

Frequently Asked Questions

Hawaii – General Election 2024

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

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REGISTERING TO VOTE

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

A voter can register to vote if:

- the voter is a U.S. citizen,
- a resident of the State of Hawaii*,
- and eighteen (18) years of age, or eighteen (18) years of age by the next election. (Voters can pre-register at 16 years of age.)

* The Hawaii Office of Elections states, primarily, that: The residence stated in your application cannot simply be because of your presence in the State but instead it must be that the residence was acquired with the intent to make Hawaii your legal residence with all the accompanying obligations therein.

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?](#)

All registered voters can vote in the primary election. Hawaii voters do not register with a political party and do not need to state a party affiliation to vote.

Poll workers cannot ask a voter their political affiliation. ¹

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

Voters can check their registration at [Hawaii's Online Voter Registration Portal](#) using their:

- Hawaii driver's license or Hawaii State ID, the last four digits of their social security number, and their date of birth;
- Or by calling the Office of Elections at 1-808-453-VOTE (8683). Residents of Neighbor Islands call 1-800-442-VOTE (8683);
- Or by contacting their [County Elections Division](#).

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

Yes, voters can register to vote online at [Hawaii's Online Voter Registration Portal](#) , or download and print an [English language](#) paper voter application, or one in [Hawai'ian](#), [Ilokano](#), [Tagalog](#), or [Chinese](#); or pick up an application*, to mail or deliver in person to their [County Elections Division](#).

*Paper applications are available at: libraries, most city agencies, the clerk's office, the Office of Elections, and satellite city halls.

Automatic Voter Registration Through DMV: Applicants can register to vote or update their name and/or address at the DMV when they complete a driver license or State ID application.² Voter registration is also included when applying to receive public assistance with Department of Health and Department of Human Services programs.³

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

To register to [vote online](#), a Social Security Number AND either a current Hawaii Driver's License or Hawaii State ID Card.

To register to vote for the first time [by paper application](#) ([non English applications](#)) voters are asked to provide either:

¹ HI Rev Stat § 12-31

² HI Rev Stat § 11-15.7 (2022)

³ <https://elections.hawaii.gov/register-to-vote/registration/>

- A Hawaii Driver License Number, OR
- A Hawaii State ID Number, OR
- The last 4 digits of the voter's Social Security Number.

If registering to vote for the first time, AND mailing the application, AND voter does not have a Hawaii Driver License, Hawaii State ID, or the last 4-digits of their Social Security Number, voter is required to provide proof of identification, which includes a copy of: current and valid photo identification or current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows their name and address.

If proof of identification is not submitted with the application, it must be submitted prior to voting.

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?](#)

- [Online](#) at any time [In earlier elections counties advised that ballots mailed to voters within one week of Election Day may not have time to be returned by mail]
- [Paper registrations](#) must be submitted to the voter's [County Elections Division](#) by
Primary: July 31, 2024 (at 4:30 pm)
General: October 28, 2024 (at 4:30 pm)
- [In person](#) from ten days before up to Election Day at a [Voter Service Center](#).
Voter Service Centers are open ten days before Election Day:
Primary: July 29, 2024 to August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday)
General: October 22, 2024 to November 5, 2024 (excluding Sunday).
Hours and days vary depending on location.

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

Yes. Same Day Registration is available at [Voter Service Centers](#) from ten days before and including Election Day:

Primary: July 29, 2024 to August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday)

General: October 22, 2024 to November 5, 2024 (excluding Sunday)

Voters will have to complete the affidavit and affirm that the voter:

- Is qualified to vote (See [question 1](#))
- Acknowledges that the voter has not voted and will not attempt to vote again in that election, and has not cast and will not cast any absentee ballot in that election;
- Acknowledges that providing false information may result in a class C felony, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

The registration clerk may accept an allegation of residence, unless the allegation is contested by a qualified voter. However, the registration clerk may demand that the person furnish substantiating evidence to the other allegations of the person's [application](#)⁴

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

Yes, as long as the voter is still a permanent resident of Hawaii. However, voters who have moved permanently need to re-register:

⁴ HI Rev Stat § 11-15.2

- By submitting an application [online](#) at any time [if less than a week before election day it is advised not to register online, as voters might not receive, or be able to return, their ballot in the mail].
- By submitting a [paper application \(non-English\)](#) by mail or in-person to the voter's [County Elections office](#) by
 - July 31, 2024 (by 4:30 pm) for the primary
 - October 28, 2024 (by 4:30 pm) for the general.
- In person at a [Voter Service Center](#) from ten days before and including Election Day:
 - July 29, 2024 to August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the Primary and
 - October 22, 2024 to November 5, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the General Election.

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

Voters who have temporarily moved may still vote in the precinct where they reside permanently.⁵ Voters must submit to their County Elections Division an [absentee ballot application](#) (see bottom of webpage). In addition to English, absentee ballots applications are available in Hawaiian, Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog.

Absentee ballot request deadlines must be submitted a week before Election Day:
August 3, 2024 for the August 10, 2024 primary and
October 29, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election.

10. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

Yes, students can register to vote if Hawaii is where they consider that they live. A student who does not live in Hawaii but is taking classes from a Hawaiian university remotely would not qualify as a resident. A student who lives in Hawaii and considers Hawaii their permanent legal residence may vote regardless of whether they are taking classes at an out-of-state university remotely or in person.

If voting in person, the voter should vote at the [Voter Service Center](#) in their county.

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

To register to vote, military and overseas voters must complete a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#), and submit it to their [County Elections Division](#). The completed FPCA must be received by July 31, 2024 for the August 10, 2024 primary and October 28, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election.

UOCAVA voters already registered may request an absentee ballot by completing a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#) and submitting it to their [County Elections Division](#) no later than seven (7) days before the election. UOCAVA voters will need to submit an FPCA request for an absentee ballot each election year.

Deadlines:

Primary Election: August 3, 2024

General Election: October 29, 2024

⁵ Hi Rev Stat § 11-13 (2022)

Ballots will be sent out 45 days prior to the election. Military and overseas voters may receive or return their ballot by mail, email, or fax. Completed ballots must be received by the Clerk's Office by 7:00 PM HST on Election Day:

August 10, 2024 for the Primary and

November 5, 2024 for the General election.

More information is available here: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/military-and-overseas-voters/>

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

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

Yes, unless currently incarcerated for a felony offense.⁶ A voter accused or charged with a felony may vote, as well as a person who is on probation or parole for a felony offense. A misdemeanor conviction does not affect a person's eligibility to vote.

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 latest information.

Yes, but only if incarcerated for a misdemeanor offense. If so, voters should [confirm they are registered](#) and [apply for an absentee ballot](#) (see bottom of page) to be sent to where they are incarcerated. In addition to English, absentee ballots applications are available in Chinese, Ilocano, and Tagalog.⁷

If a voter was incarcerated for a felony and has been released or is on parole, they may vote but need to re-register if they have been removed from the voter list.

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: [My registration has been challenged, what should I do?](#)

If the voter challenge occurs *outside of a polling place*, the challenge must be in writing. Upon receipt of the written challenge, the clerk will investigate and rule on the challenge as soon as possible. The clerk will then notify the challenger and the voter of the clerk's decision. The person that has been ruled against, either the challenger or the voter has ten days to appeal. The written appeal must be sent to the voter's County Board of Registration.⁸

If the voter challenge occurs *at* a polling place, the poll official will make an immediate decision. If the poll official determines that the voter is not who they allege to be or is not entitled to vote in that precinct, the voter may appeal the decision to their County Board of Registration and their vote will be put in a sealed envelope to be later counted or rejected pending the outcome of appeal. If the poll official determines that the voter is eligible to vote and the decision is not appealed by the challenger, the voter may proceed to vote.⁹

⁶ HI Rev Stat § 831-2(a)(1).

⁷ Haw. Office of Elections, *Absentee Voting*, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/absentee-voting/>.

⁸ <https://elections.hawaii.gov/about-us/boards-and-commissions/boards-of-registration/>

⁹ HI Rev Stat § 11-25.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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

7:00 am to 7:00 pm HST.

A voter standing in line at a Voter Service Center by close of voting must be allowed to vote.¹⁰

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

Voters can go to the [Voter Service Center](#) in the county where they permanently reside.

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

This law was repealed in 2019 when the Vote by Mail system was implemented.

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

A voter standing in line at a Voter Service Center by the close of polls must be allowed to vote.¹¹

19. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

Voters at the polls are not required to provide identification.

If they choose to supply it in order to facilitate check-in, they may show:

- Current and valid photo identification (i.e., Hawaii State Driver License, Hawaii State Identification Card, Hawaii Student Identification Card, U.S. Department of Defense Identification Card, U.S. Passport or Passport Card, Driver's License or State Photo Identity card from another state/jurisdiction)
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing name and address

First time voters who mailed in a registration application without proof of identification must provide one of the types of identification above.

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

Yes.

If the voter does not have one of the types of identification above, they may also:

- Recite or write specific information in their voter record (e.g., name, address, date of birth, etc.);
- provide a witness who can vouch for the individual's identity;
- provide other proof "shown to the satisfaction of the clerk".¹²

¹⁰ HI Rev Stat § 11-131(2).

¹¹ HI Rev Stat § 11-131(2)

¹² HI Admin Rules 3-177-550

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?

Yes, a voter who is not on the rolls at his or her precinct can still vote. The voter should attempt to have poll officials confirm that the voter is both eligible to vote and is in the right location. If this can't be confirmed, then the voter can vote using a provisional ballot. If a voter does cast a provisional ballot and does not show a form of identification at the time he or she voted, the voter should provide their County Elections Division with an acceptable identification no later than five business days after election day.

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

Voters may be offered a provisional ballot for one of the following reasons:

- The voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct;
- An election official asserts that the voter is not eligible to vote;
- The voter does not have photo identification and is a first-time voter who registered by mail (fail-safe voter).

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, they will need to execute a written affirmation in front of an election official stating that they are both eligible to vote in that election and that they are registered in the jurisdiction in which they are attempting to vote.¹³

The voter should ask the poll worker if any additional steps will be needed to make sure the ballot is counted. The voter will be able to verify if the ballot did or did not count, and the reason why it was not counted, by contacting their [County Elections Division](#), or calling the [Hawaii Office of Elections](#) at 453-VOTE (8683) Neighbor Island Toll Free: 1-800-442-VOTE (8683) or TTY: (808) 453-6150.¹⁴

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

Yes. If the voter's attempt to have poll officials confirm that the voter is both eligible to vote and is in the right location has been unsuccessful then the voter can vote using a provisional ballot. If a voter does cast a provisional ballot and does not show a form of identification at the time he or she voted, the voter should provide the Clerk's Office with an acceptable identification no later than five business days after election day.

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

The voter will be able to verify if the ballot did or did not count, and the reason why it was not counted by calling their [County Elections Division](#) or through the Hawaii [Office of Elections](#).

Voters have until the fifth business day after the election to provide the clerk with documentation substantiating their ability to vote.

¹³ Haw. Office of Elections, *Provisional Voting*, <http://elections.hawaii.gov/resources/provisional-voting/>. see also HAVA Title II §§302-303

¹⁴ Haw. Office of Elections, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/provisional-voting/>

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY

VOTING

(in this state defined as: walk-in early voting)

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

Yes. Early in-person voting is available from up to ten days before and including Election Day: July 29, 2024 to August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the August 10, 2024 Primary Election October 22, 2024 to November 5, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the November 5, 2024 General Election.¹⁵ Check this [page](#), or [county websites](#), as hours and days of Voter Service Centers vary.

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

No.

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

Early Voting begins ten days before, including Election Day and excluding Sundays. July 29, 2024 to election day, August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the Primary October 22, 2024 to election day November 5, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the General.

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

At a [Voter Service Center](#) in the county where the voter resides.¹⁶

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

Identification is not required but may facilitate check-in. ID includes:

- Current and valid photo identification (i.e., Hawaii State Driver License, Hawaii State Identification Card, Hawaii Student Identification Card, U.S. Department of Defense Identification Card, U.S. Passport or Passport Card, Driver's License or State Photo Identity card from another state/jurisdiction)
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing name and address

First time voters who mailed in a registration application without proof of identification must provide one of the types of identification above.

If the voter does not have one of the types of identification above, these may be used to establish identity:

- Reciting or writing specific information in the voter's record (e.g., name, address, date of birth, etc.);

¹⁵ <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/voting-in-hawaii/>

¹⁶ Hi Rev Stat § 11-109

- A witness who can vouch for the individual’s identity;
- Showing other proof to the clerk’s satisfaction.

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

All Voter Service Centers and places of deposit (dropboxes) must be accessible to those with physical disabilities.¹⁷ Voters who need special assistance, including curbside voting, should call their [County Elections Division](#) or Voter Service Center to discuss what services are available to them.

Voters requiring assistance may also get assistance from the person of their choice, except for their employer, employer’s agent, labor union’s agent, or candidate on the ballot.¹⁸

Voter Service Centers also are equipped with accessible voting equipment, which supports the use of several adaptive tools to make ballot selections, including a game controller style console, paddles, or sip-and-puff devices.

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

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

Yes. All registered voters automatically receive their ballot at the mailing address provided in their registration approximately eighteen (18) days prior to the election:
July 23, 2024 for the Primary, and
October 18, 2024 for the General.

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

No.

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

Voters do not need to request a mail-in ballot, but do need to update their registration if they have moved.

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

Not applicable. Hawaii is a vote-by-mail state and it is not necessary to fill out a vote-by-mail application

¹⁷ 52 U.S.C.A. § 20102.

¹⁸ Hi Rev Stat § 11-139.

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?

Not applicable. Hawaii is a vote-by-mail state. Registered voters are not required to submit a mail-in-ballot application.

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

Not applicable. Hawaii is a vote-by-mail state so mail-in ballots are automatically sent to registered voters. When returning a ballot, identification is only required if the voter has registered by mail and not provided identification when registering.

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?

Voters can indicate a P.O. Box or alternate mail service option, including general delivery, as their mailing address. Note: When registering, a voter has to describe their physical address or provide a description of where they live.¹⁹

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

Not Applicable. A registered voter will have a mail-in ballot automatically sent to their address of record without needing to make a request.

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

Voters do not need to submit a vote-by-mail application. Hawaii uses Ballottrax to track the status of mail-in ballots. <https://hawaii.ballottrax.net/voter/>.

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?

Not applicable re: mail-in-ballot applications.

Voters who learn that their mail in ballot, or absentee ballot was rejected should contact their [County Elections Division](#) to determine the reason for the rejection:

If a mail in ballot or absentee ballot was rejected due to an unsigned envelope, a signature that does not match, or another issue with the return identification envelope, the voter has five business days after the date of the election to fix the error.²⁰ Voters should call their [County Elections Division](#) for instructions on how to fix the error or get a replacement ballot.

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

¹⁹ <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/houseless-voter-2/>

²⁰ HI Rev Stat § 11-106(3).

The mail ballot packet contains:

- A ballot
- A ballot secrecy sleeve
- A return ballot envelope (postage prepaid) including a statement confirming the voter's identity under penalty of law
- Voting instructions

Once a ballot has been completed, voters place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve (optional)²¹, then place it in the return envelope. Voters must sign the return envelope or the ballot will not be counted. The return envelope has USPS prepaid postage and is addressed to the voter's County Elections Division.

The signature required on the return ballot envelope serves as the voter's identification. This signature must match the signature that is associated with the voter on file.²²

First-time voters who registered by mail and did not include proof of identification with their application must include it with their ballot.²³ Acceptable forms of ID include a copy of current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.

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

Yes. A voter who requires assistance to vote, by reason of disability, visual or hearing impairment, or inability to read or write, may request assistance from a person of their choice other than their employer or agent of their employer or union.²⁴

Another option is for voters to request an Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) from their [County Elections Division](#). The AFB will be electronically transmitted to voters who may download and mark their ballot privately and independently using their own assistive technology. Voters have the option to return the voted ballot electronically to their County Elections Division or by using the return ballot envelope that was included in their mail ballot packet. There is no deadline to request an AFB.

To see guidelines for helping people in care facilities, click [here](#)

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 do not have to be postmarked by a specific date but must be received by the voter's County Elections Division by 7:00 pm HST on Election Day:

Primary: August 10, 2024

General: November 5, 2024

²¹ HI Rev Stat § 11-104.

²² HI Rev Stat § 11-106.

²³ 52 U.S.C.A. § 21083 (b)(1-2).

²⁴ HI Rev Stat § 11-139.

Haw. Office of Elections, *Voters Requiring Assistance*, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/voters-requiring-assistance/>.

Mail Guideline

Voters returning their ballot by mail should do so as soon as possible, and no later than three business days before Election Day:

August 7, 2024 for the Primary

November 1, 2024 for the General.

Some counties advise that two business days is adequate for mail return.

Dropoff in person at Voter Service Centers or a Place of Deposit (dropbox)

Ballots may be dropped off at a [Voter Service Center or Place of Deposit](#) from up to ten days before and including Election Day:

July 29 to August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the Primary

October 22 to November 5, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the General

Voter Service Centers and dropbox hours vary by location.

All ballots must be *received* by the clerk by 7 pm on Election Day, or will not be counted.

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

Ballots may be dropped off at [Voter Service Centers and Places of Deposit](#) (dropboxes).

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

Yes.²⁵ The completed, sealed ballot may be dropped off on behalf of the voter at a [Voter Service Center or place of deposit](#).

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?

A voter may obtain a replacement ballot if the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, or lost by contacting the appropriate [County Elections Division](#)

A voter requesting a replacement ballot within 5 days of the election may have a ballot sent to them via electronic transmission.²⁶ They should call their [County Elections Division](#) to do so.

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

Registered voters in Hawaii should automatically receive a ballot by *July 23, 2024* for the Primary and *October 18, 2024* for the General election.²⁷

Voters who did not receive a ballot should contact their [County Elections Division](#) .

²⁵ HI Rev Stat § 11-139.

²⁶ HI Rev Stat § 15-5, HI Rev Stat § 11-107.

²⁷ HI Rev Stat § 11-101; Haw. Office of Elections, *Absentee Voting*, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/absentee-voting/>.

If there is not enough time for a ballot package from the county clerk to be mailed to the voter and for the voter to return it by mail, they may:

- vote in person at a [Voter Service Center](#) or
- If a ballot package is not received by a voter by the fifth day before the date of the election, or a voter otherwise requires a replacement ballot within five days of an election, the voter may have a ballot sent to them (and return it) via electronic transmission.²⁸ They should contact their [County Elections Division](#).

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

A voter can vote in person if they have not already submitted their ballot.²⁹

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

(in this state defined as: voting while away from Hawaii residence)

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

Yes, if the voter is away from their Hawaii residence during the election. Voters should complete an [absentee ballot application](#). In addition to English, absentee ballots applications are available in [Chinese](#), [Ilocano](#), [Hawaiian](#) and [Tagalog](#).

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

Voters should request an absentee ballot by ten days before Election Day. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is:

- *August 3, 2024* for the Primary election and
- *October 29, 2024* for the General election

The county clerk may waive the above requirement in special cases (no examples given).³⁰

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

Identification does not have to be submitted with the request, but the application requires

- a current Hawaii Driver's License OR
- a Hawaii State ID Card OR
- the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

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

²⁸ HI Rev Stat § 15-5, HI Rev Stat § 11-107.

²⁹ HI Rev Stat § 15-11.

³⁰ HI Rev Stat § 15-4.

Probably not. However, the county clerk may waive the request deadline requirement in special cases (no examples given).³¹

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

Absentee applications may be returned to the [County Elections Division](#) of the voter's county of permanent residence:

Applications may be returned by mail or in person. Yes, someone can return it 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?

A voter may check the status of *absentee applications* with their [County Elections Division](#) and *absentee ballots*, as well as mail-in ballots generally, by using [Ballotrax](#) or by contacting their [County Elections Division](#).

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 who learn that their absentee ballot application or absentee ballot was rejected should contact the appropriate [County Election Division](#) to confirm and determine the reason for the rejection:

If a mail in ballot or absentee ballot was rejected due to an unsigned envelope, a signature that does not match, or another issue with the return identification envelope, the voter has five business days after the date of the election to fix the error.³² Voters should call their [County Elections Division](#) for instruction on how to fix, if it's unclear how to do so, or to request a replacement ballot.

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

The mail ballot packet contains:

- A ballot
- A ballot secrecy sleeve
- A return ballot envelope (postage prepaid) including a statement confirming the voter's identity under penalty of law
- Voting instructions

Once a ballot has been completed, voters should place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve (optional), then place the secrecy sleeve in the return envelope. Voters must sign the return envelope or the ballot will not be counted. The return envelope is USPS postage paid and is addressed to their County Elections Division.

The signature required on the return ballot envelope must match the signature that is associated with the voter on file.³³

³¹ HI Rev Stat § 15-4.

³² HI Rev Stat § 11-106(3).

³³ HI Rev Stat § 11-106.

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

Yes. A voter who requires assistance to vote, by reason of disability, visual or hearing impairment, or inability to read or write, may request for assistance from a person of their choice other than their employer or agent of their employer or union.³⁴

Voters with special needs may also request an Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) from their [County Elections Division](#). The AFB will be electronically transmitted to voters who may download and mark their ballot using their own assistive technology. Voters have the option to return the voted ballot electronically to their County Elections Division or by using the return ballot envelope that was included in their mail ballot packet.

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 Elections Division by close of voting, 7:00 p.m HST on Election Day.

Mail Guidance

There is no postmark requirement. Voters returning their ballot by mail (USPS) should do so as soon as possible, and no later than three business days before Election Day:

August 7, 2024 for the primary and

November 1, 2024 for the general election.

After these dates voters should drop off their ballot to a [Voter Service Center or place of deposit](#) to ensure it is received by the deadline.

Drop off Guidance

Ballots may be dropped off at

- [Voter Service Centers](#) up to ten days before and including Election Day
July 29, 2024 to August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday) for the primary
October 22, 2024 to November 5, 2024 (Excluding Sundays) for the general.
Most but not all are open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Check individual sites using the link above.
On Election Day ballots may be dropped off at Voter Service Centers from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

- [Places of deposit](#) (Dropboxes)

Locations: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voter-service-centers-and-places-of-deposit/>

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

Ballots may be dropped off at

1. [Voter Service Centers](#)
2. Places of Deposit ([Dropboxes](#))

All ballots must be received by the clerk by 7:00 pm HST on Election Day, or will not be counted.

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

³⁴ Haw. Office of Elections, *Voters Requiring Assistance*, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/voters-requiring-assistance/>.

Yes, voters needing assistance may get assistance from the person of their choice, except for their employer, employer's agent, labor union's agent, or candidate on the ballot.³⁵

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

A voter may obtain a replacement ballot if the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, or lost by contacting the appropriate [County Elections Division](#).³⁶

A voter who requires a replacement ballot within 5 days of the election may choose to have a ballot sent to them via electronic transmission.³⁷ Voters may request a replacement from their [County Elections Division](#).

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

If absentee ballots timely requested are not received by a voter within five days of an election, or if a voter would otherwise not be able to return a properly issued ballot by the close of polls, then a voter may request that absentee ballot be forwarded by electronic transmission. Voters also have the option of voting at a Voter Service Center if possible. Voters should contact their [County Elections Division](#).

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

As long as the voter has not already submitted the absentee ballot they should be allowed to vote in person at a Voter Service Center.

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

There is no in-person absentee voting in Hawaii. If the voter requested an absentee ballot but did not yet vote or return their ballot by mail, they can vote in person at their Voter Service Center.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

[Voter Service Centers](#) are open ten days before and including Election Day, but hours and days vary

- Primary: July 29, 2024 to August 10, 2024 (excluding Sunday)
check link above
- General: October 22, 2024 to November 5, 2024 (excluding Sunday).
check link above

On Election Day Voter Service Centers will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

³⁵ HI Rev Stat § 11-139.

³⁶ HI Rev Stat § 11-105(a).

³⁷ HI Rev Stat § 15-5, HI Rev Stat § 11-107.

If a Voter Service Center is not open during these days/times, voters should remain at the Voter Service Center and should contact the Office of Elections at 1-808-453-8683 or toll free from neighbor islands at 1-800-442-8683.

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?

Voters should stay in line. As long as a voter is in line by the close of polls, they will be allowed to vote.³⁸

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

A voter should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the Voter Service Centers are open. In the event of equipment failures, voters may request to vote by paper ballot or by provisional ballot. If neither is available, voters should remain in line until the equipment is operating again. As long as a voter is in line by close of polls, they will be allowed to vote.³⁹

Voters should also report equipment problems to the Hawaii Office of Elections at: (808) 453-VOTE (8683), Neighbor Island Toll Free: 1-800-442-VOTE (8683) or TTY: (808) 453-6150.

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

Any person who remains or loiters within the area of 200 feet from the perimeter of a Voter Service Center and its appurtenances for the purpose of campaigning is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This includes

- The Voter Service Center building, place of deposit, or its appurtenances
- Any parking lot adjacent to the building and routinely used for parking at that building
- The routes of access between the building and any parking lot
- Any route of access between any public thoroughfare and the Voter Service Center

Campaign activities include:

- Distribution, circulation, carrying, holding, posting, or staking of campaign cards, pamphlets, posters, and other literature
- Use of public address systems and other public communication media
- Use of motor caravans, parades, entertainment troupes
- Distribution of goods and services

Voters must remove or cover campaign materials before entering the Voter Service Center. Cars and other vehicles with political signs and stickers may remain within the 200-foot perimeter while drivers or occupants are voting. Precinct officials who have cars with political bumper stickers must cover the stickers for the day.⁴⁰

³⁸ HI Rev Stat § 11-131(2).

³⁹ HI Rev Stat § 11-131(2).

⁴⁰ HI Rev Stat § 11-132.

County Elections Divisions' [maps](#) of Voter Service Centers and Places of Deposit also display the 200' radius.

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

Any voter who displays campaign material in the Voter Service Center, place of deposit, or its appurtenances is required to remove or cover that material before entering the Voter Service Center, place of deposit, or its appurtenances.⁴¹

Voters are allowed to take photos inside.⁴²

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

Within the 200 foot boundary the display or distribution of campaign posters, signs, or other campaign materials for the purpose of soliciting votes for or against any person, political party, or position on a ballot question is prohibited.⁴³

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?

If a voter is intimidated or harassed while waiting in line to vote or while inside a Voter Service Center or observes other people being intimidated or harassed, they should seek immediate help. Voters reporting intimidation or harassment at Voter Service Centers should:

- Notify a poll worker of the intimidation tactic observed;
- Report the activity to the election supervisor, state Board of Elections, and/or the Elections Commissioner;
- Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (For Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA);
- Call the U.S. Department of Justice voting rights hotline at 1-800-253-3931; and/or
- Report voter intimidation to their local police.

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

Any registered voter may challenge another voter's right to vote on the grounds that:

- The voter is not who they allege to be; or
- The voter is not entitled to vote in that precinct.

Voters should provide identification to poll officials and confirm with poll officials that they are both eligible to vote and they are in the correct location. The poll official will make an immediate decision regarding the challenge. If the poll official determines that the voter is not who they allege to be or is not entitled to vote in that precinct, the voter may appeal the decision and their vote will be put in a sealed envelope to be later counted or rejected pending the outcome of appeal. If the poll official determines

⁴¹ HI Rev Stat § 11-132.

⁴² HI Rev Stat § 11-121.

⁴³ HI Rev Stat § 11-132(d).

that the voter is eligible to vote and the decision is not appealed by the challenger, the voter may proceed to vote.⁴⁴

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

This is discouraged. However, if a voter is intimidated or harassed while waiting in line to vote or while inside a Voter Service Center or observes other people being intimidated or harassed, they should seek immediate help. Voters reporting intimidation or harassment at Voter Service Centers should:

- Notify a poll worker of the intimidation tactic observed;
- Report the activity to the election supervisor, state Board of Elections, and/or the Elections Commissioner;
- Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (For Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA);
- Call the U.S. Department of Justice voting rights hotline at 1-800-253-3931; and/or
- Report voter intimidation to their local police.

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

A voter's name may be removed from the registration roll if:

- The voter has an outdated or undeliverable address on file and did not vote in all elections held during the two previous federal election cycles; or
- The voter has requested to be removed from the registration roll;⁴⁵
- The voter has become disqualified to vote because an agency has reported that the person has died, lost voting rights due to a felony conviction, was ruled to be incapacitated, or lost citizenship.⁴⁶

A voter whose name was removed due to an outdated or undeliverable address or due to a request to be removed may re-register to vote at a Voter Service Center.⁴⁷

Any voter whose name was removed from the voter registration list on the basis of a determination of ineligibility may re-register when and if they subsequently become eligible.⁴⁸ If a voter believes the determination of ineligibility was in error, the voter may appeal the decision.⁴⁹

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

Voters may be offered a provisional ballot for one of the following reasons:

- The voter's name does not appear on the list of registered voters in the precinct;
- An election official asserts that the voter is not eligible to vote;
- The voter does not have photo identification and is a first-time voter who registered by mail (fail-safe voter).

⁴⁴ HI Rev Stat § 11-25.

⁴⁵ HI Rev Stat § 11-17.

⁴⁶ HI Rev Stat § 11-23.

⁴⁷ HI Rev Stat § 11-17(b).

⁴⁸ HI Rev Stat §§ 11-15, 11-17, 11-24.

⁴⁹ HI Rev Stat § 11-26.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, they will need to execute a written affirmation in front of an election official stating that they are both eligible to vote in that election and that they are registered in the jurisdiction in which they are attempting to vote.⁵⁰

The voter should ask the poll worker if any additional steps will be needed to make sure the ballot is counted. The voter will be able to verify if the ballot did or did not count, and the reason why it was not counted, by calling their [County Office of Elections](#) or the [Hawaii Office of Elections](#) at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) Neighbor Island Toll Free: 1-800-442-VOTE (8683) or TTY: (808) 453-6150.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

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

Yes, voters needing assistance may get assistance from the person of their choice, except for their employer, employer's agent, labor union's agent, or candidate on the ballot.⁵¹ The type of ballots or equipment used may vary by Voter Service Center, so voters should ask an election official at their Voter Service Center if they have questions about how to use the equipment.

Voters may also call the Hawaii Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (8683) Neighbor Island Toll Free: 1-800-442-VOTE (8683) or TTY: (808) 453-6150, to request instruction on how to use voting equipment.

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?

Yes, all Voter Service Centers and places of deposit for ballots must be accessible to those with physical disabilities.⁵² Voters who need special assistance, including curbside voting, should call their [County Elections Division](#) to discuss what services are available to them.

Voter Service Centers are equipped with accessible voting equipment that supports the use of adaptive tools to select choices on a ballot, including a game controller style console, paddles, or sip-and-puff devices.

Voters requiring assistance may also get assistance from the person of their choice, except for their employer, employer's agent, labor union's agent, or candidate on the ballot.⁵³

Voters with special needs may also request an electronic ballot be sent to them at any time⁵⁴ by contacting their [County Election Division](#)

⁵⁰ Haw. Office of Elections, *Provisional Voting*, <http://elections.hawaii.gov/resources/provisional-voting/>.

⁵¹ HI Rev Stat § 11-139.

⁵² 52 U.S.C.A. § 20102.

⁵³ HI Rev Stat § 11-139.

⁵⁴ HI Rev Stat § 11-107.

Voters requiring special assistance not mentioned above may call the Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (8683) Neighbor Island Toll Free: 1-800-442-VOTE (8683) or TTY: (808) 453-6150, who can coordinate things such as providing large print ballots or taped materials.

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, all Voter Service Centers will provide assistance to voters who need it. Voters requiring special assistance, including curbside voting, should call their [Voter Service Center](#) to discuss the available services.

Voters Requiring Visual or Physical Assistance

Voter Service Centers are equipped with accessible voting equipment which supports the use of headphones for voters who are blind or visually impaired. Voters should call their Voter Service Center to ensure headphones will be available for them.

Voters requiring assistance may also get assistance from the person of their choice, except for their employer, employer's agent, labor union's agent, or candidate on the ballot.⁵⁵

(Note: Voters with special needs may also request an electronic ballot or an Alternate Format Ballot be sent to them at any time⁵⁶ by contacting the appropriate [County Elections Division](#). The AFB will be electronically transmitted to voters who may download and mark their ballot privately and independently using their own assistive technology. Voters have the option to return the ballot electronically or by using the return ballot envelope included in their mail ballot packet.⁵⁷ All ballots come with a postage-paid return envelope and can be mailed via USPS.)

Voters Requiring Language Assistance

In Hawaii, election materials are typically available in English, Hawaiian, Tagalog, Ilocono, and Japanese. Voters requiring assistance with voting, including those requiring language interpretation, may get assistance from the person of their choice, except for their employer, employer's agent, labor union's agent, or candidate on the ballot.⁵⁸

Voters requiring special assistance not mentioned above may call the Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (8683) Neighbor Island Toll Free: 1-800-442-VOTE (8683) or TTY: (808) 453-6150, who can coordinate things such as providing large print ballots or taped materials.

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?

In Hawaii, election materials are typically available in English, Hawaiian, Tagalog, Ilocono, and Japanese. Voters requiring assistance with voting, including those requiring language interpretation, may get assistance from the person of their choice, except for their employer, employer's agent, labor union's agent, or candidate on the ballot.⁵⁹

⁵⁵ HI Rev Stat § 11-139.

⁵⁶ HI Rev Stat § 11-107.

⁵⁷ Haw. Office of Elections, *Voters Requiring Assistance*, <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/voters-requiring-assistance/>.

⁵⁸ HI Rev Stat § 11-139, 52 U.S.C.A. § 10508.

⁵⁹ HI Rev Stat § 11-139, 52 U.S.C.A. § 10508.

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

Voters wishing to vote curbside due to a physical, visual, or hearing impairment should contact their [County Elections Division](#) to arrange for curbside voting at a Voter Service Center.

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

Yes.

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. Voter Service Centers: What services are provided at Voter Service Centers?

- Receive mail ballots (placed in the return envelope)
- In person registration and voting
- Voting machine services for persons with special needs
- Other (unspecified) voting services as provided by law

83. PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY/CAUCUS: Does the August 10, 2024 state-run primary include the presidential ballot?

Yes.

84. GUNS AT POLLING PLACES: Does Hawaii ban guns at polling places?

Hawaii does not have a clear prohibition of guns at polling places.

85. NATIVE VOTING ISSUES: Has Hawaii enacted laws to specifically protect the voting rights of Native Hawaiians?

Hawaii has not enacted a law to specifically protect the voting rights of Native Hawaiians.

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

- Voters can call the State Office of Elections at 808-453-VOTE (8683). Neighbor Islands may call toll free 1-800-442-VOTE (8683) or e-mail at elections@hawaii.gov.
- Voters can also contact their [County Elections Division](#).