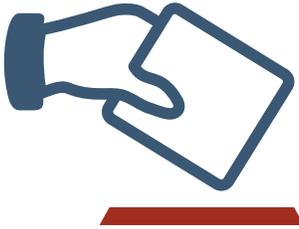


PENNSYLVANIA

STATE VOTING AND MAIL-IN BALLOT INFORMATION



WHEN IS THE LATEST I CAN REGISTER TO VOTE?

The last day to [register](#) is October 19, 2020.

IS MAIL-IN BALLOTING AN OPTION IN MY STATE? Yes

WHERE CAN I REQUEST A MAIL-IN BALLOT?

Apply online [here](#).

Complete a paper application for a [mail-in ballot](#) or an [absentee ballot](#) and mail to your [county election office](#).

Apply in person at your county election office.

WHAT IS THE EARLIEST I CAN REQUEST A MAIL-IN BALLOT?

Apply online [now](#).

Download a mail-in ballot application or apply in person at your county election office beginning September 14, 2020..

WHAT IS THE LATEST I CAN REQUEST A MAIL-IN BALLOT?

Applications must be received by October 27, 2020 at 5 p.m.

WHEN DOES MY BALLOT HAVE TO BE RETURNED?

Ballots must be received (not postmarked) by November 3, 2020 at 8 p.m.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR RETURNING A BALLOT?

Mail or hand-deliver to your county election office.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

- Pennsylvania has [two types](#) of “mail ballots.”
 - [Mail-in Ballot](#): Any qualified voter may apply. Voters may request without giving a reason.
 - [Absentee Ballot](#): Used if the voter plans to be out of the municipality on election day or has a disability or illness. A reason must be given. For example, voters may request an absentee ballot if they are college students, have work or vacation that takes them away from their municipality, have a physical disability or illness, are in the military, have a conflict due to celebration of a religious holiday, or are inmates not convicted of a felony. Voters who qualify as an absentee voter [must](#) vote by absentee ballot.
- Voters [must be registered](#) to apply for a mail ballot.
- For the general election in November 2020, applications are [due](#) by 5 p.m. on



October 27, 2020. Ballots must be received (not postmarked) by 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020.

- Application [process](#)
 - Voters with a Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT ID number can apply online.
 - If voters do not have either of these methods of identification, they must mail in a paper application.
 - Applications may also be requested in person at the county election office.
 - The process is slightly [different](#) for military and overseas voters.
- Voters [must](#) apply for an absentee and mail-in ballot for each election, unless they qualify for and request permanent status to vote by mail ballot when filling out their application.
 - Mail-in Ballots
 - When placed on the annual mail-in ballot list, a mail-in ballot application will be mailed to the voter [by the first Monday in February](#) each year. When the voter returns the completed application, he will receive ballots for all elections taking place that year (and "any special election held through the third Monday in February of the next year").
 - No [special qualifications](#) – Any voter filling out the mail-in ballot application can apply.
 - Absentee Ballots
 - Essentially the same process, except this option is available **ONLY** to available if the voter has a permanent illness or disability.
 - To qualify – Requires permanent illness/disability and physician's certificate of permanent illness/disability (see [application](#)).
 - There is also an option for an [emergency absentee ballot](#), which must be applied for by 8 p.m. on election day.

WHEN ARE MAIL-BALLOTS AVAILABLE?

- Online applications – Available anytime
- Applications by mail or in person – Available 50 days before the election (September 14, 2020).
- The [deadline](#) to apply for mail-in and absentee ballots is one week before the election (October 27, 2020 at 5 p.m.).

ARE THEY SENT TO VOTERS AUTOMATICALLY OR DO VOTERS HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO HAVE ONE SENT TO THEM?

- Voters must apply for an absentee ballot, and they must be registered to submit an application.

WHAT CHANGES TO MAIL-IN BALLOTING, IF ANY, ARE NEW THIS YEAR?

- Pennsylvania passed legislation on October 31, 2019 ([Act 77](#)) that dramatically expanded mail-in voting.
- Mail-in Voting (ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on election day)
 - Allows mail-in votes for any qualified voter (previously only absentee allowed).
 - Voters can return the mail-in ballot by mail or by dropping it off.
 - Voters can be placed on a permanent mail-in voting list.
 - “[Finally](#), counties are authorized to begin processing mail-in applications more than 50 days before the election. Beginning 50 days before the election, counties must begin transmitting mail-in ballots as soon as the ballot is certified and the ballots are available. Counties may await the result of a court proceeding that would affect the content of ballots before delivering mail-in ballots, but in any case, counties must begin to send out mail-in and absentee ballots no later than the second Tuesday before the election.”
- Absentee Voting
 - The deadline for receiving the ballot is now 8 p.m. on election day.
 - The process for obtaining an emergency absentee ballot has been simplified (more than one person may now designate the same individual to deliver their ballots).
 - Counties must now process absentee applications beginning 50 days before the election. The latest day the county can begin to deliver the ballots is the second Tuesday before the election.
 - “[Counties](#) must now process absentee applications beginning 50 days before the election. Counties may wait for the result of a court proceeding that would affect what’s on the ballots before delivering absentee ballots. In any case, counties must begin, at the latest, to deliver absentee ballots by the second Tuesday before the election.”
 - If the voter has a permanent disability, he can be placed on the permanent absentee voter list.
- Voter registration ends 15 days before the election instead of 30 days.
- There is no longer a straight-party button for candidates of one party (although voters may still choose only candidates from one party).
- No stickers or paste-on labels for write-in candidates are allowed (now, voters may stamp or write names of write-in candidates).

IS THERE ANY PENDING LITIGATION IN THE STATE OVER MAIL-IN BALLOTING?

- Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. v. Boockvar - [Complaint](#)
 - President Trump’s campaign is [suing](#) Pennsylvania for allowing mail ballot drop boxes.
- Judicial Watch is suing Pennsylvania for improperly maintaining voter rolls – [Complaint](#)

- Seeking to make state officials implement a program to remove registrations of ineligible registrants from voter rolls in certain counties of Pennsylvania.
- Crossey v. Boockvar – [Petition](#) for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief
 - Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans is [suing](#) Pennsylvania, asking for the state to extend the ballot deadline to 7 days before the election, to allow third parties to help voters submit ballots, to provide postage for mail ballots, and to impose guidelines on mail ballot verification.
 - Preliminary Injunction [denied](#) June 2, 2020
- Blind voters sued for accessible mail-in ballots for the June 2 primary and were [successful in obtaining a TRO](#).



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