How to Vote in Pennsylvania:

Guide for Voters with Disabilities

Voters with disabilities, use this voter guide to help you get ready and vote in the Primary Election on or before **May 19, 2026** and the General Election on or before **November 3, 2026**.

How do I register to vote?

You can register to vote online at: https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx.
You can also fill out a voter registration form https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/vote/resources/documents-and-forms/Voter_Registration_Application_English.pdf and mail it, apply in person at your local county board of elections, and apply at many other state government offices.

What is the deadline?

You have to register by **May 4, 2026,** to vote in the Primary Election, and **October 19, 2026,** to vote in the General Election.

What are the requirements to register to vote in Pennsylvania?

- You will be at least 18 years old on the date of the next election;
- you have been a United States citizen for at least 30 days before the next election; and
- you will be a resident of Pennsylvania and your election district for at least 30 days before the next election.

How do I check to see if I am registered to vote?

You can check online at https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx

Voting By Mail:

How can I get a mail-in or absentee ballot?

You can apply online at https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin. You can also apply in-person at your county election office. You can locate the office here: https://www.votespa.com/Resources/Pages/Contact-Your-Election-Officials.aspx.

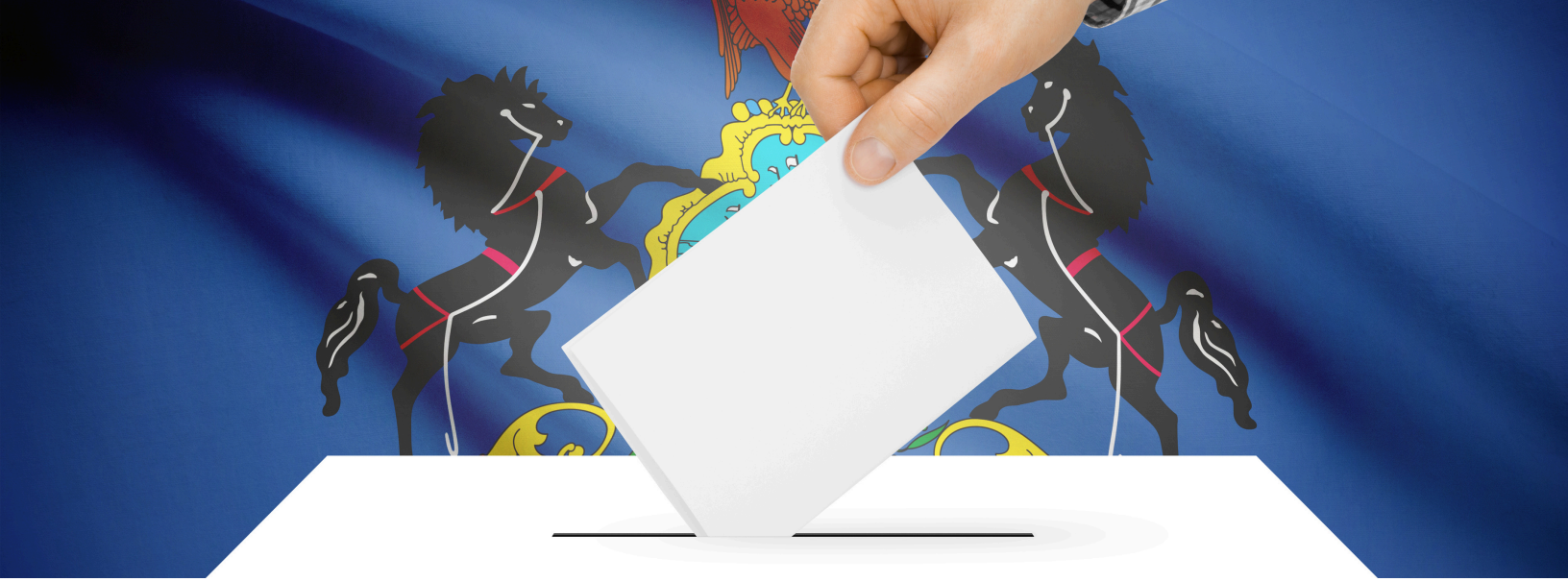
All voters can also vote by mail using a mail-in ballot, which does not require providing a reason like when you are voting absentee. You can apply for an absentee ballot online at https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin. In order to ensure you apply for a mail-in ballot, rather than an absentee ballot, be sure to answer “no” to the third question, which asks “Are you applying for a ballot for the upcoming election because you cannot appear at your polling place due to an illness or physical disability?” If you answer “yes” to this question, the system will automatically lead you to the absentee ballot application.

When do I need to request a mail-in ballot?

You need to apply for a mail-in ballot by 5 p.m. on **May 12, 2026,** for the Primary Election and **October 27, 2026,** for the General Election.

When is the deadline to return my mail-in or absentee ballot?

It must be received by your county election office by 8 p.m. on May 19, 2026, for the Primary Election and November 3, 2026, for the General Election. This means that if you plan to return your ballot through the mail, you should send it well in advance of election day to ensure it gets to the county board of election in time.



I applied for a mail-in ballot, but I did not receive it yet. What should I do?

You can check the status of your application online: https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/BallotTracking.aspx. If the ballot does not arrive before election day, you can fill out a provisional ballot at your polling place on election day. You can also contact your county election office and ask for a new ballot.

I am a blind voter or otherwise not able to mark a paper ballot because of a disability - What are my vote by mail options?

Pennsylvania has now implemented an accessible remote ballot marking system, which will send eligible voters their ballots electronically and voters will be able to use screen-reading software to mark their ballots privately and independently.

Complete information about the Accessible Remote Ballot Marking system and how to apply is available at https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/vote/voter-support/accessible-voting/accessible-remote-ballot-marking-solution-for-mail-voting.html

Can I have help to pick up or return my mail in ballot?

If you have a disability that prevents you from applying in person for your mail ballot or delivering it, you may designate an agent to deliver your ballot materials for you. You must designate an agent using this form: https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/vote/resources/documents-and-forms/Authorize-Designated-Agent-for-Mail-in-or-Absentee-Ballot.pdf or a form provided by your county.

What's a naked ballot? What's a secrecy envelope?

You will receive two envelopes with your mail in ballot, a secrecy envelope and a return envelope. You need to put your completed ballot inside of the secrecy envelope, which does not contain your name or address or any other identifying information. You then need to put the secrecy envelope inside of the return envelope. You then need to complete the declaration on the outside of the return envelope. **It is very important that you make sure you place your ballot in the secrecy envelope and seal the envelope because your ballot will be voided if you do not do so.**

Voting in Person:

How do I find my polling place?

You can check online at: https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/pollingplaceinfo.aspx.

Is my polling place accessible?

Polling places are supposed to be accessible, but there are still some inaccessible polling places. You can check to see if your polling place is accessible online.

I want to vote in person. Do I need an ID?

Maybe. You only need to show an ID if it is the first time you are voting or if it is the first time that you are voting at a new polling place.

I need help voting. Can someone help me with the machine?

Yes. You can be assisted by a relative, friend, neighbor, aide, or another voter. You cannot be assisted by a judge of elections, a union representative, or your employer.

I have another question about voting. Who do I call?

You can call Disability Rights Pennsylvania at 800-692-7443 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TDD). You can also look at our other resources at disabilityrightspa.org or go to votespa.com for more information.

Stay Connected

If you need more information or need help, please contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) at 800-692-7443 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TDD). Our email address is: intake@disabilityrightspa.org. DRP's live intake line is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The mission of Disability Rights Pennsylvania is to advance, protect, and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Due to our limited resources, Disability Rights Pennsylvania cannot provide individual services to every person with advocacy and legal issues. Disability Rights Pennsylvania prioritizes cases that have the potential to result in widespread, systemic changes to everyone, but we do seek to provide every individual with information and referral options.

IMPORTANT: This publication is for general informational purposes only. This publication is not intended, nor should be construed, to create an attorney-client relationship between Disability Rights Pennsylvania and any person. Nothing in this publication should be considered legal advice.

PLEASE NOTE: For information in alternative formats or a language other than English, contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania at 800-692-7443 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TDD). Our email is: intake@disabilityrightspa.org.

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