

Frequently Asked Questions

Oregon – General Election 2024

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

To be eligible to vote, the voter must be: (i) a resident of Oregon; (ii) a U.S. citizen (or will become one by Election Day); and (iii) at least 16 years of age (if the voter is 16 years of age, they will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after their 18th birthday).¹

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?

¹ <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

Yes, but Oregon's primary is closed, meaning only registered voters of a major political party can vote for candidates of the same party in the primary.² A voter must register as affiliated with a political party 21 or more days before the primary election.³ Party changes on election day are not permitted. At the primary election, voters who are not registered in one of the major political parties may still vote on other ballot measures, but they will receive a ballot containing only nonpartisan contests, such as judicial elections, which all registered voters may vote on.⁴

In Oregon all voters are permitted to vote by mail. However, each county is required to establish in person voting locations. Poll workers will need to establish party affiliation in order to provide the voter with the correct ballot.⁵

3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)

Voters can determine if they are registered on the Oregon Secretary of State's [My Vote](#) website. Voters can also contact their [County Elections Office](#). Individuals under the age of 18 (their registration will be effective when they become 18) can only use this method.

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

MOTOR VOTER: Anyone who visits the DMV to apply to renew or replace an Oregon driver's license, ID card, or permit will automatically be registered as a nonaffiliated voter. They will then be sent a notice in the mail that they can return to select a political party or opt out of voter registration. See [here](#).

ONLINE: A voter can register or update their registration online [here](#).

BY MAIL: Voters can register by mailing or delivering in person a voter registration form to any county clerk, the Secretary of State, any office of the Department of Transportation or any designated voter registration agency.⁶

The forms (available in [multiple languages](#)) can be obtained from County Elections Offices or downloaded online. The English form is available [here](#).

IN PERSON: Voters can register in person at their County Elections Office. Contact information for each County Elections Office can be found [here](#).

Individuals between 16 and 18 years of age can register but will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after their 18th birthday.

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)

To register to vote online, a voter will generally need a valid Oregon driver's license, permit, or ID card number issued by the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV).

² OR. REV. STAT. § 254.365.

³ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.203.

⁴ Or. Rev. Stat. § 254.365

⁵ Or. Rev. Stat. §254.474

⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.012.

If a voter does not have any of these, they can still use the online voter registration. The voter can provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number. If a voter does not have an Oregon driver's license, permit, ID card number, or the last four digits of their Social Security Number, the voter may provide a copy of one of the following that shows their name and current address: valid photo identification, a paycheck stub, a utility bill, a bank statement, a government document, proof of eligibility under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (OCAVA) or the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEH).⁷ The information the voter enters will display on a voter registration card ([PDF document](#)) that the voter will need to print, sign, and deliver to the voter's County Elections Office to complete the registration.⁸ Contact information for each County Elections Office can be found [here](#).

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 for in-person, online, and mail registration is 21 days before an election. For the general election on November 5, 2024, the registration deadline is October 15, 2024. If registering by mail, the registration must be postmarked by October 15, 2024.

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

No. Oregon does not offer Same Day Registration. However, already registered voters can update their name or address any time before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.⁹

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

Yes. Registered voters can *update* the name and address on their registration, until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day and still cast a ballot.¹⁰

If a voter [changes their address with the DMV](#), voter registration information is automatically updated.

If a registration is updated after the registration deadline and earlier than the 5th day before the election, a ballot may be mailed to the voter. If it is within 5 days of the election, the voter may have to pick it up in person at their County Elections Office through the election day.¹¹ Note: the post office will not forward ballots.¹²

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

Voters living somewhere temporarily can vote by mail (Oregon is a vote-by-mail state). Ballots are mailed not earlier than 20 days and least 14 days before the election,¹³ and before ballots are mailed, the voter will need to let election officials know where to mail the ballot by one of the following methods:

⁷ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL500.pdf>

⁸ <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.

¹⁰ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.

¹¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.307.

¹² OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

¹³ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470

1. Update voter registration at oregonvotes.gov/myvote
2. Download, print, and return the Absentee Ballot Request Form, available at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL111.pdf>.
3. Contact County Elections Offices for potential additional options they may have for pickup. <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

Ballots will contain the contests for the residential address, not the temporary mailing address. Please note ballots cannot be forwarded, so voters cannot submit a change of address through USPS to have the ballot forwarded to the new address.¹⁴

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?

Full-time students from Oregon may register to vote either at their school address or home address, provided they otherwise meet the requirements for being a registered voter. The student may choose which one. Students who expect to be away from where they are registered in Oregon may download and return the Absentee Ballot Request Form, available at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL111.pdf>.

Students from another state attending college in Oregon may register to vote at their school address in Oregon provided they do not also seek to vote in their home state. A college student does not need to be considered a resident by his or her college to be considered an Oregon resident for voting purposes.¹⁵

Students from Oregon wishing to vote in the state where they are attending school should consult that state's election law.

When the voter registers to vote, they will have to select a "residential address" and a "mailing address." A student can provide a residential address that is different from the mailing address. If the voter lives on campus and provides a campus address as their residential address, they should list their dormitory and room number; a PO Box is not a residential address.

The "mailing address" is where the ballot will be mailed to. It does not impact the ballot measures and candidates that appear on the ballot. The ballot can be sent to the student voter anywhere in the world.

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

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

The Federal Voter Assistance Program establishes special procedures to expedite voting by members of the military, their family members, and citizens residing abroad. Voters can both register to vote and request an absentee ballot by completing and mailing a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#), going online to the [Federal Voter Assistance Program](#) website (fill in form must be completed, printed, and mailed), or going online to Oregon's [My Vote](#) website (which requires Oregon identification). Eligible voters must be registered on or before 21 days before an election (October 15, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) to be added to the voter rolls. Completed ballots may be returned by mail, fax, or

¹⁴ USPS: Election Mail, <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Election-Mail>.

¹⁵ *West v. Bowers*, 502 P.2d 270, 276 (1972).

email. If sent by email or fax, ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by Election Day through the U.S. Postal Service (not foreign postage).

For more information contact the County Elections Office (<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>), or see <http://www.fvap.gov/> and <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/militaryoverseas.aspx>.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?

Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for the latest information.

Yes. Individuals may vote unless they are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction. They may vote if on parole or probation.¹⁶ Once released from incarceration the voter is immediately eligible to vote again, but they must re-register (or update their registration) at Oregonvotes.gov or their [County Elections Office](#). This is true regardless of the type of felony conviction. All others in the criminal justice system may vote (such as pre-trial detainees, persons serving misdemeanor sentences in county jails, persons on parole or probation).¹⁷ Voters should double check to make sure their address is accurate when registering or updating their registration.

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

Check the resources at Campaign Legal Restore Your Vote for the latest information [here](#).

Persons in jail pending trial or for a misdemeanor conviction and who are not incarcerated for reason of a felony conviction may register and vote by absentee ballot. Persons in jail for felony convictions can register to vote but may not actually vote until they are released.¹⁸ Persons incarcerated at a federal correctional facility in Oregon may neither register nor vote.¹⁹

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

The county clerk will mail a written statement describing the nature of the challenge to the voter. The voter must provide evidence sufficient to verify their registration within 14 calendar days after the date of the election. The county clerk will count the ballot if the voter is determined to be validly registered.²⁰

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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

Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places. However, County Elections Offices must provide in person voting locations with privacy

¹⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.

¹⁷ OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.

¹⁸ <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Documents/Voter-Status-FAQ.pdf>

¹⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.

²⁰ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.426.

booths for voters who want to vote in person or voters who need assistance.²¹ See <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx> to locate a voter’s County Elections Office and its opening time. County Elections Offices must be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.²² Polls close at 8 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx> for drop box locations beginning 20 days before the election), or returned to the voter’s County Election Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

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

Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places. However, County Elections Offices provide voting locations with privacy booths for voters who want to vote in person or voters who need assistance. See <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx> to locate a voter’s County Elections Office.

17. TIME OFF WORK: *Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?*

No. Oregon is a vote by mail state, meaning that time off from work should not be necessary to vote. Oregon does not require employers to give employees time off to vote.

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

Ballots may be returned by mail (postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx> for drop box locations beginning 20 days before the election), or returned to the County Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day. A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.²³

19. IDENTIFICATION: *What identification is required to vote?*

No identification is required to vote. Instead of using traditional polling places where voters go to cast ballots on Election Day, a ballot is mailed to each registered voter. A voter will need to sign the return envelope of the ballot. A voter’s signature will be matched with the voter registration card to verify identity.²⁴

20. NO IDENTIFICATION: *Can I vote without providing identification?*

Yes, identification is not required to vote. Instead of using traditional polling places where voters go to cast ballots on Election Day, a ballot is mailed to each registered voter. A voter will need to sign the return envelope of the ballot. A voter’s signature will be matched with the voter registration card to verify identity.²⁵

21. 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?*

²¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.474.

²² OR Rev Stat § 254.470

²³ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

²⁴ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

²⁵ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

Not applicable. Instead of using traditional polling places where voters go to cast ballots on Election Day, a ballot is mailed to each registered voter. A voter will need to sign the return envelope of the voter's ballot.

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

Provisional ballots are issued to voters when eligibility cannot be immediately determined. The potential voter can fill out a provisional ballot and election officials will resolve the eligibility question later. If the individual in question is found eligible to vote, the vote will be processed the same as a regular ballot.²⁶

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?

If there is a question about a voter's eligibility to vote or if a voter needs to vote at a County Elections Office in a county other than the one in which the voter lives, the voter needs to complete a provisional ballot request form in order to vote, available at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL113.pdf>. See [Questions 21](#) & [22](#).

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

The provisional voter need not do anything else; election officials will determine eligibility to vote and process the ballot accordingly. The voter may check the status of the ballot at oregonvotes.gov/myvote.

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

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

Oregon is a vote by mail state. Mail ballots may be returned by mail, in person at the voter's County Elections Office, or at a drop box.

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

No. Oregon is a vote by mail state.

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

²⁶ OR. REV. STAT §254.408

Oregon is a vote by mail state. Ballots are mailed out between 14-20 days before the election.²⁷ Once completed, the ballot may be returned by mail, in person at the voter's County Elections Office, or at a drop box. Each County sets the hours that drop boxes are available, but they must be available beginning on the Friday before Election Day during normal business hours at the drop box location.²⁸

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

Oregon is a vote by mail state. Ballots are mailed out between 14-20 days before the election.²⁹ Once completed, the ballot may be returned by mail, in person at the voter's County Elections Office, or at a drop box.

29. IDENTIFICATION: *What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?*

Identification is not required. Instead of using traditional polling places where voters go to cast ballots on Election Day, a ballot is mailed to each registered voter. A voter will need to sign the return envelope of the ballot. A voter's signature will be matched with the voter registration card to verify identity.³⁰

30. ASSISTANCE: *What if I need assistance voting early in person?*

Oregon is a vote by mail state. Information on voting assistance for people with disabilities can be found at <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/pages/disabilities.aspx>.

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL **(in this state defined as vote by mail)**

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

Yes. Oregon is a vote by mail state. Ballots will automatically be sent to all registered voters at their registered mailing address about between twenty days and two weeks before the election. Voters needing a ballot sent somewhere other than their usual address should request an Absentee Ballot as soon as possible, so they have time to receive the ballot and return it. Voters may request Absentee Ballots for more than one election during the year. They may apply by:

- filling out the Absentee Ballot Request Form, available at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL111.pdf>, and returning it to the [County Elections Office](#); or
- if they have an Oregon driver's license or state ID, online using My Vote, oregonvotes.gov/myvote.

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

²⁷ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

²⁸ https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/vbm_manual.pdf page 22

²⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

³⁰ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

No. Oregon is a vote by mail state.

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

The deadline for voter registration for the November 5, 2024, general election is October 15, 2024, 21 days before the general election day. Once registered to vote, ballots are automatically mailed to all registered voters at their registered mailing address between twenty days and two weeks before the election. No formal request for a mail-in ballot is required.

34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

Not applicable. Oregon voters are automatically permitted to vote by mail; no application to vote by mail is required.

35. 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?

Oregon voters are automatically permitted to vote by mail; no application is required. The ballots themselves may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx> for drop box locations beginning 20 days before the election), or returned to the voter's County Elections Office (see locations at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>) by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Someone else may mail or drop off the completed ballot for the voter within two days after receiving the voter's ballot.³¹

36. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

Identification is not required. Oregon voters are automatically permitted to vote by mail; no application is required. When returning a mail ballot, a voter will need to sign the return envelope of the ballot. A voter's signature will be matched with the voter registration card to verify identity.³²

37. 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?

The ballot can be sent to the voter anywhere in the world, including to PO Boxes. Those without a permanent residence can provide any identifiable location in the county that describes their physical location, including a shelter, park, mobile home, or marina.³³ The unhoused or those who reside where

³¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

³² OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

³³ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.038.

mail service is unavailable can even use the address of the office of the county clerk and pick up their ballot there. The “mailing address” on the voter registration is where the voter’s ballot will be mailed.³⁴

38. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

Not applicable so long as the voter has registered to vote by October 15, 2024, the deadline for voter registration. Once registered to vote, ballots are automatically mailed to all registered voters at their registered mailing address about two weeks before the election.

39. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

Track a ballot and/or voter registration application at the [My Vote](#) website. Additionally, some counties offer ballot tracking so voters can be notified via text, phone, or email when their ballot is mailed and again when it has been accepted for counting. Voters should contact their [County Elections Office](#) to learn more.

40. 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 primary reason for a ballot being rejected is that the signature on the ballot envelope does not match that on file.³⁵ Voters will be notified of the problem and will have until 14 days after the election to cure this defect. Contact the County Elections Office for more information [here](#).

41. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

Voters simply mark their choices by filling in the appropriate oval next to their choice, place the ballot in the return envelope, seal, sign the outside of the envelope, and deposit in the mail or in any drop box in the state.

If a ballot arrives damaged, the voter makes a mistake, loses the ballot, or for any other reason, contact your County Elections Office as soon as possible for a replacement at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.³⁶ If a ballot replacement is requested within 5 days of the election, it might have to be picked up in the voter’s County Elections Office. [Mistakes in marking the ballot may be corrected on the ballot so long as the voter’s intention is clear. For example, an incorrectly marked oval can be erased or crossed out and the correct oval filled in.³⁷]

42. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

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 voter’s employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union, mark the

³⁴ Homeless Voters and Those Wishing Confidentiality, <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/homeless-confidential.aspx>.

³⁵ Voter Status FAQ, <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Documents/Voter-Status-FAQ.pdf>

³⁶ Ballot Help, <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/ballot-help.aspx>.

³⁷ Vote by Mail Manual, https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/vbm_manual.pdf page 39.

voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot.³⁸ If the voter does not have an assistant of their choice, the County Elections Office can provide assistance.

Voters with disabilities may request assistance with all aspects of the voting process from the County Elections Office or by calling (866) 673-8683 or, for the hearing impaired, TTY: 800-735-2900.³⁹ The voter may request that he or she be assisted at their home, the County Elections Office, a drop box location, a community service center, a senior center or an assisted living facility, or other location depending on the voter's needs.⁴⁰

43. 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?

Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day and received within seven days), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see [here](#) for drop box locations beginning 20 days before the election), or returned to the voter's County Elections Office (see locations [here](#) by 8 p.m. on Election Day).

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

See [here](#) for drop box locations beginning 20 days before the election.

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

Yes, someone else may mail or drop off the completed ballot for the voter within two days after receiving the voter's ballot.⁴¹

46. 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?

If a ballot arrives damaged, the voter makes a mistake, loses the ballot, or for any other reason, contact your County Elections Office as soon as possible for a replacement at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.⁴² If a ballot replacement is requested within 5 days of the election, it might have to be picked up in the voter's County Elections Office. [Mistakes in marking the ballot may be corrected on the ballot so long as the voter's intention is clear. For example, an incorrectly marked oval can be crossed out and the correct oval filled in.⁴³]

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

³⁸ Voter Assistance Quick Guide, <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL620.pdf>

³⁹ Services for Voters with Disabilities, <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/disabilities.aspx>.

⁴⁰ Vote by Mail Manual, http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf page 27.

⁴¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

⁴² Ballot Help, <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/ballot-help.aspx>.

⁴³ Vote by Mail Manual, https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/vbm_manual.pdf page 39.

A voter that has not received their ballot by 13 days before the election should contact the voter's County Elections Office: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places. However, County Elections Offices provide in person voting locations with privacy booths for voters who want to vote in person or voters who need assistance. See <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx> to locate a voter's County Elections Office. County Elections Offices must open at 7 a.m and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day.⁴⁴ Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see [here](#) for drop box locations), or returned to the voter's County Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE **(in this state defined as Absentee Voting)**

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

Registered voters may apply for absentee voter status if they live out of state or know that they will be absent for the election (i.e., voter will be out of town prior to the election and is putting mail on hold.) Voters may apply for an Absentee Ballot by:

- filling out the Absentee Ballot Request Form, available at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL111.pdf>, and returning it to the voter's [County Elections Office](#); or
- if they have an Oregon driver's license or state ID, online using [My Vote](#).

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

There is no strict deadline other than it must be requested in time for it to be sent to the voter. Ballots are mailed out between twenty and fourteen days before the election.⁴⁵

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

No, other than providing the voter's address, birthdate, and signature.

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

Not applicable.

⁴⁴ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/current-elections-calendar.pdf>

⁴⁵ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

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

Return the form by mail or in person to the voter's County Elections Office (<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>). Someone else may return the application for the voter.

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

Track the status at the [My Vote](#) website.

55. **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?

Voters can track the status of their ballot on the [My Vote](#) website. The primary reason for a ballot being rejected is that the signature on the ballot envelope does not match the one on file.⁴⁶ Voters will be notified of the problem and will have until 14 days after the election to cure this defect. Contact the [County Elections Office](#) for more information.

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

See [Question 41](#).

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

See [Question 42](#).

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

See [Question 43](#).

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

See [Question 44](#).

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

See [Question 45](#).

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

See [Question 46](#).

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

⁴⁶ Voter Status FAQ, <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Documents/Voter-Status-FAQ.pdf>

See [Question 47](#).

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

See [Question 48](#).

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

Not applicable. Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places. However, County Elections Offices are required to provide in person voting locations with privacy booths for voters who want to vote in person or voters who need assistance.⁴⁷ See <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx> to locate a voter’s County Elections Office. County Elections Offices must open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day⁴⁸. Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx> for drop box locations), or returned to the voter’s County Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

Not applicable. Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places. However, the County Elections Office must provide in person voting locations with privacy booths for voters who want to vote in person or voters who need assistance.⁴⁹ See <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx> to locate a voter’s County Elections Office. County Elections Offices must open at 7a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day.⁵⁰ Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx> for drop box locations), or returned to the voter’s County Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

66. 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?

Not applicable. Ballots may be returned by mail (postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see [here](#) for drop box locations), or returned to the County Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day. A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.⁵¹

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

⁴⁷ OR. REV. STAT. §254.474

⁴⁸ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/current-elections-calendar.pdf>

⁴⁹ OR. REV. STAT. §254.474

⁵⁰ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/current-elections-calendar.pdf>

⁵¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

Not applicable. Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places.

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

Oregon does not have polling places in the traditional sense, because it is a vote by mail state. However, under Oregon law, a person may not electioneer within any building designated for the deposit of ballots or within 100 feet from any entrance to the building. This applies during the business hours of the building or, if the building is a County Elections Office, during the hours the building is open to the public and from the date the ballots are mailed until all persons waiting in line at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day have finished voting. Actions prohibited as electioneering include circulating any cards or handbills, soliciting signatures to any petition, and speaking via public address system.⁵²

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

Oregon does not have polling places in the traditional sense, because it is a vote by mail state. Oregon law does not include specific prohibitions on wearing any items or taking photographs near a building designated for the deposit of ballots. See [Question 68](#) for further details on prohibited actions.

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Oregon does not have polling places in the traditional sense, because it is a vote by mail state. However, a public employee may not promote or oppose a candidate, measure, or recall of a public office holder while acting in their official capacity.

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

Oregon does not have polling places in the traditional sense, because it is a vote by mail state. However, if a voter chooses to return a ballot in person rather than by mail and feels unsafe or uncomfortable, the voter may seek assistance from the County Elections Office or by calling (866) 673-8683.

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

The county clerk will mail a written statement describing the nature of the challenge to the voter. The voter must provide evidence sufficient to verify their registration within 14 calendar days after the date of the election. The county clerk will count the ballot if the voter is determined to be validly registered.⁵³

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

Oregon does not have polling places in the traditional sense, because it is a vote by mail state. As such, it does not have laws against police/members of the military at polling places. If you are concerned

⁵² OR. REV. STAT. § 260.695.

⁵³ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.426.

about the presence of police or military at your dropbox or other voting location, you should contact your County Elections Office: <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx>.

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

The voter needs to complete a provisional ballot request form in order to vote, available at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL113.pdf>.

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

See info in the [How to Vote: Election Day](#) Section.

First, inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when the voter's name is not on the list of eligible voters or their registration cannot be verified.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. If the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, the voter will also need to complete and sign a provisional registration card.⁵⁴ The County Elections Office will send the ballot to the correct precinct, and it will be processed once the voter's eligibility has been confirmed.⁵⁵

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

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

Not applicable. Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places.

77. **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?

Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places. However, each voting center *is* required to have a compartment with an accessible voting system for people with disabilities. See [Question 78](#) for other options.

78. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of their choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.408; Vote by Mail Manual, http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf page 46.

⁵⁵ Vote by Mail Manual, http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf page 6.

⁵⁶ Voter Assistance Quick Guide, <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL620.pdf>

Voters with disabilities may request assistance with all aspects of the voting process from the County Elections Office or by calling (866) 673-8683 or, for the hearing impaired, TTY: 800-735-2900.⁵⁷ The voter may request that he or she be assisted at their home, the County Elections Office, a designated place of deposit, a community service center, a senior center or an assisted living facility.⁵⁸ If requested, election workers will bring an electronic tablet and a portable printer to the voter's home to assist with voting. The tablets can accommodate multiple disabilities. Many counties have voting centers containing items such as ballot marking tools and equipment to help blind voters.⁵⁹

79. 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?

Ballots and voting information are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, and Russian. See <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/myvote.aspx?lang=en>. Voters can contact their [county Elections Office](#) or call 866-673-8683 to get assistance. Voters may also get help from a family member or someone else of their choosing.

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

Not applicable. Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places.

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

Not applicable. Oregon is a vote by mail state—meaning that voting is done by mail and generally not in person at polling places. If using a county voting facility voters are not specifically prohibited from bringing in a guide or reference notes.

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. VOTING CENTERS: Does Oregon have voting centers for elections?

No. Oregon is a vote by mail state with minimal in-person voting. For information on in-person voting, contact the [County Elections Office](#).

83. CAUCUS OR PRIMARY: Does Oregon conduct a caucus or a primary?

Oregon conducts closed primaries; see the answer to [Question 2](#) above for more information.

84. GUNS: Does Oregon permit guns in polling places?

⁵⁷ Services for Voters with Disabilities, <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/disabilities.aspx>.

⁵⁸ Vote by Mail Manual, http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/documents/vbm_manual.pdf page 27.

⁵⁹ Services for Voters with Disabilities, <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/disabilities.aspx>.

Oregon does not have polling places in the traditional sense, because it is a vote by mail state. It does have a law that prohibits possession of firearms or dangerous weapons in a public building or court facility.⁶⁰

85. **NATIVE VOTERS:** Does voting in Oregon present any special issues for native voters?

Oregon has had a history of being particularly supportive of voting by indigenous peoples.⁶¹ Special resources for native voters in Oregon can be found at <http://www.nativesvote.com/oregon/>. (This is from 2022. Many general, but not time-specific, answers still apply.)

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

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

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

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

Public Service Building Suite 126
255 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97310
Phone: (503) 986-1518
Toll free: (866) 673-VOTE // (866) 673-8683
Fax: (503) 373-7414
TTY: (800) 735-2900
Email: elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov

⁶⁰ OR. REV. STAT. § 166.370.

⁶¹ Oregon Voting Guide, <http://www.nativesvote.com/oregon/>