



Frequently Asked Questions

Oklahoma – General Election 2022

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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.

**REGISTERING TO
 VOTE**

ELECTION DAY

EARLY VOTE

VOTE BY MAIL

ABSENTEE

**POLLING PLACE
 ISSUES**

**ACCESSIBILITY
 / ASSISTANCE**

QUESTIONS

Table of Contents

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?
2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?
3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?
4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?
5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?
6. **DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?
7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?
8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?
9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?
10. **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?
11. **LIVING ABROAD:** I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?
12. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?

13. **INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

- 14. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?
- 15. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?
- 16. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line? ?
- 17. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?
- 18. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** Can I vote without providing identification?
- 19. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?
- 20. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING (in some states called "in-person absentee")

- 21. **AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?
- 22. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I have to have a reason to vote early?
- 23. **WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?
- 24. **WHERE:** Where do I vote during early voting?
- 25. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

- 26. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?
- 27. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?
- 28. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?
- 29. **APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?
- 30. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?
- 31. **RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?
- 32. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?
- 33. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or ballot?
- 34. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
- 35. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?
- 36. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?
- 37. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?
- 38. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 39. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 40. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?
- 41. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

- 42. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

- 43. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?
- 44. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?
- 45. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?
- 46. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?
- 47. **APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?
- 48. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?
- 49. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
- 50. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?
- 51. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?
- 52. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?
- 53. **BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 54. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 55. **LOST OR SPOILED:** What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?
- 56. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it?
- 57. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?
- 58. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

- 59. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?
- 60. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?
- 61. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?
- 62. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
- 63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?
- 64. **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?
- 65. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?
- 66. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?
- 67. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?
- 68. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?
- 69. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

- 70. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?
- 71. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?
- 72. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

QUESTIONS

- 73. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

To be eligible to register to vote in Oklahoma, a voter must be:

- At least 17 and a half years old (must be 18 to vote)
 - Persons who are at least 17 and a half years old may preregister to vote if they meet all other eligibility requirements; however, they may not vote in an election until after their 18th birthday
- A United States citizen
- A resident of Oklahoma
- Not judged to be incapacitated and prohibited from voting
- Not convicted of a felony or if convicted of a felony, (1) fully served their sentence or (2) been pardoned.

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?

Oklahoma is a “partially closed” primary state, which means that each party can choose whether to allow voters who are not registered with their party to participate in their primary. **Currently, the Democratic party allows independents to vote in their primaries, but the Republican and Libertarian parties do not.**

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

A voter can check whether they are registered to vote by using Oklahoma State Election Board’s [Voter Portal](#).

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

New voters must fill out a [voter registration application form](#) or use the [Oklahoma Voter Registration Wizard](#) to complete an online registration application form that voters must then print out, sign, and either mail in or hand-deliver to the voter’s County Election Board or the State Election Board.

Registration must be printed on white, 8 ½ by 11 paper. If a voter does not have access to a computer and printer, they can find printed applications at the voter’s county election board, post offices, tag agencies, libraries and many other public locations. Voters will be offered a voter registration application when they get their driver’s license and when they apply for assistance at some government agencies, and applications submitted at these locations will be mailed to the State Election Board for the voter at no cost. In registering to vote, voters swear that they are eligible to vote.

Once a voter is registered, they will receive a “voter identification card” that can be used to vote in person.

A person who will become eligible to vote in Oklahoma during the 60-day period before an election can register to vote not more than 60 days and not less than 25 days prior to said election. Applications received less than 25 days before an election will not be processed until after the election.

5. **IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?**

Oklahoma law requires all voters to show a valid ID before voting in person.¹ Listed below are acceptable forms of identification:

Photo Identification:

To be valid, the photo identification must:

- Show the name of the person to whom the ID was issued. The name must “substantially conform” to the name in the voting registry,
- Include a photograph of the person,
- Not be expired by the time of the election (identification that never expires is valid), and
- Be issued by the United States, the State of Oklahoma, or a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation.²

Acceptable forms of photo identification include:

- Oklahoma Driver License,
- Oklahoma Nondriver ID,
- Tribal Membership Card,
- US Passport, or
- US Military ID.

Voter Identification Card:

As an alternative to a photo ID, voters may use the voter identification card they received by mail from their county election board, so long as the name on the card “substantially conforms” to the name in the precinct registry. This card can be used even though it does not include a photograph or an expiration date.³

Affidavit with Provisional Ballot:

A voter who cannot or declines to provide acceptable identification, may sign a statement under oath affirming their identity and vote a provisional ballot.⁴ For the provisional ballot to be verified and

¹ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-114(A).

² Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-114(A).

³ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-114(A).

⁴ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-114 (B); Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 116.1(B).

approved for counting, the voter's name, address, date of birth, and the voter's Oklahoma driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number (if collected at the time of registration) will be compared with the information contained in the voter registration database.⁵

6. **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 registration deadline is 25 days prior to the date of an election. A valid application must be postmarked or delivered to either a motor license agency or designated voter registration agency more than 24 days prior to an election in order for the voter to participate in the election. For the November 8, 2022 election, the registration deadline is October 14, 2022. If requesting an absentee ballot, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 24, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.

7. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

No, Oklahoma does not have same day registration.

8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)

A registered voter who has moved within the same county but has not updated their voter registration with the new address, will be permitted to vote where they are registered (the old address) for one last time, but will be required to update their voter registration to reflect the new address and to vote at the new precinct in any future elections.⁶ Oklahoma law does not provide a similar accommodation for voters who have moved to a different county or state.

Registered voters may use the [Online Voter Registration tool](#) to make an address change if: (1) both the old address and the new address are in the same county and (2) an actual street name is used (*i.e.*, no PO boxes, rural routes or freeform addresses). Other changes to a voter's registration must be made by filling out a new [Voter Registration Application](#) and submitting it to county election board. A voter may change any of the information on their voter registration at any time. However, applications for changes to a registration that are received or postmarked less than 25 days before an election will not be processed until after that election.⁷ In addition, a voter's political affiliation may not be changed during the period from April 1 through August 31, inclusive, in any even-numbered year.⁸

9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?](#)

If the voter considers the address from which they have temporarily moved to be their permanent residence, and if the voter intends to return to that address, the voter should vote at the polling place for their permanent address. The voter may vote at the designated polling place for their permanent address

If the voter has legally changed their name or address prior to voting and has not updated that information in the voter registry, the voter may note these facts on the affidavit and simultaneously submit a form to update their voter registration information to reflect these changes. The ballot will be counted if the voter's previous name and/or address can be verified through the steps above.

⁵ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-114(B).

⁶ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 4-117.

⁷ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 4-110.1.

⁸ Okla. Stat. tit. 16, § 4-119.

on election day or during early voting. Alternatively, the voter may request an absentee voter ballot. Oklahoma allows any voter to request an absentee ballot without providing a reason.

10. 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?](#)

Yes, a college student may vote where they attend school if that is the voter's permanent residence and the voter meets all the other voting eligibility requirements.⁹ So long as a student intends for their school residence to be their home, and intends to stay there for the time being, the student can register to vote at that address.¹⁰ A student located in another state and with a permanent residence in another state, but taking online classes at a school in Oklahoma, may not register to vote in Oklahoma.

11. LIVING ABROAD: [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)

Military and other overseas citizens may use the standard procedure for registering to vote and absentee voting by mail. There are also special provisions for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with family members of all these groups, and other citizens who reside outside the United States. Together these groups are called UOCAVA voters.

In addition to the normal procedures, UOCAVA voters can use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot. They may receive their absentee ballots through the Oklahoma Military and Overseas Ballots Online System (<https://www.fvap.gov/oklahoma>) by filling out an FPCA form and submitting it.

Voters who request absentee ballots through this Online System are notified by e-mail when a ballot for an election in which they are eligible to vote becomes available. Voters must return ballots to their county election board by mail or fax. In order to be counted, a UOCAVA voter's ballot must be received by the appropriate local election official by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.¹¹

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot ("FWAB") (federal form SF 186) serves as an emergency backup ballot that UOCAVA voters may use.¹² Uniformed Service UOCAVA voters, and their dependents and spouses, may use the FWAB whether they are located inside or outside the United States (including APO and FPO addresses), if they are away from their voting residence for service-related activities. Additional information can be found at the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) and at the [Oklahoma Federal Voting Assistance Program](#).

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: [I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?](#)

It depends on whether the voter has been convicted of a felony and, if so, whether the voter has completed their sentence. Oklahoma requires the cancellation of the voter registration of any person

⁹ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, §§ 4-101, 4-103; Okla. Const. art. III §1; 71-328 Okla. Op. Att'y Gen. 350 (1971) ("[r]esidency is a place where one's habitation is fixed without the present purpose of removing therefrom," and, "[t]he answer is largely determined by the acts and intention of the particular person desiring to vote.").

¹⁰ See <https://www.ok.gov/elections/faqs.html>.

¹¹ See Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-145.

¹² See Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-146; <https://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag/chapter2/oklahoma>.

convicted of a felony.¹³ A person that has been convicted of a felony may register to vote (1) once they have completed their court-mandated sentence, including any period of probation ordered by a court; (2) has received a deferred sentence; or (3) has been fully pardoned.¹⁴ The ineligibility period runs for the entire length of the sentence, including during any period of suspension of the sentence or parole.¹⁵

13. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?

A person who is incarcerated for a misdemeanor may vote while in jail. To vote, a person that is incarcerated for a misdemeanor must request an absentee ballot. A person who has been convicted of a felony and who has not completed their sentence may not vote. (See answer to Question 12.)

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

14. HOURS: When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Any voter who is in line by 7:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.¹⁶

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

A voter can determine their proper polling place by checking the Oklahoma State Election Board website and searching the Online Voter Tool: (<https://okvoterportal.okelections.us/>).

16. CLOSING: What if the polls close when I am already in line?

Any voter who is in line by 7:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.¹⁷

17. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

See question 5.

18. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

Affidavit with Provisional Ballot:

A voter who cannot or declines to provide acceptable identification, may sign a statement under oath affirming their identity and vote a provisional ballot.¹⁸ For the provisional ballot to be verified and

¹³ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 4-120.4

¹⁴ See Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 4-101; See Okla. Admin. Code § 230:15-5-4.

¹⁵ Okla. Admin. Code § 230:15-5-3.

¹⁶ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-104.

¹⁷ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-104.

¹⁸ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-114 (B); Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 116.1(B).

If the voter has legally changed their name or address prior to voting and has not updated that information in the voter registry, the voter may note these facts on the affidavit and simultaneously submit a form to update their voter registration information to reflect these changes. The ballot will be counted if the voter's previous name and/or address can be verified through the steps above.

approved for counting, the voter's name, address, date of birth, and the voter's Oklahoma driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number (if collected at the time of registration) will be compared with the information contained in the voter registration database.¹⁹

19. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

Yes, a voter who claims to be registered in the precinct and eligible to vote in the election may vote even if their name does not appear on the voter registration roll. However, such voters will be required to vote a provisional ballot.²⁰ If a voter is informed that they are not in the precinct registry they should ask the poll worker to check the full list of voters and not just the one for that precinct. If the poll worker says that the voter is not eligible to vote in that precinct, but the voter believes that they are, the voter may vote using a provisional ballot after executing an affidavit. The voter should confirm their registration and polling location at <https://okvoterportal.okelections.us/>. If the voter is not at the correct precinct for their address, they should go to the correct precinct. A vote cast in the wrong precinct will not be counted.²¹

A voter has a right to receive a Provisional Ballot if their name is not on the precinct registry at the voter's correct precinct or if incorrect information on the precinct registry prevents the voter from receiving the correct ballot. After Election Day, county election board officials will investigate the information provided by the voter on the affidavit and either approve the provisional ballot for counting or reject it based on the outcome of that investigation. A provisional ballot will only be counted if it is cast in the precinct of the voter's residence (unless the voter has recently moved within the county) and if the provisional voter's valid voter registration and identity are confirmed.²²

20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

A voter has a right to receive a Provisional Ballot if they do not have a valid ID, their name is not on the precinct registry, or if incorrect information on the precinct registry prevents the voter from receiving the correct ballot. If the poll worker says that the voter is not eligible to vote in that precinct, but the voter believes that they are, they may vote using a provisional ballot after executing an affidavit. After Election Day, county election board officials will investigate the information provided by the voter on the affidavit and either approve the provisional ballot for counting or reject it based on the outcome of that investigation. A provisional ballot will only be counted if it is cast in the precinct of the voter's residence (unless the voter has recently moved within the county) and if the provisional voter's valid voter registration and identity are confirmed.²³

¹⁹ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-114(B).

²⁰ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-116.1(B).

²¹ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-116.1(C).

²² Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-116.1.

²³ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-116.1.

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

(in some states called “in-person absentee”)

21. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Oklahoma has in-person absentee voting or “early voting” as it is commonly called. Voters can vote at a [designated early voting location](#) only in the county where they are registered from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday and Friday before all elections, and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding a general election, primary election, runoff primary election, or presidential preferential primary election.²⁴ Early voting locations can be found [here](#).

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

No. All voters are eligible to vote early.²⁵

23. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday and Friday before all elections, and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding a general election, primary election, runoff primary election, or presidential preferential primary election.

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

Voters can vote at the designated early voting location in the county where they are registered. Early voting locations can be found [here](#).

25. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don’t have an ID?

See question 5.

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

26. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

In Oklahoma, mail voting is the same as absentee voting. A voter will **not** automatically be mailed an absentee ballot. However, a voter does have the option of requesting absentee ballots for all elections during the calendar year. Non-emergency absentee ballots must be requested no later than 5:00 p.m. on

²⁴ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-115.4.

²⁵ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-115.4(A)(1).

Wednesday before the election.²⁶ For the November 8, 2022 election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 24, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.

There are several ways a voter can apply for an absentee ballot and there are several types of absentee ballots:

Standard Absentee Ballot

- A voter can apply online through the [OK Voter Portal](#).
- A voter can submit the Absentee Ballot Request Form to their local county election board by mail, e-mail, fax, or personal delivery.²⁷ The Request Form is available from all county election boards and the State Election Board, or can be downloaded [here](#) from the State Election Board’s website. Contact information for the county election boards can be found [here](#).
- A voter may write a letter to their county election board to apply for an absentee ballot. The letter must contain the voter’s name, birth date, address where the voter is registered to vote, the election(s) for which the voter is requesting ballots, the address to which the ballots should be mailed, and the voter’s signature.²⁸
- Applicants will be required to provide an identification number that matches the identification number on their voter registration record. The numbers used to apply for voter registration are an Oklahoma driver’s license number, a State ID number, or the last four digits of the voter’s social security number. **Oklahoma recommends that if the voter cannot remember what number is associated with their voter registration, the voter should include more than one number on the application.**

Physically Incapacitated Voters and Voters who Care for a Physically Incapacitated Person

- Absentee ballots are available for **physically incapacitated voters and for voters who care for a physically incapacitated person** who cannot be left alone.²⁹
- These absentee ballots can be applied for through the [OK Voter Portal](#), by using this [application form](#), or by contacting the [county election board](#) to have an application mailed to the voter.
- A voter who is eligible to apply for this type of absentee ballot may appoint an agent to deliver the application to the county election board. The voter will need to identify the agent on the application and the agent will need to sign a declaration when the application is delivered to the county board of elections.
- Applicants will be required to provide an identification number that matches the identification number on their voter registration record. The numbers used to apply for voter registration are an Oklahoma driver’s license number, a State ID number, or the last four digits of the voter’s social security number. **Oklahoma recommends that if the voter cannot remember what number is associated with their voter registration the voter should include more than one number on the application.**
- More information about applying for an absentee ballot for a physically incapacitated voter or their caregiver may be found [here](#).

Voters Confined to a Nursing Home or Veteran’s Center

²⁶ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-103.

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- Voters **confined to a nursing home or veteran’s center** may apply for absentee ballots using the process, described above, for physically incapacitated voters and for voters who care for a physically incapacitated person who cannot be left alone.³⁰ More information about this process may be found [here](#). Under Oklahoma law, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities are not defined as “nursing homes.” Voters residing in those facilities as well as voter residing in nursing homes or veteran’s centers located outside the county in which the voter is registered to vote may apply for an absentee ballot as a physically incapacitated voter. Voters confined to a nursing home or veterans center in the county in which they are registered to vote will vote using a method that is different than the method used by other physically incapacitated absentee voters. More information on this process may be found [here](#).

Deployed First Responder or Emergency Worker

- A voter who is deployed within 15 days of an election as a **first responder or emergency worker** to assist with the rescue, recovery or relief efforts of a declared natural disaster or state of emergency may request an emergency absentee ballot from their county election board. The request must be made in writing, signed by the voter, and provided by the voter to the appropriate county election board in person.³¹ The voter must also provide proof of identity (see Question 5 above) before receiving an absentee ballot.³²

Incapacitated Voter

- **Voters who become incapacitated less than 15 days before an election** may receive an absentee ballot through special emergency procedures. These voters must make a written request to the county election board. The request must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor that the voter is incapacitated and will be unable to vote in person on election day. The voter's request and the doctor's statement must be taken to the county election board office by a person the voter chooses who is at least 16 years of age and who is not employed by or related to a candidate whose name appears on the ballot. The person becomes the voter's "agent." The county election board can provide a form to be used for both the voter's request and the doctor's statement. The agent will receive the voter's ballot and will deliver it to the voter. After the voter marks the ballot, the agent must hand-deliver it to the county election board office before 7:00 p.m. Election Day.³³

27. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

No, however there are several different types of absentee ballots (see Question 26).

28. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

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Non-emergency absentee ballots must be requested no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the election.³⁴ For the November 8, 2022 election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 24, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.

29. **APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

The requirements for completing and returning an absentee ballot differ depending on the type of ballot issued:

Standard Absentee Ballot

A voter who has requested a **standard absentee ballot** should receive an absentee ballot package containing the following material:

- Ballot(s),
- White Ballots Envelope,
- Yellow Affidavit Envelope
- Green Return Envelope,
- Voting Instructions.

Upon receiving the ballot package, the voter should review it to make sure that it is complete. If any of the items identified above are missing the voter should immediately contact the [county election board](#).

A voter should carefully review [the voting instructions](#) included in the standard absentee ballot package before voting.

- After marking the ballots in accordance with the instructions, the ballots must be sealed in the Ballots Envelope.
- The Affidavit Envelope must be filled out completely, taken by the voter to a notary, signed in front of the notary, and then notarized. The notary may not charge a fee to notarize an absentee ballot affidavit.
- The Ballots Envelope must be sealed inside the Affidavit Envelope and then the Affidavit Envelope must be sealed inside the Return Envelope.

The Absentee Ballot must be notarized in accordance with the instructions included in the ballot package and set forth above.

Ballot for Physically Incapacitated Voters and Their Caregivers

Voters who receive a **ballot packet for physically incapacitated voters and their caregivers** will receive an absentee ballot packet that includes:

- Ballot(s),
- White Ballots Envelope,
- Pink Affidavit Envelope,
- Green Return Envelope,

³⁴ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-103.

- Voting Instructions.

Upon receiving the ballot package, the voter should review it to make sure that it is complete. If any of the items identified above are missing the voter should immediately contact the [county election board](#).

The voter should carefully review [the voting instructions](#) included in the absentee ballot package before voting.

- After marking the ballots in accordance with the instructions, the ballots must be sealed in the Ballots Envelope.
- The Affidavit Envelope must be filled out completely, signed or marked by the voter and signed by two witnesses.
- If the voter is unable to mark the ballot and fill out and sign the affidavit envelope they may designate an assistant to complete those tasks, at the direction of the voter. The assistant must also read the Assistant's Oath, print and sign their name, and provide their address, in the designated space.
- An assistant may not be a witness and no person may witness more than the signature of five absentee voters.
- The Ballots Envelope must be sealed inside the Affidavit Envelope and then the Affidavit Envelope must be sealed inside the Return Envelope.
- **Physically Incapacitated or Care for Physically Incapacitated Absentee Ballots must be returned by mail.**

More information on absentee ballots for physically incapacitated voters and their caregivers is available [here](#).

Voters Confined to a Nursing Home or Veteran's Center

A voter who is **confined to a nursing home or veteran's center in the county where they are registered to vote** will have their ballots hand-delivered to them by the county's bipartisan Absentee Voting Board and collected by the Board once they have been voted.³⁵ Only a member of the Board may assist a voter needing help with voting one of these ballots.³⁶ Ballot affidavits are witnessed by two members of the Board.

A voter confined to a nursing home or veteran's center that is not located in the county in which they are registered to vote should follow the instructions on the completion and return of absentee ballots by a person who is physically incapacitated, above.

More information on absentee ballots for voters confined to a nursing home or veteran's center is available [here](#).

Emergency Incapacitated Voters

A voter who receives an **absentee ballot packet for emergency incapacitated voters** will receive a packet that includes:

- Ballot(s),

³⁵ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-115, as amended by SB 714 (May 16, 2022).

³⁶ See Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-115(B).

- White Ballots Envelope,
- Pink Affidavit Envelope,
- Green Return Envelope,
- Voting Instructions.

The packet will be issued to the voter's agent when the agent submits the application for the absentee ballot for emergency incapacitated voters.³⁷ The agent must then deliver the ballot material to the voter. Upon receiving the ballot package, the voter should review it to make sure that it is complete. If any of the items identified above are missing the voter should immediately contact the [county election board](#).

The voter should carefully review [the voting instructions](#) included in the absentee ballot package before voting.

- After marking the ballots in accordance with the instructions, the ballots must be sealed in the Ballots Envelope.
- The Affidavit Envelope must be filled out completely, signed or marked by the voter and signed by two witnesses.
- If the voter is unable to mark the ballot and fill out and sign the affidavit envelope they may designate an assistant to complete those tasks, at the direction of the voter. The assistant must also read the Assistant's Oath, print and sign their name, and provide their address, in the designated space.
- An assistant may not be a witness and no person may witness more than the signatures of five absentee voters.
- The Ballots Envelope must be sealed inside the Affidavit Envelope and then the Affidavit Envelope must be sealed inside the Return Envelope.
- The person whom the voter designated as their agent in the application for the absentee ballot is responsible for returning the marked ballot to the county election board office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

More information on the absentee ballot packet for emergency incapacitated voters is available [here](#).

Deployed First Responders and Emergency Workers

A voter who has requested a **Deployed First Responders and Emergency Workers** ballot package should receive an absentee ballot package containing the following material:

- Ballot(s),
- White Ballots Envelope,
- Yellow Affidavit Envelope,
- Green Return Envelope,
- Voting Instructions.

Upon receiving the ballot package, the voter should review it to make sure that it is complete. If any of the items identified above are missing the voter should immediately contact the [county election board](#).

A voter should carefully review [the voting instructions](#) included in the standard absentee ballot package before voting.

³⁷ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-115.1.

- After marking the ballots in accordance with the instructions, the ballots must be sealed in the Ballots Envelope.
- The Affidavit Envelope must be filled out completely, taken by the voter to a notary, signed in front of the notary, and then notarized. The notary may not charge a fee to notarize an absentee ballot affidavit.
- The Ballots Envelope must be sealed inside the Affidavit Envelope and then the Affidavit Envelope must be sealed inside the Return Envelope.

The Absentee Ballot must be notarized in accordance with the instructions included in the ballot package and set forth above.

Military and Other Overseas Citizens

Military and other overseas citizens may use the standard procedure for registering to vote and absentee voting by mail. There are also special provisions for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with family members of all these groups, and other citizens who reside outside the United States (together these groups are called UOCAVA voters).

In addition to the normal procedures, UOCAVA voters can use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot. They may receive their absentee ballots through the Oklahoma Military and Overseas Ballots Online System (<https://www.fvap.gov/oklahoma>) by filling out an FPCA form and submitting it.

Voters who request absentee ballots through this Online System are notified by e-mail when a ballot for an election in which they are eligible to vote becomes available. Voters must return ballots to their county election board by mail or fax. In order to be counted, a UOCAVA voter's ballot must be received by the appropriate local election official by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.³⁸

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot ("FWAB") (federal form SF 186) serves as an emergency backup ballot that UOCAVA voters may use.³⁹ Uniformed Service UOCAVA voters, and their dependents and spouses, may use the FWAB whether they are located inside or outside the United States (including APO and FPO addresses), provided they are away from their voting residence for service-related activities. Additional information can be found at the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) and at the [Oklahoma Federal Voting Assistance Program](#).

30. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

Voters returning absentee ballots by hand must show the same proof of identity required for in-person voting. See question 5.

31. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

³⁸ See Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-145.

³⁹ See Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-146; <https://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag/chapter2/oklahoma>.

The voter can have an application for a standard Absentee Ballot mailed to any address.

32. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: [What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?](#)

Voters that did not request an absentee ballot by the deadline may vote in person.

Voters who become incapacitated after the deadline for filing an application for absentee ballot for an upcoming election may receive an absentee ballot through special emergency procedures. These voters must make a written request to the county election board. The request must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor that the voter is incapacitated and will be unable to vote in person on election day. The county election board can provide a form to be used for both the voter's request and the doctor's statement.

The voter's request and the doctor's statement must be taken to the county election board office by a person the voter chooses who is at least 16 years of age and who is not employed by or related to a candidate whose name appears on the ballot. The person becomes the voter's "agent." The agent will receive the voter's ballot and will deliver it to the voter. After the voter marks the ballot, the agent must return it to the county election board office before 7 p.m. on election day.⁴⁰

33. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: [How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?](#)

Voters may check the status of their ballot using the [OK Voter Portal](#). Once the ballot has been received, the portal will indicate the date of receipt.

34. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: [I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)

The voter should follow the directions in the rejection notification. The voter may also reach out to the county election board. Contact information for the county election boards may be found [here](#).

35. COMPLETING BALLOT: [How do I complete the mail-in ballot?](#)

See Question 29.

36. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: [Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?](#)

The voter should carefully review [the voting instructions](#) included in the absentee ballot package before voting.

- If the voter is unable to mark the ballot and fill out and sign the affidavit envelope they may designate an assistant to complete those tasks, at the direction of the voter. The assistant must

⁴⁰ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-115.1.

also read the Assistant's Oath, print and sign their name, and provide their address, in the designated space.

- An assistant may not be a witness and no person may witness more than the signature of five absentee voters.

37. DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT: [What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?](#)

Generally, a voter may return an absentee ballot by hand delivery, United States mail, or by a private mail service that has delivery documentation, to the county election board.⁴¹ Absentee ballots issued because the voter is physically incapacitated, cares for a physically incapacitated person, or is a resident of a nursing home or veteran's facility outside of the county in which they are registered to vote must be returned by mail.

An absentee ballot that is returned by United States mail or by a private mail service must be *received* by the county election board by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.⁴² Voters are encouraged to mail their absentee ballots as early as possible to ensure that they arrive at the county election board on time. First-class postage is required for U.S. mail.

A voter who chooses hand-delivery as the method of returning their absentee ballot must deliver their own ballot to the county election board during regular business hours. When they return the ballot, the voter should be prepared to provide proof of identity to the county election board. (*See* Question 5 on proof of identity). Hand-delivered ballots must be returned no later than the end of business hours on the day before the election.⁴³

38. BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS: [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)

Voters may deliver a completed absentee ballot to the [county election board](#) for the county where they are registered up until the end of regular business hours the day before the election. A voter will need to provide a valid photo identification, such as an Oklahoma driver's license or nondriver ID, a U.S. passport or military ID, or a tribal identification card. A voter identification card issued by the county election board is also an acceptable ID. If a person does not have acceptable photo identification, they may sign a statement under oath confirming their identity.⁴⁴ Absentee ballots issued because the voter is physically incapacitated, cares for a physically incapacitated person, or is a resident of a nursing home or veteran's facility outside of the county in which they are registered to vote must be returned by mail.

39. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)

Generally, it is unlawful to return another person's absentee ballot in Oklahoma. Oklahoma has made it a crime to harvest absentee ballots. Activities that are defined as absentee ballot harvesting include: collecting an absentee ballot from another person in order to return the ballot on behalf of that person;

⁴¹ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-108.

⁴² Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-104.

⁴³ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-108.

⁴⁴ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, §§ 7-114, 14-108(C).

returning a ballot to election officials on behalf of another person; and requesting or receiving an absentee ballot on behalf of someone else.⁴⁵

There are very limited exceptions that allow a “spouse, relative in the first or second degree of consanguinity or affinity or cohabitant of a voter who forwards an absentee ballot to the voter when absent from the home” or for a spouse, with consent, to return the voter’s absentee ballot by mail. Also, the agent of an emergency incapacitated voter can deliver an application and pick up and deliver ballots. However, those who requested “physically incapacitated” or “care for physically incapacitated persons” absentee ballots must return their ballots by U.S. mail or by a private mail service that has delivery documentation.

40. LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT: What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

A voter whose application is on file and who lost or did not receive an absentee ballot may apply for a second absentee ballot if more than seven days have passed since the ballot was transmitted to the voter by the county election board. To receive a second absentee ballot, the voter must apply, in writing, to the county board of elections. The written application must be signed by the voter and the voter must swear or affirm that the voter lost or did not receive the original absentee ballot for that election and that the voter will vote only one ballot.⁴⁶ The voter should contact the [county election board](#) to obtain an application for a second absentee ballot.

41. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

A voter whose application is on file and who did not receive an absentee ballot may apply for a second absentee ballot if more than seven days have passed since the ballot was mailed to the voter by the county election board. To receive a second absentee ballot, the voter must apply, in writing, to the county board of elections. The written application must be signed by the voter and the voter must swear or affirm that the voter did not receive the original absentee ballot for that election and that the voter will vote only one ballot.⁴⁷ The voter should contact the [county election board](#) to obtain an application for a second absentee ballot.

42. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

A voter who has requested an absentee ballot may vote in person after signing an affidavit swearing or affirming that they have not cast an absentee ballot and are entitled to vote in person.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-101.1.

⁴⁶ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-121.1

⁴⁷ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-121.1

⁴⁸ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-115.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

43. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

See Question 27.

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

See Question 28.

45. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?

See Question 30.

46. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

See Question 27.

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

See Question 29.

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

See Question 33.

49. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

See Question 34.

50. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?

See Question 35.

51. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

See Question 36.

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

See Question 37.

53. BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

See Question 38.

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

See Question 39.

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

See Question 40.

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

See Question 41.

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

See Question 42.

58. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

Voters can in-person absentee vote at designated early voting locations in the county where they are registered. Early voting locations can be found [here](#).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

If a polling place is not open during the hours that it should be open, the voter should call the [county election board](#). The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Any voter who is in line by 7:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.

60. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

Voters must wait in line to vote. However, if the voter believes that the lines are unusually long, the voter may reach out to the [county election board](#). Any voter who is in line before polls close at 7:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.

61. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the poll workers if the voting equipment breaks down. All ballots are on paper and are scanned using machines. If the machines malfunction, the poll workers should put out emergency bins to collect the paper ballots.

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

Yes, instructions on how to use the voting equipment should be posted outside each polling place and inside each voting booth. A voter may also request assistance from a poll worker. In addition, the State of Oklahoma has produced a video that is available on YouTube that explains the voting process including the use of the ballot scanners (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7-vVtM8xel&t=3s>).

Further assistance is available for:

- Voters who have physical disabilities and are unable to mark their own ballots
- Voters who have visual impairments
- Voters who have physical disabilities or infirmities and are unable to enter the polling place
- Voters who cannot read

Oklahoma law prohibits voters who are not receiving assistance from remaining in the voting booth more than five minutes if other voters are waiting. It prohibits any voter, regardless of whether they are receiving assistance, from remaining in the voting booth for more than ten minutes. However, federal law prohibiting discrimination against voters with disabilities may override this restriction as applied to voters who need more time because of their disabilities.

63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

Generally, Oklahoma polling places are accessible to persons with a physical disability. If a voter is unable to access the polls they may request that two polling officials assist the voter outside of the polling place.

Any voter who needs assistance due to physical disability 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. The voter must swear that assistance is required and the person providing assistance must swear that the voter's ballot is being voted in accordance with the voter's wishes.⁴⁹

64. **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 due to physical disability, visual impairment, or the inability to read, 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. The voter must swear that assistance is required and the person providing assistance must swear that the voter's ballot is being voted in accordance with the voter's wishes.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-123.3; 52 U.S.C. § 10508.

⁵⁰ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-123.3; 52 U.S.C. § 10508.

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

Electioneering

Oklahoma prohibits campaigning, electioneering, otherwise trying to influence voters, or distributing election-related materials within 300 feet of any ballot box while an election is in progress.⁵¹ Aside from poll workers, no persons should approach the voter at the precinct. Poll workers are not allowed to tell a voter for whom to vote or to attempt to influence a voter’s choices.

Intimidation

Federal law requires that voters be able to exercise their right to vote without interference or intimidation.⁵²

Some examples of voter intimidation are:

- Aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, criminal record, or other qualifications to vote, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters’ rights;
- Falsely presenting oneself as an election official;
- Spreading false information about voter requirements, such as an ability to speak English;
- Displaying false or misleading signs about voter fraud and the criminal penalties of voter fraud; and
- Other forms of harassment, particularly harassment targeted towards non-English speakers and voters of color.

Voter intimidation is to be taken seriously and can be reported to.

- The Election Protection Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (in Spanish)
- The U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights Hotline: 1-800-253-3931; TTY line 1-877-267-8971.
- Local and state officials, including election workers and the Oklahoma State Election Board.

66. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

Oklahoma does not have a mechanism whereby someone can formally challenge a voter’s vote. There are circumstances where a voter may be required to vote a provisional ballot. These include when a poll worker is unable to find the voter’s name on the voter rolls for the precinct or where the voter is unable to provide the required identification. After election day, county election board officials will investigate county voting records and any information provided by the voter to determine whether the voter was properly registered in the precinct. If they were, the provisional ballot will be counted.

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

The presence of police or members of the military is generally permissible *provided that* it does not rise to the level of harassment. Both state and federal law require that voters be able to exercise their right to vote without interference or intimidation (see Question 65).⁵³

⁵¹ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-108.

⁵² 52 U.S.C. §10101(b); 18 U.S.C. §594.

⁵³ 52 U.S.C. §10101(b); 18 U.S.C. §594.

68. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

Oklahoma maintains a process for voter list management that can result in a voter's name being removed from the voter registration rolls. Every other year the Oklahoma State Election Board mails address confirmation notices to certain voters. A voter may receive the address confirmation mailing if a first-class mailing from the county or state election board addressed to the voter at their registered address was returned, or the voter has not voted or initiated a voter registration change since before the next to last general election. A voter who does not respond to the address confirmation mailing or whose address confirmation mailing is returned as non-forwardable or undeliverable will be designated as "inactive" on the voter rolls sixty (60) days after the date the address confirmation mailing was sent.⁵⁴ "Inactive" voters who do not vote and have no further voter activity, such as updating their address or party affiliation, are removed from the voter list following two, consecutive general elections for federal office.⁵⁵

A voter may restore their status to "active" by voting in any election or updating their voter registration information. Voters can obtain information about why their status was changed to "inactive" from their [county election board](#).

A voter whose registration has been cancelled, but who is otherwise eligible to vote, must register again before they can vote.⁵⁶

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

Voters may be asked to submit a provisional ballot if there is a problem with their registration or if they do not have (or refuse to show) acceptable identification. This requires a voter to prove their identity by signing a sworn affidavit. A provisional ballot will only be counted if it is cast in the precinct of the voter's residence and if evidence of the voter's valid voter registration is found. In order for a provisional ballot to be counted:

- (1) the voter's name on the affidavit must substantially conform to the voter's name in the voter registration database,
- (2) the voter's address must substantially conform to the address in the voter registration database,
- (3) the voter's birth date must match the information in the voter registration database, and
- (4) the voter's driver's license number and last four digits of the voter's Social Security number must match the information in the voter registration database (unless this information was not provided upon registration).

If the voter has legally changed their name or address prior to voting and has not updated that information in the voter registry, the voter may note these facts on the affidavit and simultaneously submit a form to update their voter registration information to reflect these changes.

⁵⁴ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 4-120.2(A).

⁵⁵ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, §§ 4-120, 4-120(B.2).

⁵⁶ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 4-120.8.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

70. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Yes, any voter who needs assistance due to physical disability, visual impairment, or the inability to read, 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. The voter must swear that assistance is required and the person providing assistance must swear that the voter's ballot is being voted in accordance with the voter's wishes.⁵⁷

71. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

If a voter's physical abilities prevent them from entering the polling place, they may request that two polling officials assist the voter outside of the polling place. Voters who anticipate that they will need this assistance should contact their [county elections board](#) in advance of going to the polls.

72. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Voters can bring notes or a voter's guide into the voting booth. Some polling places do restrict cell phone use, so voters should bring paper copies instead of relying on their phones. Voters should check the rules with their [county elections board](#).

QUESTIONS

73. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

For additional information about voting in Oklahoma, a voter may contact the voter's local [county election board](#) or the [State Election Board](#). Also, Frequently Asked Questions prepared by the State of Oklahoma Election Board on voting may be found [here](#).

⁵⁷ Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 7-123.3; 52 U.S.C. § 10508.