

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Colorado – General Election 2024

*Last Updated: 8/6/2024*

**Disclaimer:** This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

**Note:** This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter's contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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# REGISTERING TO VOTE

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

To be eligible to register to vote in Colorado, an individual must be:

- A U.S. Citizen,<sup>2</sup>
- At least 18 years old by Election Day for the election in which they intend to vote,

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

- A Colorado resident for at least 22 days immediately prior to an election in which they intend to vote,<sup>3</sup> and
- Not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction.

In addition, 16 and 17 year olds who will not be 18 years old by the next election may pre-register to vote using the same process as voter registration; upon reaching 18 years of age, they become automatically registered to vote. Beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 15 year olds will be able to pre-register to vote as well.<sup>4</sup>

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?](#)

The following types of voters may vote during a primary election:

- Voters affiliated with a major party may cast a ballot for candidates of the party with which they are affiliated.
- Voters affiliated with a minor party: if there is a minor party contest, those affiliated with that minor party may cast a ballot for those candidates.
- Unaffiliated voters: An unaffiliated voter may cast a ballot for any one political party. If an unaffiliated voter returns a ballot with more than one political party, the ballot will be rejected and none of the votes will be counted.<sup>5</sup>

All registered voters receive a ballot by mail. Voters affiliated with a major party will receive that party’s ballot. Unaffiliated voters will receive a ballot for each major political party, but may only return one.<sup>6</sup> If you vote in person and are unaffiliated, you may be asked which party’s ballot you want to vote.

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

The voter can determine whether the voter is registered to vote by checking the Colorado Secretary of State’s website: [www.govotecolorado.gov](http://www.govotecolorado.gov). If a voter is not registered to vote, the voter can register online at the same website, or by completing the paper registration form, or by visiting their County Clerk’s office, or by visiting a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) during early voting or on Election Day.<sup>7</sup> **It is never too late to register to vote in Colorado** – a voter can visit a VSPC to register and vote, as long as they are in line by 7pm on Election Day. [Question 4](#) below for options on how to register.

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

To receive a ballot in the mail for the Colorado General Election, the voter can:

- REGISTER ONLINE: Register online/update their voter registration online up to 8 days before the November 5, 2024 General Election (Mon. October 28)<sup>8</sup> on the Colorado Secretary of State’s website:

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<sup>3</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-2-101(1)(b)

<sup>4</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-2-101(2)(a)(I)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/primaryElectionsFAQ.html>

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Colo. Code Regs. § 1505-1(2.1.1); [Colorado Voter Registration Form](#)

<sup>8</sup> [2024ElectionCalendar.pdf \(coloradosos.gov\)](#)

[GoVoteColorado.gov](#). The voter will need their Social Security Number OR their Colorado driver's license/ID/permit number to register.

- PAPER APPLICATION: Voters can print off a voter registration form at [GoVoteColorado.gov](#) and return it to their County Clerk's office by mail, fax, scan and email, or drop it off in person. If the form is received by the Clerk's office at least 8 days before the November 5, 2024 General Election (by Mon. October 28), the voter will be mailed a ballot. A list of all County Clerk and Recorder's Offices in the state of Colorado can be found [here](#). A paper voter registration application may also be obtained at any County Clerk and Recorder's Office, or any federal post office that provides voter registration applications.

All registered Colorado voters will receive a ballot in the mail at the address where they are registered to vote. **IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO REGISTER TO VOTE:** Coloradans may visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) to register to vote, update their address, and vote in person beginning during the early voting period, until 7pm on Election Day.

Colorado DOES NOT have a voter registration deadline; Coloradans may register to vote or update their address at any Voter Service and Polling Center in their county during the early voting period or by 7pm on Election Day. Find locations and hours at [JustVoteColorado.org](#).

To receive a ballot in the mail, registration must be submitted 8 days before the November 5, 2024 General Election (by Mon. October 28). After Mon. October 28, a voter should visit a Voter Service Center in their county to register and vote or obtain a ballot

Other in-person voter registration options are listed below:

- A Colorado Department of Motor Vehicle office when you apply for a driver's license, or when updating your driver's license information;
- Offices that provide public assistance, including offices of state funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to person with disabilities;
- Recruitment offices of the armed forces of the United States; or
- Any federal, state, or local government office or any non-government office that chooses to provide voter registration service or applications.
- A Registered Voter Registration Drive. If a voter has registered through a Registered Voter Registration Drive, the registration must be submitted by the Voter Registration Drive no later than 22 days before Election Day (Tues. October 15) to receive a ballot in the mail.

If the voter's voter registration is inactive, the voter may change the inactive status by submitting a signed request by mail, fax or email attachment; submitting an online voter registration application or update; making an in-person request, or by voting in person at a Voter Service and Polling Center.<sup>9</sup>

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

- To register to vote online, the individual may use the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number or the number from their Colorado driver's license/ ID/ permit.
- If registering to vote for the first time on a paper form or in-person, the individual must use the number from their Colorado driver's license/ ID/ permit if they have been issued one. If the

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<sup>9</sup>tsFAQ.html" \h<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/mailBallotsFAQ.html> (Q5) Colo.Rev. Stat. Ann §1-2-509

individual has not been issued a Colorado ID, they may use the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number.

- If the person does not have a social security number or a Colorado driver's license/ ID/ permit, they can still register to vote using a paper form at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) or their County Clerk's office. An acceptable ID will be required before the voter can cast a ballot.<sup>10</sup>.

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?](#)

Colorado has no voter registration deadline – it is never too late to register to vote. Voters can register in-person up to and on Election Day.<sup>11</sup>

To receive a ballot in the mail, the voter must register to vote or update their voter registration by the 8<sup>th</sup> day before the November 5, 2024 General Election (Mon. October 28) through one of the following methods:<sup>12</sup>

- Online (see [Question #4](#));
- In person at their County Clerk's office, a DMV, or other qualified office (see [Question #4](#))
- Submit a paper application to the County Clerk via mail, fax, or email; the application must be received by the Clerk's office by Mon. October 28 for a ballot to be mailed to the voter (see [Question #4](#));

Additionally, a voter may submit an application through a Registered Voter Registration Drive no later than Tues. October 15 to receive a ballot in the mail.<sup>13</sup>

Mail ballots must be received by 7pm on Election Day (Tues. November 5, 2024). Postmarks do not count. Ballots may be returned by mail, dropped off in any 24-hour ballot drop box in the state, or returned at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in the state during operating hours.

If a voter returns their ballot by mail, voters are advised to leave sufficient time for the ballot to reach the County Clerk by 7pm on Election Day by mailing it no later than Mon. October 28. If a voter does not think that the mail ballot will arrive to the County Clerk in time, the voter should drop the ballot off to a drop off location or drop box designated by your County Clerk or at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) anywhere in the state.<sup>14</sup>

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

Yes – eligible voters can register to vote or update their voter registration through 7pm on Election Day. Voters can visit any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county to register to vote and vote in person, or obtain a ballot. For information on requirements for registration, see [Question #4](#).

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<sup>10</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-1-104 (19.5)

<sup>11</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat Ann.. § 1-2-201 (3)(a)

<sup>12</sup> [2024ElectionCalendar.pdf \(coloradosos.gov\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/VoterRegistrationFAQ.html>;

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/calendars/2024ElectionCalendar.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/mailBallotsFAQ.html> (Q5) Colo.Rev. Stat. Ann §1–2-509



If a voter cannot make it to a Voter Service and Polling Center in their county of residence in time to get in line by 7pm on Election Day, they may visit any VSPC in the state. However, they will be limited to voting only on statewide federal and state offices and statewide ballot issues.<sup>15</sup>

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

Yes; if the voter is still living in Colorado at a new address, they have the right to vote in Colorado. Voters should update their address each time they move; if they update their address by Mon. October 28, they will still be mailed a ballot (see [Question #4](#)). The voter may also visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their new county of residence to update their address and vote or obtain a ballot. Visit [JustVoteColorado.org](http://JustVoteColorado.org) to find locations and hours.

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

Any voter who has moved temporarily or will be at an address other than their residential address when ballots are mailed, can designate an alternate mailing address by visiting the [Colorado Secretary of State's website](#). The voter will need to enter the number from their Colorado driver's license/ ID/ permit OR the last four digits of their Social Security Number in order to update their mailing address. If they prefer to update their mailing address by phone they can contact their County Clerk. A list of all County Clerk and Recorder's Offices in the state of Colorado can be found [here](#).

Individuals without a fixed permanent home can register to vote and cast a ballot. To register they must provide a physical address. This "home base" address can be a park, vacant lot, a business address, a shelter, or any other physical location within the county that the individual considers their home base. If the home base address does not include a mailing address, as in the case of a park or vacant lot, then the individual must provide a mailing address. The mailing address can be a post office box or anywhere else that they can receive mail.<sup>16</sup>

Students have the right to register and vote in Colorado. See [Question #10](#) below.

**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?**

Students have the right to register and vote in Colorado. Students attending an institution of higher education can keep their voter registration in the location where they lived prior to coming to school, or they may register in the location where they attend school. This choice is up to the student.

If the voter chooses to keep their registration at the location where they lived before coming to school and that location is a Colorado address, the voter should update their voter registration either online or by contacting their County Clerk and Recorder to update their mailing address (different from their residence address) to which they would like their ballot mailed.<sup>17</sup>

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

Residents of Colorado living outside of the United States (either temporarily or permanently) who were residents of Colorado immediately before leaving the United States, and residents of Colorado who are

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<sup>15</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-7-110 (5)

<sup>16</sup> [Voter Registration FAQs \(coloradosos.gov\)](http://coloradosos.gov/Voter-Registration-FAQs)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/college.html>



active duty military personnel (including their spouses and voting-age dependents) and who are absent from the state on assignment are eligible to register and vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens and Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). As a UOCAVA voter, the voter will have the option to receive a ballot for every election in which the voter is eligible and to vote by mail, fax, or email.

The voter can register for UOCAVA in two ways:

1. Online (requires a valid Colorado driver's license/ID/permit number):  
The voter can look up his/her voter record on the [Secretary of State's website](#). The voter should enter in their name, zip code, and birthdate and click "submit." This should bring up the voter's voter record. Under voter information, click "change my address." Enter the voter's Colorado license/ ID/permit number and click "submit." At the bottom of the form, the voter will see "UOCAVA Status." The voter should indicate that they are a military or overseas voter, and how they would like their ballot to be delivered (mail, fax, or email). The voter should include their fax number, email address, and/or mailing address that corresponds with the delivery option chosen.
2. Via Mail, Fax, or Email:  
The voter can complete and submit the [Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Federal Post Card Application](#). Print, sign, and return the form to the voter's County Clerk and Recorder's Office. A list of all County Clerk and Recorder's Offices in the state of Colorado can be found [here](#). For more information about UOCAVA voters, visit the [Colorado Secretary of State's website](#).

**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 Center website, [Restore Your Vote](#) for the latest information.

In Colorado, people involved in the criminal justice system have the right to vote as long as they are not currently serving a sentence of confinement for a felony conviction.

It is illegal to register to vote or cast a vote while serving a sentence of incarceration or detention for a felony conviction. However, people who are in jail awaiting trial for a misdemeanor or felony charge, people serving a sentence for a misdemeanor conviction, and people on parole or probation are eligible to register to vote and vote in any election.

After serving their sentence, a Colorado resident has the right to vote but must register or re-register. The day the voter is released from detention or incarceration is the day their eligibility to register to vote is restored.<sup>18</sup> See [Question #13](#).

**13. INCARCERATED:** [I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?](#)

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

In Colorado, only individuals who are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction are not eligible to vote. The following Colorado residents are eligible to register and vote in Colorado:

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<sup>18</sup> [Voters with Convictions FAQs](#)

- People with a past criminal conviction (felony or misdemeanor), whether in Colorado or elsewhere, who have completed their sentence of confinement.
- People currently in jail awaiting trial (pending the outcome of the criminal case).
- People currently on probation or parole for either a misdemeanor or a felony
- People currently in jail serving a misdemeanor sentence only.

Beginning with the 2024 general election, one day of in-person voting will be available for incarcerated voters in a county jail or detention center at a time designated by the county between the fifteenth day and the fourth day before Election Day . The polling locations will be open for at least 6 hours. The voters can update their voter registration from the polling location, will have the right to cast a secret ballot, and if the voter is incarcerated outside of their county of residence, the voter can vote in-person on statewide federal and state races and statewide ballot measures. County facilities must provide voters with a ballot informational booklet, notice of the date and time for voting in-person, and information about how to register and vote from the facility. The counties must also provide to these voters information on how to cure their ballot.<sup>19</sup> *County jails will only be required to offer in-person voting for general elections; some facilities may offer in-person voting for primary and/or municipal and school board elections.*

Individuals are eligible to register and vote as soon as they are released from prison after serving time for a felony conviction. They are NOT required to complete probation or parole prior to voting. For more information about the voting rights of incarcerated or previously incarcerated individuals, visit [the Colorado Secretary of State](#) website or the [Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition's website](#).

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

A registered elector can challenge another person's registration by submitting a written challenge to the County Clerk and Recorder at least 60 days before an election. The challenge must include specific details about the registrant, the basis for the challenge, supporting facts, documentary evidence, and the challenger's signature and address.

The County Clerk and Recorder will notify the challenged registrant and schedule a hearing within 30 days of the challenge filing. The challenger bears the burden of proof.

The County Clerk and Recorder will make a decision within 5 days of the hearing. They can either cancel the registrant's name from the voter registration system if there's sufficient evidence, or deny the challenge if there's no or insufficient evidence.

Appeals against the County Clerk and Recorder's decision can be made to the district court within 3 days of the decision. The appellant must file a verified petition in the district court, which will notify the other party within 24 hours.

The court will hear the case and make a decision within 48 hours of the close of evidence. The court can only cancel a registration if it's proven that the registrant doesn't reside at the address provided at the time of registration. The court's decision is final, but the supreme court may review the proceedings at its discretion.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-072> Colo. Rev. Stat. §1-7.5-113.5

<sup>20</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-9-101.

See [Question #72](#) for challenges to in-person voting.

## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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

Every county is required to have a certain number of Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPCs) open for early voting and on Election Day. Prior to Election Day, the number of VSPCs and ballot drop boxes in a particular county may vary, and the hours that VSPCs are open may vary. To verify locations and operating hours, visit: [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org)

On Election Day, all polling places must be open continuously from 7am to 7 pm. All polling locations must remain open after 7pm until every eligible voter who was at that VSPC at or before 7pm has been allowed to vote. Any voter arriving after 7pm will not be entitled to vote.<sup>21</sup>

If a voter is unable to get to a VSPC in their county of residence before 7pm on Election Day, they can vote at a VSPC outside their county (anywhere within Colorado) if they arrive by 7pm, but will only be able to vote for statewide federal and state offices and statewide ballot issues.<sup>22</sup>

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

On Election Day, voters can drop off their ballot or vote in person. It is too late to mail back your ballot on Election Day; the ballot must be received by 7pm on Election Day, and postmarks don't count.

- a. Voters can deposit their completed mail ballot in any drop box or Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in the state. Voters may also give their ballot to a third-party to deposit on their behalf. Individuals may not deposit more than 10 ballots in any election cycle, including their own.
- b. Voters may vote in-person at any VSPC. They must bring ID with them to vote (see list of acceptable IDs under [Question #19](#)). Voters who received a ballot in the mail may still vote in person and do not need to surrender their mail ballot in order to vote in person.

Visit [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org) to find VSPC and drop box locations.

For the 2024 General Election, after Mon. October 28, it is too late to put your ballot in the mail. If a voter places their ballot in the mail after Mon. October 28, the voter should go to a Voter Service and Polling Center in their county to explain the problem and request to vote in person. Their mail ballot will be voided if it is received after the voter has voted in person, so that only one ballot for that voter will be counted.

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

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<sup>21</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-101

<sup>22</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-7-110(5)

Eligible voters can take a two-hour leave from work to vote on election day without facing penalties, salary deductions, or job termination. Hourly workers should receive their regular wage for this period. Leave requests should be made before election day, and employers can specify the leave hours, but must accommodate requests for leave at the start or end of the shift.<sup>23</sup>

This rule doesn't apply to those with a work schedule that already allows three or more hours of free time while the polls are open.<sup>24</sup>

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

On Election Day, all polling locations must be open continuously from 7am to 7pm. All polling locations must remain open after 7pm until every eligible voter who was at that polling location at or before 7pm has been allowed to vote. Any voter arriving after 7pm will not be entitled to vote.<sup>25</sup>

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

All voters who vote in person must provide identification; physical and digital versions of acceptable IDs may be presented (full list below).<sup>26</sup>

Some ballots received in the mail may be marked "ID required." Voters voting by mail for the first time who did not register online or show an ID when they registered must provide a photocopy of their identification with their mail ballot<sup>27</sup>; this photocopy may be in color or black & white. If the voter receives a mail ballot and they are required to provide a photocopy of their ID, the ballot will be marked to indicate this requirement. Otherwise, the voter will only have to sign their ballot and their signature will be compared with the one the county has on file.

A voter who is unable to provide a valid form of identification is still entitled to cast a provisional ballot in person, or they can submit their mail ballot without ID. The voter will receive a letter in the mail to "cure" their ballot within 8 days of Election Day; to cure their ballot, the voter will submit a photo of an acceptable ID via mobile phone, email, fax, mail or by dropping it off at the County Clerk's office. The ID must be received within 8 days of Election Day to be verified in order for the voter's ballot to be counted.

- Colorado accepts the following types of IDs, **all of which may be presented in physical or digital form:** A valid Colorado driver's license;
- A valid identification card issued by the Colorado Department of Revenue (except for cards issued to not lawfully present and temporarily lawfully present individuals);
- A valid U.S. passport;
- A valid employee identification card with a photograph of the voter issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. government or of Colorado, or by any county, municipality, board, authority, or other political subdivision of Colorado;
- A valid pilot's license issued by the FAA or other authorized agency of the U.S.;
- A valid U.S. military identification card with a photograph of the voter;

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<sup>23</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-102

<sup>24</sup> *Id*

<sup>25</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-101

<sup>26</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-7-110; Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-1-104 (19.5)

<sup>27</sup> [Acceptable Forms of Identification](#)

- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and current address of the voter. "Current" means dated within 60 days of the date submitted unless the document states a longer billing cycle;
- A certificate of degree of Indian or Alaskan Native blood;
- A valid Medicare or Medicaid card issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly the U. S. Health Care Financing Administration);
- A certified copy of a birth certificate for the voter issued in the U.S.;
- Certified documentation of naturalization;
- A valid student identification card with a photograph of the eligible voter issued by an institute of higher education in Colorado;
- A valid veteran identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Health Administration with a photograph of the voter;
- A valid ID card issued by a federally recognized tribal government certifying tribal membership;
- Verification that a voter is a person committed to the Colorado Department of Human Services and is eligible to register and vote;
- A letter from the director or administrator of a group residential facility indicating that the voter resides at the facility and at the street address listed in the voter registration database; or
- Written correspondence from the county sheriff or their designee to the County Clerk indicating that the elector is confined in a county jail or detention facility.

If the identification shows an address, it must show a Colorado address<sup>28</sup>. The Colorado address listed on the ID does not need to be the voter's current address, unless the voter is submitting a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (see above).

## 20. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** [Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

Voters have the right to cast a provisional ballot if they cannot provide ID. See [Question #23<sup>29</sup>](#).

A voter who is unable to provide a valid form of identification is still entitled to cast a provisional ballot in person, or they can submit their mail ballot without ID. The voter will receive a letter in the mail to "cure" their ballot within 8 days of Election Day; to cure their ballot, the voter will submit a photo of an acceptable ID via mobile phone, email, fax, mail or by dropping it off at the County Clerk's office. The ID must be received within 8 days of Election Day to be verified in order for the voter's ballot to be counted.

To access Colorado's TXT2Cure System, follow these steps:

- Text the word "COLORADO" to the number 28683.
- Touch the link you receive in the reply text.
- Click the "Cure My Ballot" button.
- Enter your Voter ID number.
- When prompted, provide your signature by signing the screen of your mobile phone.
- When prompted, use your mobile phone's camera to take a picture of an acceptable form of ID
- Click submit and you're done.

## 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?](#)

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<sup>28</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-1-104(19.5)

<sup>29</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-7-110(4); Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-8.5-101 (2)

Yes, as long as the voter resides in the county where the Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) is located. Any eligible voter whose name is not in the statewide voter registration database when they arrive at a VSPC in their county is entitled to register to vote there, can sign an affirmation and can vote a regular ballot.<sup>30</sup>

Note: If a voter is not in the County where they reside and will not make it to that County before the polls close, they are entitled to vote at any Voter Service and Polling Center in Colorado but will only be permitted to vote on statewide federal and state candidates and statewide ballot issues<sup>31</sup>.

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

A voter who claims to be registered but whose eligibility cannot be immediately verified at the polling location is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. Voters who do not present identification can also cast a provisional ballot.<sup>32</sup>

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

No voter can be denied the right to cast a provisional ballot in any election.

If a voter tries to register to vote on Election Day but does not have verifiable identification, they have the right to vote a provisional ballot. After Election Day, an election official will review the provisional ballot to verify the voter's eligibility to vote. If the voter is eligible, their ballot will be counted.

If a voter wants to vote at a polling location and is currently outside their county of residence, the voter has the right to vote a statewide ballot; the voter will not have to vote a provisional ballot. A statewide ballot contains the names of candidates for statewide federal offices, state offices and statewide ballot issues and ballot questions<sup>33</sup>.

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

The designated election official must verify the eligibility of a provisional ballot voter using the procedures and databases prescribed by the secretary of state before the ballot is counted. If a provisional ballot affidavit is signed but not fully completed, the ballot will only be counted if the official can confirm the voter's eligibility in the precinct and county. If the affidavit is not signed, the official will notify the voter within 3 days, and the voter has 8 days after the election to sign it. If the voter doesn't sign, the ballot won't be counted.

The official determines when to start verifying and counting provisional ballots based on state rules. All provisional ballots must be verified and counted within 9 days after an election, or within an alternate timeframe set by the secretary of state. Regular ballots are counted before provisional ones.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-2-217.7(4)

<sup>31</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-7-110(5)

<sup>32</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-8.5-101

<sup>33</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-7-110(5)

<sup>34</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-8.5-105

# 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)?

Yes, there is early in-person voting in Colorado. For the 2024 General Election, early voting starts on Mon. October 21. To find locations and hours, visit [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org)

All registered active Colorado voters automatically receive a mail ballot.

For a voter to receive a **mail ballot**, the voter must do one of the following:

1. Register to vote or update their voter registration online at [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.govotecolorado.gov) by Mon. October 28;
2. Submit a voter registration application through the mail/ fax/email, at a voter registration agency, or at a DMV (see [Question #4](#)).
3. Submit a voter registration application through a voter registration drive no later than October 15.<sup>35</sup>

For the 2024 General Election, ballots will begin to be mailed to registered voters on Fri. October 11. Voters may complete and return those ballots at any time after receiving them, up to 7pm on Election Day (Tues. November 5, 2024).

Voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail may visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county to register to vote/ update their registration and vote/ obtain a ballot; find locations and hours at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org). Voters must bring ID with them to vote in person (see [Question #19](#) for a full list of acceptable IDs).

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

No. It is up to the voter to decide when the best time to vote will be for their schedule. Find Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) locations for early voting at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org).

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

Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPCs) open for the 2024 General Election on Mon. October 21 and are open through 7pm on Election Day (Tues. Nov. 5, 2024). Find locations and hours at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org).<sup>36</sup>

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

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<sup>35</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-2-508(1). A voter registration drive is when two or more persons distribute and collect voter registration applications for delivery to a County Clerk or recorder. Voter registration drives must register with the Secretary of State. See *Voter Registration Drive*, Colorado Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/VoterRegDrive/whatIsVRD.html>.

<sup>36</sup> *2024 Election Calendar*, Colorado Secretary of State, available at: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/calendars/2024ElectionCalendar.pdf>



Voters can vote by mail, drop off their ballot, or vote in person.<sup>37</sup>

- a. VOTE BY MAIL: Voters can **mail their completed ballot** using the return envelope provided (postage is required). Please note that if a voter inadvertently mails a ballot without adding postage, the postage will be covered by the county and the ballot will still be delivered. If a voter has concerns, they can check online to ensure their ballot was received. Ballots must be RECEIVED by the county by 7pm on Election Day (Tues. November 5, 2024) – postmarks do not count. **To ensure your ballot is received on time we recommend putting it in the mail by Mon. October 28 to ensure sufficient time for it to arrive before 7pm on Election Day.** If a voter places their ballot in the mail after Mon. October 28, the voter should go to a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county to explain the problem and request to vote in person. Their mail ballot will be voided if it is received so that the voter’s ballot is counted only once.
- b. DROP OFF BALLOT: Voters can drop off their completed ballot at any drop box or VSPC in their county or elsewhere in Colorado. Voters may also give their ballot to a third-party to deposit on their behalf. Find drop box & Voter Service and Polling Centers at [JustVoteColorado.org](#).
- c. Voters can vote in-person at any Voter Service and Polling Center in their county beginning on Mon. October 21. [Find locations and hours at JustVoteColorado.org](#).

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration address, see [Question #8](#).

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

All voters who vote in person must provide identification; physical and digital versions of acceptable IDs may be presented (full list below).<sup>38</sup>

Some ballots received in the mail may be marked “ID required.” Voters voting by mail for the first time who did not register online or show an ID when they registered must provide a photocopy of their identification with their mail ballot<sup>39</sup>; this photocopy may be in color or black & white. If the voter receives a mail ballot and they are required to provide a photocopy of their ID, the ballot will be marked to indicate this requirement. Otherwise, the voter will only have to sign their ballot and their signature will be compared with the one the county has on file.

A voter who is unable to provide a valid form of identification is still entitled to cast a provisional ballot in person, or they can submit their mail ballot without ID. The voter will receive a letter in the mail to “cure” their ballot within 8 days of Election Day; to cure their ballot, the voter will submit a photo of an acceptable ID via mobile phone, email, fax, mail or by dropping it off at the County Clerk’s office. The ID must be received within 8 days of Election Day to be verified in order for the voter’s ballot to be counted.

- Colorado accepts the following types of IDs, **all of which may be presented in physical or digital form:** A valid Colorado driver’s license;
- A valid identification card issued by the Colorado Department of Revenue (except for cards issued to not lawfully present and temporarily lawfully present individuals);
- A valid U.S. passport;

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<sup>37</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-5-102.9

<sup>38</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-7-110; Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-1-104(19.5)

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/vote/acceptableFormsOfID.html>

- A valid employee identification card with a photograph of the voter issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. government or of Colorado, or by any county, municipality, board, authority, or other political subdivision of Colorado;
- A valid pilot's license issued by the FAA or other authorized agency of the U.S.;
- A valid U.S. military identification card with a photograph of the voter;
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and current address of the voter. "Current" means dated within 60 days of the date submitted unless the document states a longer billing cycle;
- A certificate of degree of Indian or Alaskan Native blood;
- A valid Medicare or Medicaid card issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly the U. S. Health Care Financing Administration);
- A certified copy of a birth certificate for the voter issued in the U.S.;
- Certified documentation of naturalization;
- A valid student identification card with a photograph of the eligible voter issued by an institute of higher education in Colorado;
- A valid veteran identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Health Administration with a photograph of the voter;
- A valid ID card issued by a federally recognized tribal government certifying tribal membership;
- Verification that a voter is a person committed to the Colorado Department of Human Services and is eligible to register and vote;
- A letter from the director or administrator of a group residential facility indicating that the voter resides at the facility and at the street address listed in the voter registration database; or
- Written correspondence from the county sheriff or their designee to the County Clerk indicating that the elector is confined in a county jail or detention facility (see [Question #13](#)).

If the identification shows an address, it must show a Colorado address<sup>40</sup>. The Colorado address listed on the ID does not need to be the voter's current address, unless the voter is submitting a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (see above).

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

Any registered voter who, due to disability, illiteracy, or language difficulties, cannot prepare the ballot or operate the voting device, is entitled to assistance from an election judge or a person of their choice upon request. Any non-judge assisting a voter must complete a self-affirmation form, certifying they were chosen by the voter, and promising not to influence the voter's choice or cast the vote contrary to the voter's instructions.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-1-104(19.5)

<sup>41</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-111

# HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

**(in this state defined as: an election for which eligible electors receive ballots by mail and vote by mailing those ballots, depositing the ballots at, as applicable, drop-off locations or voter service and polling centers, or, as applicable, by voting at a voter service and polling center. The term does not include an independent mail ballot election<sup>42</sup>)**

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

All Colorado voters who are registered to vote by Mon. October 28 will receive a ballot in the mail for the General Election. The voter does not need to request a mail ballot. Voters should be sure that they are registered at their current address. If they are unsure whether they are registered at their current address, or they have moved, they should check their registration and update their address if necessary. See [Question #8](#). Beginning on Mon. October 21, voters may visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county of residence to register to vote/ update their voter registration and vote in person or obtain a ballot.

Mail ballots will be sent to registered Colorado voters beginning on Mon. October 11. If you have not received your ballot within a reasonable time, contact your County Clerk and Recorder to report your ballot as missing. You can also find your registration and track your ballot's status on the [Colorado Secretary of State's website](#).

For more information about lost or spoiled ballots see [Question #46](#).

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

No. Every registered voter receives a mail ballot.

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

Every registered voter receives a mail ballot to the address they are registered to vote at. The voter does not need to request a mail-in ballot. Voters who need to register to vote or update their address must do so by Mon. October 28 to receive a ballot in the mail.<sup>43</sup>

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

No application is required to receive a mail ballot. Mail ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters in Colorado. See [Question #4](#) on how to register.

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<sup>42</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7.5-103(4)

<sup>43</sup> [2024 Election Calendar](#)

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?

Voters do not have to submit an application for a mail-in ballot as all registered Colorado voters are automatically sent mail ballots. Yes, someone else can return your ballot. Make sure to give it to someone you trust or an election official. Each person, who is not an election official is allowed to return a maximum of 10 ballots per election cycle, including their own. Ballots must be received by 7pm on Election Day; postmarks do not count.

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

Voters do not have to submit an application for a mail-in ballot as all registered Colorado voters are automatically sent mail ballots.

Voters voting by mail for the first time who did not register online or show an ID when they registered must provide a photocopy of their identification with their mail ballot.<sup>44</sup> The County Clerk will provide instructions about the ID requirements along with the voter's ballot.

See [Question #19](#) for acceptable forms of identification.

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?

Ballots are automatically mailed to the address of record in the voter's registration file. A voter may change the address they would like their ballot mailed to by going to [www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov). PO Boxes and out of state addresses can be listed by the voter as the address they would like their ballot to be mailed, which differs than the address they are registered to vote at (that address must be a Colorado address and cannot be a PO Box).

Unhoused voters can register to vote. If an individual is unhoused, permanently resides in a recreational vehicle (RV) or for whatever reason has no fixed permanent address, he or she may use any address that they regularly return to and have the intent to remain. This may include a homeless shelter, a homeless service provider, a park, a campground, a vacant lot, a business address or any other physical location. This location is referred to as a "home base" (residence address) and may be used for voter registration purposes.

Post office boxes may be used as a voter's mailing address, but the voter must also provide a "home base" address where they live. For example, if a homeless voter uses a physical location as a "home base" (such as a park) and that physical location does not have a mailing address, he or she may provide a post office box or other location as a mailing address.

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

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<sup>44</sup> [Acceptable Forms of Identification](#)

Voters do not have to submit an application for a mail-in ballot as all registered Colorado voters are automatically sent mail ballots. However, voters must register to vote by Mon. October 28 in order to receive a ballot in the mail for the November 5, 2024 General Election. After October 28, the voter should go to a Voter Service Center in their county to register and vote.

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

The voter can visit [BallotTrax](#) to check the status of their mail ballot.

**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?](#)

If a ballot is rejected, the County Clerk must send a letter to the voter explaining why the ballot was rejected and the steps the voter needs to take to resolve the problem.

A ballot may be rejected due to a signature or ID issue.

In Colorado, every ballot is verified by comparing the signature on the voter's mail ballot with the signature on file with the County Clerk and Recorder. A ballot will be rejected if the two signatures don't appear to match. Also, if the voter registered without showing an ID (such as by using the last four digits of their social security number), then they must submit a copy of an acceptable ID with their mail ballot. If the voter has not submitted a valid ID, then the ballot may be rejected.

A ballot might also be rejected if the voter forgot to sign their ballot. The voter will be notified of this error and can cure the problem in the manner described below.

**HOW TO "CURE" BALLOT:** The voter will have 8 days following Election Day to "cure" their ballot. The voter will receive a letter in the mail, along with an email if the voter's email address is on record, with detailed information on how to cure their ballot. The voter will need to confirm their signature or provide a copy of an ID to verify their ballot.<sup>45</sup>

A voter can cure online or by text message, or by sending in the form included with the letter (via mail, fax, email, or by dropping it off at the County Clerk's office). Voters can cure their ballots using the Colorado TXT2Cure system. A voter may access the system by texting the word "COLORADO" to 28683.

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

Most voters will not need to return their ballot with a copy of their ID. They simply need to sign the ballot. However, if a voter registered to vote without providing identification (such as by using the last four digits of their social security number) and is voting for the first time, they will need to include a copy of a valid ID with their return ballot. Any ballot requiring an ID will be marked as such. See [Question #19](#).

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

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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/rejectedBallots.html>

The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and Colorado laws require that voters with disabilities be able to cast their vote privately and without assistance.

Eligible voters with a disability may request to access their ballot and vote their ballot electronically. An eligible voter must print the voted ballot and the accessible ballot application and sign the accessible ballot application. All of these materials must be returned together and returned through the United States Postal Service or in-person at a county dropbox or county Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC).

Voters may also vote in-person. Every Voter Service and Polling Center must have at least one accessible voting machine. These voting machines use assistive and adaptive technology to provide the opportunity for voters with a wide range of disabilities to vote privately and independently. Voters with disabilities have the right to vote using an assistive machine, a standard machine, or a paper ballot.

**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 must be received by 7pm on Election Day (Tues. November 5, 2024). Postmarks do not count. Voters are advised to mail their ballot back no later than Mon. October 28. After that date voters should drop ballots off in a drop box or Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) anywhere in the state. Voters may drop off their ballots in any county in the state.

To find drop box and VSPC locations, visit [JustVoteColorado.org](https://JustVoteColorado.org).

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

All ballots can be dropped off at a VSPC or a drop box anywhere in the State, and must be received by the County Clerk by 7pm on Election Day (Tues. November 5, 2024).

To find drop box and VSPC locations, visit [JustVoteColorado.org](https://JustVoteColorado.org).

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

Yes, someone else can return your ballot. Make sure to give it to someone you trust. Each person is allowed to return a maximum of 10 ballots per election cycle, including their own.

**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 voter wrongly marked, defaced, or tore their ballot, the voter has the right to receive a replacement ballot. Contact your County Clerk by Mon. October 28 to request a replacement ballot be mailed to you, or visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in your county before 7pm on Election Day (Tues. November 5, 2024) to vote in person or obtain a replacement ballot. Find your County Clerk and Recorder's Office, or find a VSPC in your county at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://JustVoteColorado.org).

Voters do not need to bring the old or ruined ballot with them. If a voter believes they have received an incorrect ballot, the voter should contact their County Clerk and Recorder.

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

Ballots begin to be mailed to registered voters on Mon. October 11. If you do not receive a mail ballot, you can still vote.

- Visit [GoVoteColorado.gov](http://GoVoteColorado.gov) to ensure your voter registration is up to date; update your voter registration by Mon. October 28 to receive a ballot in the mail.
- If your voter registration is up to date and the ballot did not arrive, contact your County Clerk to request another ballot, or visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) beginning on Mon. October 21 to vote in person or to request a ballot.

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

All voters may vote in person at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC), regardless of whether or not they received a ballot in the mail. Visit any VSPC in the county where you live to vote in person; bring ID with you (see [Question #19](#)).

The voter does not need to physically bring in or surrender the ballot they received in the mail. As long as the voter has not completed and sent in the mail ballot, they will be entitled to vote in person at the VSPC.<sup>46</sup>

To find drop box and VSPC locations, visit [JustVoteColorado.org](http://JustVoteColorado.org).

## **HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE** **(in this state defined as: Vote-By-Mail )**

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

Mail ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters in Colorado. There is no special process for requesting an absentee ballot.

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

Mail ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters in Colorado. Voters can update the address where the ballot will be mailed online or by calling their County Clerk by Mon. October 28.

This address will be used only for the current election; if the voter would like future ballots to be sent to this address, they must make that update at least 8 days before each election. The voter may also update their mailing address to apply to all elections & election-related mail, if it is a mailing address they anticipate remaining the same election-to-election (like a PO Box, for example).

If the voter will be out of state through Election Day, the voter should update their address or contact their County Clerk with as much advance notice as possible, to ensure they can receive the ballot with

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<sup>46</sup> [Election Day FAQs \(colorado.sos.gov\)](#)(Q 1)



enough time to mail it back. The ballot must be received by 7pm. on Election Day; postmarks do not count.

To find a list of County Clerks, visit:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html>

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

Most ballots received in the mail do not require ID.

Some ballots received in the mail may be marked “ID required.” Voters voting by mail for the first time who did not register online or show an ID when they registered must provide a photocopy of their identification with their mail ballot<sup>47</sup>; this photocopy may be in color or black & white. If the voter receives a mail ballot and they are required to provide a photocopy of their ID, the ballot will be marked to indicate this requirement. Otherwise, the voter will only have to sign their ballot and their signature will be compared with the one the county has on file.

A voter who is unable to provide a valid form of identification is still entitled to submit their mail ballot without ID. The voter will receive a letter in the mail requiring the voter to “cure” their ballot within 8 days following Election Day; to cure their ballot, the voter will submit a photo of an acceptable ID via mobile phone, email, fax, mail or by dropping it off at the County Clerk’s office. The ID must be received within 8 days of Election Day to be verified in order for the voter’s ballot to be counted.

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

Voters can request and obtain an emergency absentee ballot from their County Clerk in the following covered situations:

- On Election Day, the voter, **or an immediate family member**, is confined to a hospital or homebound
- On Election Day, the voter is a member of a religion that forbids secular activity
- On Election Day, the voter is employed as a first responder, member of law enforcement, or health care worker and is unable to leave their place of employment or unable to return to their home county
- Eight or fewer days before Election Day, the voter is unable to vote in person due to emergency conditions such as a natural disaster.

The voter must submit a personally signed written statement to their county clerk’s office or to a designated election official at a VSPC; the statement may be delivered by a representative authorized to do so by the voter (family member, friend, etc.). Each county has their own form, and the request must be submitted by 5pm on Election Day. The emergency ballot may be picked up by the voter’s authorized representative and must be returned by 7pm on Election Day.

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<sup>47</sup> [Acceptable Forms of Identification](#)

The voter may also request to receive and return their ballot electronically, via email or fax, if they do not have a viable way to complete the process above.<sup>48</sup>

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

Voters do not have to submit an application for absentee ballots as all registered Colorado voters are automatically sent mail ballots. There are no absentee ballots.

Yes, someone else can return your ballot. Make sure to give it to someone you trust or a duly authorized agent of the County Clerk. Each person who is not a duly authorized agent of the County Clerk is allowed to return a maximum of 10 ballots per election cycle, including their own. Ballots must be received by 7pm on Election Day; postmarks do not count.

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

All Colorado voters are automatically sent mail ballots. There are no absentee ballots. The voter can visit <https://ballottrax.coloradosos.gov/voter/> to check the status of their mail ballot.

**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?*

If a mail ballot is rejected the voter will receive a letter (and an email if their email address is on record) from their County Clerk explaining why the ballot was rejected and the steps needed to “cure” the problems so the ballot will be counted. Most ballots are rejected because the voter’s signature was either missing or did not match the signature on file or because the voter was required to and did not enclose a copy of their ID with their mail ballot. The County Clerk letter will include a form detailing the missing information needed.

Voters can cure their ballots by returning the mailed form by mail, fax, email or dropping it off in person at the County Clerk’s office, or by using Colorado’s TXT2Cure system on a mobile phone. Ballots must be cured by 11:59 pm MT on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after Election Day. If the 8<sup>th</sup> day falls on a state or federal holiday, the deadline moves to the following day.

To access Colorado’s TXT2Cure System, follow these steps:

- Text the word "COLORADO" to the number 28683.
- Touch the link you receive in the reply text.
- Click the "Cure My Ballot" button.
- Enter your Voter ID number.
- When prompted, provide your signature by signing the screen of your mobile phone.
- When prompted, use your mobile phone’s camera to take a picture of an acceptable form of ID
- Click submit and you’re done.

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

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<sup>48</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7.5-115

All mail ballots must be signed by the voter before they can be accepted unless the voter has a disability preventing them from signing the ballot.

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

Any registered voter who, due to disability, illiteracy, or language difficulties, cannot prepare the ballot or operate the voting device, is entitled to assistance from an election judge or a person of their choice upon request. Any non-judge assisting a voter must complete a self-affirmation form, certifying they were chosen by the voter, and promising not to influence the voter's choice or cast the vote contrary to the voter's instructions<sup>49</sup>.

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

Ballots must be received by the County Clerk no later than 7pm on Election Day to be counted. Postmarks do not count. If a voter is unsure their ballot will arrive in time, they are encouraged to drop off their ballot at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) or at a secure dropbox location, or to call their county clerk for more specific guidance.

Find dropbox and VSPC locations at [JustVoteColorado.org](http://JustVoteColorado.org).

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

Voters can drop their ballot off at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) or drop box in the state; find locations at [JustVoteColorado.org](http://JustVoteColorado.org).

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

Yes, someone else can return your ballot. Make sure to give it to someone you trust or a duly authorized agent of the County Clerk. Each person who is not a duly authorized agent of the County Clerk is allowed to return a maximum of 10 ballots per election cycle, including their own. Ballots must be received by 7pm on Election Day; postmarks do not count.<sup>50</sup>

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

All Colorado voters automatically receive mail ballots. Colorado does not use absentee ballots; however, a voter can indicate an address that is different than their home address for the purpose of where they would like their ballot mailed. This address can be a PO box or an out-of-state address. The voter should update their voter registration to arrange for their mailing address no later than Mon. Oct. 28 to receive their ballot in the mail; if the voter is out-of-state and needs to return the ballot by mail, they should make the update as soon as possible to allow enough time to receive and then return the ballot by mail.

This address will be used only for the current election; if the voter would like future ballots to be sent to this address, they must make that update at least 8 days before each election. The voter may also update their mailing address to apply to all elections & election-related mail, if it is a mailing address they anticipate remaining the same election-to-election (like a PO Box, for example).

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<sup>49</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-111

<sup>50</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7.5-107

Voters can request a replacement ballot from the County Clerk, or visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county to vote in person or obtain a replacement ballot.

To find a listing of County Clerks visit:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html>

Find drop box and Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) locations at [JustVoteColorado.org](#).

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

All Colorado voters automatically receive mail ballots. Colorado does not use absentee ballots.

Ballots begin to be mailed to registered voters on Mon. October 11. If you do not receive a mail ballot, you can still vote.

- Visit [GoVoteColorado.gov](#) to ensure voter registration is up to date; update voter registration by Mon. October 28 to receive a ballot in the mail.
- If voter registration is up to date and the ballot did not arrive, contact your County Clerk to request another ballot, or visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) beginning on Mon. October 21 to vote in person or request a ballot.

To find a listing of County Clerks visit:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html>

Find drop box and Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) locations at [JustVoteColorado.org](#).

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

All Colorado voters automatically receive mail ballots. Colorado does not use absentee ballots. Any voter may vote **in-person** at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) regardless of whether they received a ballot in the mail. They must bring ID with them to vote (see list of acceptable IDs under [Question #19](#)). Voters who received a ballot in the mail do not need to surrender their mail ballot in order to vote in person.

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

All Colorado voters automatically receive mail ballots. Colorado does not use absentee ballots.

Voters may vote in person at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county; VSPCs open on Mon. October 21 and remain open through 7pm on Election Day (Tues. November 5, 2024). Voters must bring ID with them to vote (see list of acceptable IDs under [Question #19](#)).

## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

In Colorado, you can vote at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in your county, not just the one closest to you. All counties are required to have a certain number of VSPCs open from October 21 to November 5, 2024; go to [JustVoteColorado.org](https://JustVoteColorado.org) to find the location and hours of the closest VSPC.

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?

In Colorado, you can vote at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in your county, not just the one closest to you. In the event of long lines, you can visit another location in your county (find one at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://JustVoteColorado.org)). You may be able to get an estimate of wait times at VSPCs by calling your county clerk's office.

If a voter is **in line** at a Voter Service and Polling Center or drop box by 7pm on Election Day, the voter is entitled to vote. They should not leave the line. If, however, a voter **arrives** after 7pm, even if the voting location is still open, that person will not be entitled to vote.

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

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. If the problem cannot be fixed in a timely manner, a voter should ask if a replacement mail in ballot (if the voter's registration can be confirmed) or a provisional ballot (if the voter's registration cannot be confirmed) is available as a backup option.<sup>51</sup> Because voters can vote at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county, it is also possible to direct the voter to another location in the county, provided there is adequate time for the voter to get to the alternative location before the polls close.

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

Electioneering includes campaigning for or against any candidate who is on the ballot or any ballot issue or ballot question that is on the ballot, distribution or display of campaign posters, signs or materials and soliciting signatures for a candidate petition, a recall petition, or a petition to place a ballot issue or ballot question on a subsequent ballot.<sup>52</sup> It is prohibited inside polling places and within 100 feet of any building in which a polling location or drop-off location is located on Election Day or any other time when voting is taking place for any election.<sup>53</sup>

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

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<sup>51</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-5-102.9(3.5)

<sup>52</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-13-714

<sup>53</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-5-105

Voters may wear apparel of their choice that supports causes, issues or candidates while visiting a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) or drop box, as long as they are not actively campaigning for or against any candidate or issue within 100 feet or inside.<sup>54</sup>

It's illegal to interfere with an election official's duties or to induce them to violate their duties or any related laws. Threatening, coercing, or intimidating an election official with the intent to impede their duties or retaliate against them is also illegal.<sup>55</sup>

The ability to disclose a voted ballot is subject to reasonable restrictions by the County Clerk and recorder to ensure fair and efficient elections. A voter may only take a photograph of the voter's ballot; a voter who shares an image of their completed ballot electronically is considered to have given consent for that image to be transmitted.<sup>56</sup>

A voter may use their cell phone in the Voter Service Center and in the voting booth to send and receive electronic communications.

A voter may bring materials of their choice into the voting booth (phone as a resource, ballot guides, notes, etc).

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

It's illegal for anyone to interfere with a voter's free choice or to pressure a voter to vote or abstain from voting in any election, or to vote or abstain from voting for a specific person or measure. Such offenses are classified as class 1 misdemeanors<sup>57</sup>.

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?

Electioneering is permitted as long as it is not within 100 feet of a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) or drop box. Intimidation, threats, menacing, and violence are not permitted and are punishable by law.

The carrying of firearms (concealed or open) is prohibited in Voter Service Centers.

The voter should leave the area if they feel their immediate safety is threatened and contact the authorities. If the voter feels safe to do so, the voter may share concerns with the election judges inside a Voter Service and Polling Center or call the County Clerk to report an issue.

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

Any person's right to vote at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) may be challenged based on age, citizenship or residence. No challenges based on disability or guardianship are allowed.

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<sup>54</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-13-714(c)

<sup>55</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-13-701

<sup>56</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-13-712

<sup>57</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-13-713

The challenge can be brought by an election judge, certified poll watcher, or any other eligible voter in that precinct. Challenges must be made under oath, brought in writing and must specify a basis, and must be signed by the challenger under the penalty of perjury in the second degree.<sup>58</sup>

If an Election Judge or anyone else challenges a voter's right to vote at a VSPC, the voter still has the right to cast a regular ballot, if the voter makes an oath to an Election Judge attesting to their eligibility to vote.

If the voter doesn't want to answer the questions about their eligibility and make the oath, they still have a right to cast a provisional ballot.

Note: This is different from the process for challenging a voter's registration. See [Question #14](#).

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

Law enforcement should never be touching ballots or interfering with the voting process. Sometimes, law enforcement may be required to be present at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) to manage traffic and maintain security. If a voter feels like the law enforcement presence is coming across as intimidation, they may report the activity to the Election Judge inside the VSPC if they feel safe to do so.

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

Voters may register to vote/ update their voter registration and vote in person/ obtain a ballot at any Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in their county of residence through 7pm on Election Day.

If the voter's qualification to register cannot be determined, the voter has the right to vote a provisional ballot.<sup>59</sup>

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

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

A provisional ballot is provided to a voter whose eligibility to vote is not immediately established on Election Day. Provisional ballots ensure that every qualified and registered voter can vote a ballot on Election Day. The election official then evaluates the voter's eligibility after Election Day has passed to determine whether the provisional ballot should be counted.

The most common reasons a voter might be offered a provisional ballot are:

- The statewide voter registration system shows that the voter already voted in the election; and
- The voter did not present an approved form of identification when required.

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<sup>58</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-9-202

<sup>59</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §1-8.5-101.



To vote a provisional ballot you will be required to complete a provisional ballot affidavit that includes a voter registration form. Your provisional ballot is counted if you complete the provisional ballot affidavit and the election official confirms your eligibility to vote.

## ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

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

Yes. Any voter who does not know how to use the voting equipment can ask an election judge for help. The election judge can give the voter instructions for using the voting equipment but cannot enter the immediate voting area to provide assistance<sup>60</sup> unless the voter elects to receive help with their ballot.

### **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?

Each Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) is required to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Each VSPC is required to have an accessible voting system or device equipped for individuals with disabilities. If the voter cannot read, see, or operate the voting machine because of a disability, the voter has the right to receive assistance from any individual the voter chooses, or an election official<sup>61</sup>. The voter is also permitted to vote privately and independently, without any assistance. It is entirely the voter's choice. Visit [Disability Law Colorado's](#) website for in-depth information and resources on this topic.

The voter has the right to assistance in casting their ballot. If the voter needs assistance (e.g. due to a disability or a language need), they can receive that assistance when filling out their mail ballot, or they can go to a VSPC to vote in person and receive assistance at the VSPC. The voter is entitled to assistance from an election judge or a person of their choosing. The person that the voter chooses cannot be an employer, or an agent of that voter's employer or labor union. If the voter gets assistance, the person providing assistance must cast the voter's vote the way the voter wants and cannot influence the voter on how to vote.

If the voter is unable to sign their name due to a physical disability, the voter has the right to vote without signing their name. The voter may use a signature stamp which does not require a witness. The voter may also sign with their "mark", which does require a witness.

In addition, eligible voters with a disability may request to access their ballot and vote it electronically. During the 25 days before and on Election Day, the electronic ballot access website, [myballot.sos.colorado.gov](http://myballot.sos.colorado.gov) will guide you through the process of voting your ballot. Once you have voted your ballot, you must print the completed ballot, print the accessible ballot application provided, and then either sign the accessible ballot application or return a copy of an [acceptable form of identification](#). Your ballot, application, and a copy of identification (if you did not sign your application) must all be returned together. Your materials must be received no later than 7pm on Election Day.

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<sup>60</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-403

<sup>61</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-111

You are eligible to return a ballot electronically, instead of printing, if you:

1. Are blind;
2. Have a visual impairment or perceptual or reading disability that cannot be improved to give visual function substantially equivalent to that of a person who has no such impairment or disability and so are unable to read or mark a ballot to substantially the same degree as a person without an impairment or disability; OR
3. Are otherwise unable, through physical disability, to hold, mark or manipulate a ballot or to focus or move the eyes to the extent that would be normally acceptable for reading or marking a ballot.

If you are eligible, follow the instructions on the electronic ballot access website to return your ballot electronically. You can also contact the Colorado Secretary of State Office at 303-894-2200 or [elections@sos.state.co.us](mailto:elections@sos.state.co.us) to request an accessible ballot.

**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?**

Yes. See above for information on assistance available to voters with a disability. You are entitled to assistance from:

- An election judge who speaks English and your language;
- Any person selected by the designated election official to provide assistance in that Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) who speaks English and your language; or
- Any person selected by you, provided they speak English and your language.

Any person providing assistance in this situation must sign an affirmation stating that they will not try to persuade the voter. The person providing assistance does not need to be a registered voter, a citizen or a person of any particular age<sup>62</sup>.

Voters also have the right to receive ballots, instructions, and all other voting materials in Spanish in 20 counties; [view the complete list of counties here](#). The Spanish ballot can be accessed by visiting a Voter Service and Polling Center in the voter's county, if the Spanish ballot was not already included in the voter's mail ballot packet. Each of the 20 counties must also publish a Spanish sample ballot online, via their County Clerk website.

The Secretary of State is hosting an interpretation hotline for ballots. Voters can use this by calling 303-860-6970.

**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?**

Yes. See Questions #[77](#) and [78](#) above for information on assistance available to voters with a disability. You are entitled to assistance from:

- An election judge who speaks English and your language;
- Any person selected by the designated election official to provide assistance in that Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) who speaks English and your language; or
- Any person selected by you, provided they speak English and your language.

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<sup>62</sup> Colo Rev. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-111

Any person providing assistance in this situation must sign an affirmation stating that they will not try to persuade the voter. The person providing assistance does not need to be a registered voter, a citizen or a person of any particular age.

Voters also have the right to receive ballots, instructions, and all other voting materials in Spanish in 20 counties; [view the complete list of counties here](#). The Spanish ballot can be accessed by visiting a Voter Service Center (VSPC) in the voter's county, if the Spanish ballot was not already included in the voter's mail ballot packet. Each of the 20 counties must also publish a Spanish sample ballot online, via their County Clerk website.

The Secretary of State is hosting an interpretation hotline for ballots. Voters can use this by calling 303-860-6970.

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

In Colorado, curbside ballot pick-up may be available. Some locations may also do curbside ballot drop off. Not every county is offering these options. Information will be available on [JustVoteColorado.org](#), or the voter can call their County Clerk.

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

Voters have the protected right to bring mobile phones and other materials of their choice with them to vote, and may access their phone and other materials while in the voting booth as long as they do so in a non-disruptive manner (no phone calls).

## **STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT**

**82. GUNS AT THE POLLING PLACE: Are guns allowed at the polling place?**

It is illegal to carry a firearm (open or concealed carry) within a polling location, within 100 feet of a drop box or any building housing a polling location, or within a central count facility during any election-related activity. Exceptions apply for private property owners within the buffer zone and uniformed security guards contracted for security services. Peace officers performing their duties are also exempt. Violators face a misdemeanor charge, with penalties including a fine up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment up to 364 days, though first-time offenders face lesser penalties.<sup>63</sup>

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

If the voter's question or concern is not answered here, please let them know that they may call the toll-free Election Protection hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or the Spanish language hotline 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682). The voter can also submit questions using the inquiry form on the bottom of the homepage.

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<sup>63</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat Ann. § 1-13-724