maintain registration until you register to vote elsewhere. A student must still meet these requirements to be eligible to register:¹⁴

- A U.S. citizen;
- A legal resident of Washington State at least 30 days before election day;
- At least 18 years old by election day;
- Must not have been declared mentally incompetent by a court; and
- Must not be incarcerated for a felony.

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Remote learning: If you are a student and comply with the requirements as mentioned above, you can still vote from anywhere, and your ballot can be sent to you anywhere in the world. Your *mailing address* is where your ballot will be mailed. It does not impact the ballot measures and candidates that will appear on your ballot. For example, you may list the address from where you attend remote classes as your mailing address.

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

Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

Military and overseas citizens can register to vote by fax or mail or can register to vote online [by logging onto the Washington Secretary of State's My Vote tool](#). Military and overseas citizens can use the [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#), also known as [Standard Form 76](#), to register to vote and to request a special absentee ballot. [Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's \(FVAP\) Washington-specific FPCA page](#) for details on using the FPCA.

Receiving an Absentee Ballot

Military and overseas citizens can receive voting materials by fax, email, or postal service. Contact your county election department at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/> to:

- Request a ballot or a replacement ballot;
- Change how you receive your ballot (for example, by email instead of postal mail); or
- Update your voter registration record (for example, update your mailing address).

If you wish to use the fax or email options, you must indicate this on your FPCA. Instructions for doing so are found on the FVAP's [Washington-specific FPCA page](#).

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

Military and overseas citizens can use the [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#) if they are concerned with receiving their printed ballot and returning it by the 8:00 p.m. Election Day deadline. Ballots must be returned by the 8 p.m. Election Day deadline if sent by fax, or if sent by mail, *post marked by* Election Day and *received by* the county election office by the 20th day after the General Election. The FWAB can be used to register to vote. If you are using the FWAB to register to vote, it **must** be received by the registration deadline listed in the "Federal Election Deadlines" chart.

You can use the FWAB to vote in federal, state, and local elections, including ballot measures. [For specific instructions, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Washington-specific FWAB page at https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/washington.](#)

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

If you were convicted of a felony in Washington State, your right to vote is provisionally restored as long as you are not under the authority (in prison or on community custody) of the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC).¹⁵ Provisional restoration can be revoked if a court determines that a person failed to make good faith efforts to comply with the terms of an order to pay legal financial obligations.

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The right to vote may be permanently restored by one of the following for each felony conviction:

- A certificate of discharge issued by the sentencing court;¹⁶
- A court order restoring the right;¹⁷
- A final order of discharge issued by the indeterminate sentence review board;¹⁸ or
- A certificate of restoration issued by the governor.¹⁹

If you were convicted of a felony in another state or in federal court, your right to vote is restored as long as you are not currently incarcerated for that felony.²⁰

Once your right is restored, you must re-register to vote in order to receive a ballot. You can re-register online with [VoteWA](#), [by mail](#), or [in person](#). (See Question 2)

You do not lose the right to vote for a misdemeanor conviction or a conviction in juvenile court.

If you have questions about your status with Washington State DOC, you can call (800) 430-9674.

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

If you were convicted of a felony in Washington State, your right to vote is provisionally restored as long as you are *not* under the authority (in prison or on community custody) of the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC).

If you were convicted of a felony in another state or in federal court, your right to vote is restored as long as you are *not* currently incarcerated for that felony.²¹

You do not lose the right to vote for a misdemeanor conviction or a conviction in juvenile court.

See Question 10

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?

Confirm that the voter believes that they have registered in time to vote for this election and is at their county voting center. See [Question 6](#) if voter has moved. The voter can check their registration status online: <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx#/login>

The voter can find their voting center by contacting the county auditor's office <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx> or by logging into <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx#/login>.

If the voter believes that they registered on time, direct the voter to ask a poll worker to call the county auditor and check whether the voter is registered. If the voter's registration cannot be verified, let the voter know that they can still vote by provisional ballot.²² Provisional ballots should be treated as a last resort, though, because they will only be counted if the county auditor can later verify the voter's registration status.²³

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?

Voters' names can be removed from the voter list if the voters have cancelled their registrations or have become ineligible to vote. Voters can become ineligible by, for example, being incarcerated for a felony conviction or being declared incompetent by a court.²⁴ Voters may also be removed from the voter rolls if they have moved, not updated their registration, and failed to vote in the prior two federal general elections.²⁵ If a voter remains at the same address and chooses not to vote, the voter's registration cannot be cancelled.²⁶

A voter whose name was removed from the voter registration list because of a determination of ineligibility but who later becomes eligible to vote must re-register.²⁷

A voter who has not responded to confirmation notices sent by the county auditor, and is on the inactive list, may show up at their polling place to vote and will be permitted to vote a regular ballot if the voter requests to vote at an ensuing election before two federal general elections have been held.²⁸ A voter whose registration has been properly canceled may vote by provisional ballot. The county elections official will investigate the circumstances of the voter's registration cancellation and if the cancellation is in error, then the county elections official will count the provisional ballot. However, if the cancellation was proper, the official will not count the provisional ballot and will require the voter to reregister at the voter's correct address.

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 they are registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question 1](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See: [Question 1](#) and [Question 6](#))
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they 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?
- Did the voter fail to vote in the last two federal general elections?

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. Each county opens a voting center prior to the General Election. Each voting center is open during business hours during the voting period, which begins eighteen days before, and ends at 8:00 p.m. on the day of the General Election. You can locate your nearest voting center by logging into <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> or contacting your county's elections department at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/>.

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

No.

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

Each voting center is open during business hours during the voting period, which begins on October 16, 2020, and ends at 8:00 p.m. on the day of the General Election, November 3, 2020. Please visit <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> or contact your county's elections department at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/> for opening and closing hours.

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

If You Want to Vote Early or Mail

All registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, but may, alternatively, vote in person at an early voting center starting 18 days before Election Day, on October 16, 2020. Please visit <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> or contact your county's elections department at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/> for voting center locations.

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

If you vote in person you must sign a ballot declaration and your signature will be compared to your registration signature. Otherwise, you will need to provide valid photo identification. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- A driver's license;
- State identification card;
- Student identification card;
- Tribal identification card; or
- Employer identification card.

If you do not have one of these forms of identification, then you will need to vote by provisional ballot. If voters are shown as not registered or their right to vote is otherwise challenged, they may still vote by provisional ballot.

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?

Washington votes by mail every election. If you are registered to vote in Washington, there is no need to request a ballot. Your ballot is mailed at least 18 days before each election. Your packet will include a ballot, a secrecy envelope or secrecy sleeve for your voted ballot, and a return envelope with pre-paid postage.

If you are a registered voter and do not receive your ballot, contact your county elections department. If a voter is unsure if he/she is registered or if his/her address is current, he/she can confirm his/her registration information here: <https://vote.gov/register/wa/> or <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>.

See Question 9 for how to request an absentee ballot for overseas citizens and U.S. military personnel.

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

Washington votes by mail every election. If you are registered to vote in Washington, there is no need to request a ballot.

You may still request an absentee ballot as early as 90 days before an election. No absentee ballots are issued on Election Day except to a voter who is a resident of a health care facility. The request for an absentee ballot must be made to your county auditor or elections department (<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/>).

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

Turning in your Absentee (Vote-by-mail) ballot

Your vote-by-mail ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day or returned to a designated ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

If you fail to sign the ballot declaration, or the signature on the ballot declaration does not match the signature in your voter registration record, your [county elections department](#) will contact you for further verification. If you are unable to sign the declaration, you can make a mark in front of two witnesses and have them sign in the designated spaces.

You can [check the status of your ballot](#) by logging into <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> and clicking on "Ballot Status".

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

You can vote early by visiting a voting center and obtain a ballot there. See also Question 36

You can also contact your county auditor or elections department at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/>.

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

No.

Washington votes by mail every election. If you are registered to vote in Washington, there is no need to request a ballot. You will be mailed a ballot.

If you will not be able to access your mail during the 18-day voting period from October 16, 2020 until 8 p.m. Election Day and need to receive your ballot at a different address, or need to access your ballot electronically, contact your County Elections Office. If it is within 90 days prior to the General Election and you believe that you will be unable to access, vote, and return a regularly issued ballot within the time provided by law, contact your County Elections Office.

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](#) by logging into [VoteWA](#) and clicking on "Ballot Status".

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?

Contact your County Elections Office by visiting <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/#>.

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

Your ballot packet will include a ballot, a secrecy envelope, and a return envelope. Follow the instructions that accompany your ballot.

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

Follow the instructions on your ballot for how to correct a mistake.

If a voter makes a mistake or "spoils" their ballot before casting it, a voter is entitled to a replacement ballot. Contact your county elections office to determine the best way to receive a replacement ballot. Replacement ballots may be sent via mail or electronically, picked up at the elections office, or printed from an online application.

Alternatively, you can obtain a replacement ballot delivered online by logging into <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>.

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

Contact your County Elections Office by visiting <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/#>.

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

Registered voters will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot, as Washington is a vote-by-mail state but may opt to instead vote in person at the early voting center. However, if election records indicate that the voter has already voted the vote-by-mail ballot, the voter will be given a provisional ballot, which will be counted if the vote-by-mail regular ballot was not received.²⁹ See also Question 36

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

Your ballot is mailed to you at least 18 days before Election Day and must be *postmarked no later than* the Election Day or *returned to a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m.* on Election Day.

In addition, each county opens one voting center prior to the General Election. Voters can vote in person at their county voting center. Each voting center is open during business hours during the voting period, which begins 18 days before, i.e. October 16, 2020, and ends at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2020. You can locate your nearest voting center by logging into <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> or contacting your [county's elections department](#) (see <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/> for contact details).

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

Completed ballots can be dropped off at the drop box located in in the county where the voter can vote. Visit <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/#> to find the website of your county election department, which website will provide information regarding ballot drop box locations.

You can also go to <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> an select “Drop Boxes” and “Voting Center Locations.” You can then view a list or a map of drop boxes and voting centers in your area.

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

You can have someone return your completed ballot at an [official drop box](#) or send it by mail via USPS. Your ballot must be deposited or postmarked by Election Day. If mailed, the USPS recommends that you or the person you have it mailed for you, mail a week before Election Day.

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

See Question 29

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?

Each voting center is open during business hours during the voting period, which begins 18 days before, i.e. October 16, 2020, and ends at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. You can locate your nearest voting center by logging into [VoteWA](#) or contacting your [county's elections department](#).

***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?

All counties in Washington State vote by mail. Your ballot is mailed to you at least 18 days before Election Day. Your ballot packet will include a ballot, a secrecy envelope, and a return envelope. Follow the instructions that accompany your ballot.

Each county also opens a voting center prior to Election Day. You can locate your nearest voting center by logging into [VoteWA](#) or contacting your [county's elections department](#).

Military personnel and U.S. citizens overseas may use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot available through Voting Assistance Offices at military installations or at U.S. Embassies and Consulates. Washington State law allows all eligible election contests to be voted on this ballot.

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 vote in person, you will need to sign a ballot declaration and your signature will be compared to your registration signature. Otherwise, you will need to provide valid photo ID.

Valid forms include:

- Washington driver's license,
- State identification card,
- Student identification card,
- Tribal identification card, or
- Employer identification card.

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If you do not have one of these forms of identification, then your vote will be by provisional ballot. If voters are shown as not registered or their right to vote is otherwise challenged, they may still vote by provisional ballot.

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

Contact Washington Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division at:

Email: elections@sos.wa.gov

Phone: 1-800-448-4881

Or contact your County Elections Office. Contact details can be found at:

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/viewauditors.aspx>.

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

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?

A voter who is in line or inside at a voting center by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day has the right to vote. See Question 34 for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing.

***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?

Inform the county auditor or polling worker at your voting center.

You can also inform your county elections department. Visit

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/#> for contact details.

Contact Washington Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division at:

Email: elections@sos.wa.gov

Phone: 1-800-448-4881

***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?

Inform the county auditor or polling worker at your voting center.

You can also inform your county elections department. Visit

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/#> for contact details.

Contact Washington Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division at:

Email: elections@sos.wa.gov

Phone: 1-800-448-4881

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

The county auditor or poll workers will have instructions on the use of the voting equipment at the voting center.

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

Accessible voting units are available starting October 16, 2020, 18 days before Election Day, until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Every county must have at least one accessible voting unit at each voting center. Accessible voting units, which must be wheelchair accessible and screened from others to maintain privacy. Accessible voting units for the blind and sight impaired are also available. If you need assistance or a reasonable accommodation, contact your county auditor. To find contact information for a county auditor, visit: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx>.

You can also contact the Office of the Secretary of State's Elections Division at (800) 448- 4881.

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?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of their choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot.³⁰

A person who has a guardian may still be able to vote and should not be turned away from a voting center by an election worker. Guardianship papers indicate if an individual has the right to vote. If there is ever doubt about a person's voting status, the person should be issued a provisional ballot to vote with.

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

The Elections Division is open for curbside service. Please call (360) 902-4180 for assistance, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

During the voting period, it is a gross misdemeanor for any person to be within a voting center and attempt to suggest or persuade you, the voter, to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure.³¹

Similarly, it is prohibited for anyone to engage in any practice which interferes with your freedom to exercise your right to vote, solicit signatures to any kind of petition, or to disrupt the administration of the voting center including by obstructing doors or entries to a voting center or ballot drop location.³²

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

A challenge to a person’s right to vote must be based on personal knowledge of one of the following:

- The challenged voter has been convicted of a felony and the voter’s civil rights have not been restored;
- The challenged voter has been judicially declared ineligible to vote due to mental incompetency;
- The challenged voter does not live at the residential address provided;
- The challenged voter is not a U.S. citizen; or
- The challenged voter will not be 18 years of age by the next election.

The person or entity challenging your right to vote must submit a voter registration challenge form with all supporting documents to the county elections department where you are registered you are registered.³³

The county auditor will notify you by letter of the documents filed by the challenger, and the date, time, and location of an administrative hearing relating your voter registration.³⁴ The administrative hearing is presided over by a county elections official; it is not a court proceeding; and it is open to the public.³⁵

You can respond by either participating in the hearing in person, or by submitting written testimony.³⁶ If you choose to respond in writing, the notice letter contains a declaration form that you could use to respond to the challenge.³⁷ Your declaration and any supporting documents must be received by the county auditor prior to the hearing.³⁸ If you do not participate in the hearing, a decision will be made based on all available information.³⁹ You may appeal the hearing’s decision to the superior court.⁴⁰

If an election will occur before the hearing, you may still vote in that election. The outcome of the hearing will determine whether your ballot will be counted.

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

Interfering or intimidating voters at polling locations is illegal.

If you feel intimidated at your polling place or if your right to vote has been violated in any way, call or notify the county auditor or a poll worker of the intimidation tactic you observed.

You can also report it to the Washington Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division at:

Email: elections@sos.wa.gov

Phone: 1-800-448-4881

You can also call the U.S. Department of Justice voting rights hotline at 1-800-253-3931.

You can report voter intimidation to your local police.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of intimidation, or police/members of the military at the polling place at a poll site, notify your hotline captain immediately.

48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Ask the county auditor or poll worker why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. Was it for one of the following reasons?

- The voter’s registration record is not available or has been canceled;⁴¹
- The voter’s name does not appear in the list of registered voters for the county;⁴²
- There is an indication in the voter registration system that the voter has already voted in that primary, special election, or general election, but the voter wishes to vote again;⁴³
- There is a question on the part of the voter concerning the issues or candidates on which the voter is qualified to vote;⁴⁴
- The voter returned an absentee or vote-by-mail ballot but has appeared at the voting center to vote;⁴⁵ or
- The voter does not provide identification when required to do so.⁴⁶

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be allowed to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be used only as a last resort. If the voter casts a provisional ballot, remind the voter to ask the poll worker whether any additional steps are needed to make sure the ballot is counted.

A voter can learn either that their provisional ballot was counted or the reason why it was not counted from their [county auditor](#).⁴⁷

QUESTIONS

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

Contact your County Election Department. Contact details can be found by visiting <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/#>.

Or

Contact Washington Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division at:

Email: elections@sos.wa.gov

Phone: 1-800-448-4881

Website: sos.wa.gov/elections

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- 1 <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/>.
 - 2 RCW 29A.40.160(9)(a).
 - 3 RCW 29A.40.160(9)(b).
 - 4 RCW 29A.40.160(9)(b).
 - 5 *See, e.g.*, RCW 29A.08.625.
 - 6 RCW.29A.08.140(1)(b).
 - 7 RCW.29A.08.140(2).
 - 8 RCW 29A.08.410.
 - 9 RCW.29A.08.140(2).
 - 10 RCW.29A.08.140(2).
 - 11 RCW 29A.08.420.
 - 12 RCW.29A.08.140(2).
 - 13 <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/>.
 - 14 *See, e.g.*, Secretary of State Elections Voter Eligibility, <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/voters-away-at-college.aspx> (last visited October 5, 2020).
 - 15 RCW 29A.08.520(1).
 - 16 RCW 29A.08.520(6)(a); RCW 9.94A.637.
 - 17 RCW 29A.08.520(6)(b); RCW 9.92.066.
 - 18 RCW 29A.08.520(6)(c); RCW 9.96.050.
 - 19 RCW 29A.08.520(6)(d); RCW 9.96.020.
 - 20 RCW 29A.08.520(1).
 - 21 RCW 29A.08.520(1).
 - 22 *See, e.g.*, RCW 29A.08.625; Secretary of State Elections Frequently Asked Questions on Voting by Mail, https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/faq_vote_by_mail.aspx (last visited October 5, 2020).
 - 23 RCW 29A.08.107(3).
 - 24 RCW 29A.08.515; RCW 29A.08.520.
 - 25 RCW 29A.08.635.
 - 26 *See, e.g.*, Secretary of State Elections Voter Registration Data, <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/vrdb/vrdbfaq.aspx> (last visited October 5, 2020).
 - 27 *See, e.g.*, Voter Eligibility), <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voter-eligibility.aspx> (October 5, 2020).
 - 28 RCW 29A.08.625.
 - 29 *See* RCW 29A.40.160(14).
 - 30 *See* RCW 29A.40.160(12).
 - 31 RCW 29A.84.510.
 - 32 RCW 29A.84.510.
 - 33 *See, e.g.*, RCW 29A.08.810(3); Secretary of State Elections, [How to Challenge a Voter Registration](https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/voter-registration-challenge-form.pdf), <https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/voter-registration-challenge-form.pdf> (last visited October 5, 2020).
 - 34 RCW 29A.08.840(2).
 - 35 *See, e.g.*, Secretary of State Elections, [How to Challenge a Voter Registration](https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/voter-registration-challenge-form.pdf), <https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/voter-registration-challenge-form.pdf> (last visited October 5, 2020).
 - 36 RCW 29A.08.840(3).

37 *See, e.g.*, Secretary of State Elections, [Letter from Auditor for Challenge based on Residency](#), <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voterregistrationchallenges.aspx> (last visited October 5, 2020); Secretary of State Elections, [Challenged Voter Declaration](#), <https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/challenged-voter-declaration.pdf> (last visited October 5, 2020).

38 *See, e.g.*, Secretary of State Elections, [Letter from Auditor for Challenge based on Residency](#), <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voterregistrationchallenges.aspx> (last visited October 5, 2020).

39 RCW 29A.08.840(4).

40 RCW 29A.08.840(6).

41 RCW 29A.08.625.

42 RCW 29A.04.008(5)(a).

43 RCW 29A.04.008(5)(b).

44 RCW 29A.04.008(5)(c).

45 RCW 29A.40.160(14).

46 RCW 29A.40.160(9)(b).

47 RCW 29A.40.160(10).