

Frequently Asked Questions

Oregon – General Election 2026

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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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VOTER REGISTRATION

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/elections/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>.

Yes, but Oregon's primary is generally closed, meaning only registered voters of a major political party can vote for candidates of the same party in the primary.² However, if a major political party chooses to hold an open primary election, an unaffiliated voter may participate in the primary election.³ A voter must register as affiliated with a political party 21 or more days before the primary election; party changes on election day are not permitted.⁴ 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 or ballot measures, which all registered voters may vote on.⁵

Although Oregon is a vote-by-mail state, each county is required to establish in-person, accessible, voting locations.⁶ Voters getting replacement ballots or using the voting machines will be asked their party affiliation in order to provide the voter with the correct ballot.

3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote? What do I need to do if my name has changed since I registered? I am listed as inactive, what does that mean and what do I need to do?](#)

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](#).

Name Change

A name change needs to be updated by completing a new [paper](#) registration form (*not* electronically through My Vote) so that elections officials can obtain the voter's new signature.⁷ However, if the voter hasn't updated their registration, they may vote in one election in the county in which they're registered under their former name.⁸

Inactive

A voter's status can be listed as inactive if it appears to the county clerk that the voter's registration needs to be updated, that the voter's address has changed to another county⁹ or if the voter has not voted or updated their registration for 10 years and the county clerk mailed a notice to the voter.¹⁰ The voter's status will be listed as inactive until the voter updates the information on their registration.¹¹

A voter can reactivate their registration by returning the card sent to them by their County Office of Elections, updating their registration online [here](#), or by using a paper voter registration form. The forms (available in [multiple languages](#)) can be obtained from [County Elections Offices](#) or downloaded online. The English form is available [here](#).

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

² OR. REV. STAT. § 254.365; <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/faq.aspx>.

³ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.365; <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/faq.aspx>.

⁴ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.203.

⁵ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.365.

⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.474.

⁷ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/pages/update-voter-registration.aspx>

⁸ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.411.

⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.563.

¹⁰ OAR 165-005-0180.

¹¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.563.

MOTOR VOTER: Anyone who visits the DMV to apply for, 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 [here](#) or update their registration online [here](#).

BY MAIL: Voters can register by mailing or delivering in person a voter registration form to any [County Elections Office](#), the Secretary of State, any office of the Department of Transportation or any designated voter registration agency.¹²

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](#).

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 need a valid Oregon driver's license, permit, or ID card number issued by the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) or the voter can provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number.¹³

If a voter does not have any of these, they can use the online voter registration, but will have to print out the card and follow the steps to complete their registration. 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 (including a document or letter issued by a tribal government or entity) that lists their name and current address, proof of eligibility under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) or the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEH).¹⁴ The information the voter enters will display on a [voter registration card](#) that the voter will need to print, sign, and deliver to the voter's [County Elections Office](#) to complete the registration.¹⁵

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 3, 2026, the registration deadline is October 13, 2026. If registering by mail, the registration must be postmarked by October 13, 2026.¹⁶

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

¹² OR. REV. STAT. § 247.012.

¹³ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.019.

¹⁴ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL500.pdf> , Oregon Natives Vote

¹⁵ <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

¹⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.025.

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.¹⁷

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.¹⁸

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 election day.¹⁹ Note: the post office will not forward ballots.²⁰

9. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?

Voters living somewhere temporarily can still vote by mail (Oregon is a vote-by-mail state). Ballots are mailed not earlier than 20 days and at least 14 days before the election,²¹ 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:

1. Update voter registration at [MyVote](#)
2. Download, print, and return the [Oregon Absentee Ballot Request Form](#).
3. Contact [County Elections Offices](#) for potential additional options they may have for pickup.

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.²²

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 Oregon 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 must choose one residential address. Students who expect to be away from where they are registered in Oregon may download and return the [Absentee Ballot Request Form](#) to their [County Office of Elections](#).

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 their college to be considered an Oregon resident for voting purposes.²³

¹⁷ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.

¹⁸ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.303.

¹⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.307.

²⁰ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

²¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470

²² USPS: [Election Mail](#).

²³ *West v. Bowers*, 502 P.2d 270, 276 (1972).

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 mailing address that is different from their residential 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 address²⁴

The mailing address is where the ballot will be mailed. 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 [Student Voters | Oregon Secretary of State](#).

Students must have a physical presence in Oregon. Merely taking remote classes from an Oregon school does not meet the definition of a resident.²⁵

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 13, 2026 for the November 3, 2026 general election) to be added to the voter rolls. Completed ballots may be returned by mail, fax, or 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). If faxed or emailed, the voter must also complete and return the [Secret Ballot Waiver Form](#).²⁶

For more information the voter can see the [Federal Voter Assistance Program](#) website, the State of Oregon [web page](#) for military and overseas voters, or contact their [County Elections Office](#).

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? What process (if any) is needed to restore my right to vote if it was impacted?

Yes. Individuals may vote unless they are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction. They may vote if on parole or probation, or awaiting sentence.²⁷ The right to vote is immediately restored once the voter has been released from incarceration or if the conviction is set aside, 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).²⁸ Voters should double check to make sure their address is accurate when registering or updating their registration.

²⁴ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/pages/student-voters.aspx>.

²⁵ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.035.

²⁶ OAR 165-007-0300.

²⁷ OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.

²⁸ OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.

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 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. Persons incarcerated at a federal correctional facility in Oregon may neither register nor vote.²⁹

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.³⁰

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 booths for voters who want to vote in person or voters who need assistance.³¹ County Elections Offices must be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time.³² Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by Election Day); placed in a drop box, which must be available beginning on the Friday before Election Day during normal business hours, by 8 p.m. on Election Day (if the voter is in line to deposit their ballot at 8 p.m., they must be allowed to complete their deposit); or returned to the voter's County Election Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see [here](#) for drop box locations beginning 21 days before the election).³³

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.³⁴

17. TIME OFF WORK: [Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?](#)

²⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 137.281.

³⁰ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.426.

³¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.474.

³² OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470; [Upcoming Elections | Oregon Secretary of State | State of Oregon](#);
<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/toolkit/2026-Dont-Wait-Vote-Early-General-Election-English-11x17.pdf>.

³³ [Vote By Mail Procedures Manual](#) p. 22.

³⁴ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.474.

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?

A voter waiting in line to vote or deposit a completed ballot by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.³⁵

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 with a unique bar code 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.³⁶

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.³⁷

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?

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. Voters 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 voter can fill out a provisional ballot and election officials will resolve the eligibility question later. If the voter is found to be eligible to vote, the vote will be processed the same as a regular ballot.³⁸

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 in order to vote, available [here](#).

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.

³⁵ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

³⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470

³⁷ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

³⁸ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.408.

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)?

Not applicable. 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, which must be available beginning on the Friday before Election Day but may be open as early as 18 days before election day.

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?

Oregon is a vote by mail state. Ballots are mailed out between 14-20 days before the election.³⁹ 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.⁴⁰

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.⁴¹ 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.⁴²

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 [here](#). For other types of assistance see [here](#).

³⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

⁴⁰ [Vote By Mail Procedures Manual](#) p. 22

⁴¹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

⁴² OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

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.⁴³

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 an [Absentee Ballot Request Form](#) and returning it to their [County Elections Office](#); or
- if they have an Oregon driver's license or state ID, online using [My Vote](#).

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

No. Oregon is a vote by mail state.

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

Not applicable. Oregon is a vote by mail state. Ballots are automatically mailed to all registered voters at their registered mailing address between 14 and 20 days before the election.

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 Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day (see [here](#) for drop box locations beginning 21 days before the election), or returned to the voter's [County Elections Office](#) 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.⁴⁴

⁴³ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

⁴⁴ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

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

Oregon voters are automatically permitted to vote by mail; no application is required. When returning a mail ballot, the voter will need to sign the ballot return envelope. The voter's signature will be matched with their voter registration card to verify identity.⁴⁵

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 as the voter's residence address.⁴⁶ The unhoused or those who reside where mail service is unavailable can even use the address of the office of the county clerk as the voter's mailing address and pick up their ballot there. The mailing address on the voter registration is where the voter's ballot will be mailed.⁴⁷

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 twenty one days before the election. The registration deadline for the November 3, 2026 general election is October 13, 2026. Once registered to vote, ballots are automatically mailed to all registered voters at their registered mailing address starting twenty days to 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 Ballotrax ballot tracking so voters can be notified when their ballot is mailed and again when it has been accepted for counting. Voters should check their [County Elections Office](#) to see if Ballotrax is available to them.

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?

A ballot may be rejected because the signature on the ballot envelope does not match that on file or the voter forgot to sign the return envelope. The voter will be notified of the problem and will have until 21 days after the election to cure the defect.⁴⁸ Voters can contact their [County Elections Office](#) for more information.

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

⁴⁵ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

⁴⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 247.038.

⁴⁷ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/homeless-confidential.aspx>.

⁴⁸ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.431.

Voters mark their choices by filling in the appropriate oval (with black or blue ink, or pencil) next to their choice. Voters are not required to vote for all contests. The ballot should be placed in the return envelope, sealed, the outside of the envelope signed, and deposited in the mail or in any [drop box](#) in the state. 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.⁴⁹

If a ballot arrives damaged, the voter makes a mistake, loses the ballot, or for any other reason, the voter can contact their [County Elections Office](#) as soon as possible to request a replacement.⁵⁰ If a ballot replacement is requested within five days of the election, the voter might have to pick it up at their County Elections Office.⁵¹

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

Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have a 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.⁵² If the voter does not have an assistant of their choice, the County Elections Office can provide assistance.⁵³ See [here](#) for further information.

Voters with disabilities may request assistance with all aspects of the voting process from their [County Elections Office](#) or by calling (866) 673-8683 or, for the hearing impaired, TTY: 800-735-2900.⁵⁴ The voter may request to 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.⁵⁵ See [here](#) for more information.

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 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 21 days before the election), or returned in person to the voter's [County Elections Office](#) 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 21 days before the election. Ballots may also be dropped off at the voter's [County Elections Office](#).

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

⁴⁹ Ballot Help; <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/toolkit/2026-How-to-Fill-Out-Your-Ballot-English-11x17.pdf>.

⁵⁰ Oregon Sec'y of State Ballot Help, OR. REV. STAT. § 254.480.

⁵¹ Vote by Mail Procedures Manual, p. 48.

⁵² Voter Assistance Quick Guide.

⁵³ Voter Assistance Quick Guide.

⁵⁴ Services for Voters with Disabilities.

⁵⁵ Vote by Mail Procedures Manual, p. 27.

Yes, someone else may mail or drop off the completed ballot for the voter, but must do so within two days after receiving the voter's ballot.⁵⁶

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, they should contact their [County Elections Office](#). Upon verification of the voter's registration and that the voter has not voted another ballot, a new ballot will be mailed along with a replacement ballot request form [SEL 112](#), or voters will need to sign the special printed replacement ballot return envelope before the ballot can be counted.

If a ballot replacement is requested within five 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.⁵⁷

47. 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 that has not received their ballot by thirteen days before the election should contact the voter's [County Elections Office](#). If five days or fewer before the election, the voter may have to go to the Elections Office to retrieve their ballot or vote.

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. County Elections Offices must open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day.⁵⁸

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

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

⁵⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470 (6)(E).

⁵⁷ [Vote by Mail Procedures Manual](#), p. 48.

⁵⁸ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/county-officials.aspx>.

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., the 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](#) 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](#).
- Military and Overseas Voters can also use the [Federal Post Card Application](#), which does not require Oregon ID. See [Question 11](#).

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. Military and overseas ballots are sent out 45 days before the election. Out-of-state ballots are mailed 29 days before an election, but may be available to be picked up at a County Elections Office up to 43 days before the election.⁵⁹

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.

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](#). 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. A few Oregon counties also use Ballotrax; check [County Elections Office](#) websites.

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 should call their County Elections Office if unsure how to correct an error. 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. Voters will be notified of the problem and will have until 21 days after the election to cure this defect.⁶⁰ Contact the [County Elections Office](#) for more information.

⁵⁹ OR. REV. STAT. §254.470

⁶⁰ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.431.

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?

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.⁶¹ Locate a voter's County Elections Office [here](#). County Elections Offices must open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day.⁶² Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by Election Day), placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day ([drop box locations](#)), or returned to the voter's County Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

⁶¹ OR. REV. STAT. §254.474.

⁶² <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/county-officials.aspx>.

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, County Elections Offices must provide in person voting locations with privacy booths for voters who want to vote in person or voters who need assistance.⁶³ Locate a voter's County Elections Office [here](#). County Elections Offices must open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day.⁶⁴ Ballots may be returned by mail (they must be postmarked by Election Day), placed in a [drop box](#) by 8 p.m. on Election Day, 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 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.⁶⁵

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

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.⁶⁶

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.

⁶³ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.474.

⁶⁴ <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/county-officials.aspx>.

⁶⁵ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.470.

⁶⁶ OR. REV. STAT. § 260.695.

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.⁶⁷

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 their 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.⁶⁸

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 voters are concerned about the presence of police or military at your dropbox or other voting location, they should contact their [County Elections Office](#).

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 will need to complete a [Provisional Ballot Registration Card](#) in order to vote. If their registration is found to be valid their ballot will be counted.

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 when their registration cannot be verified, or they are trying to vote in a county other than the one in which they reside.

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 Ballot Registration Card](#).⁶⁹ The County Elections Office will send the

⁶⁷ OR. REV. STAT. § 260.432.

⁶⁸ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.426.

⁶⁹ OR. REV. STAT. § 254.408; <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL113.pdf>.

ballot to the correct precinct, if necessary, and it will be processed once the voter's eligibility has been confirmed.⁷⁰

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

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

Mostly 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, if a voter is using the equipment at a County Elections Office or a voting center, they are entitled to assistance from Elections staff or a trusted person such as a friend or family member other than the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union.⁷¹

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?

Although Oregon is a vote by mail state, each voting center (usually the county elections office) is required to have a compartment with an accessible voting system for people with disabilities.

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 a 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.⁷² If the voter does not have an assistant of their choice, the County Elections Office can provide assistance.⁷³

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: 800-735-2900.⁷⁴ The voter may request that they 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 or other location depending on the voter's needs.⁷⁵

See [here](#).

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?

⁷⁰ [Voting Assistance](#).

⁷¹ [Voting Assistance](#).

⁷² [Voting Assistance](#).

⁷³ [Voting Assistance](#).

⁷⁴ [Voting Assistance](#).

⁷⁵ [Voting Assistance](#).

Ballots and voting information are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, and Russian. See [here](#). Voters can also 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, except an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union.⁷⁶

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. GUNS: Does Oregon permit guns in polling places?

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.⁷⁷

84. 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. Contact information for the different County Elections Officials can be found [here](#).

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

⁷⁶ [Voting Assistance](#).

⁷⁷ OR. REV. STAT. § 166.370.

Email: elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov