

How to Vote by Mail in Ballot

You have several options to vote by mail in ballot. You can go online and print a mail-in ballot application.

You can apply online at [VotesPA.com/applymailballot](https://www.votespa.com/applymailballot)

You can contact your county election office and requesting a paper application or call:

1-877-VOTESPA or email them at ra-votereg@pa.gov

You will need a valid PA driver's license or photo ID.

Contact [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com) or call .877.VOTESPA for any questions about:

1. whether you are registered to vote,
2. how to apply for and mail in your ballot,
3. how to contact your county election office,
4. -how to track your mail ballot status.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are There Ways To Vote Early But Not Go Through The Mail?

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has authorized the use of satellite election offices and drop boxes by counties. Visit www.votespa.com for a location near you.

But this is still in the planning stage.

Check this site for the latest information.

You can drop off your ballot in person at Philadelphia's county election office in City Hall Room 142.

How Will I Know My Vote Has Been Counted?

If you submit a mail-in ballot and provide an email address, you'll receive a confirmation email noting that your ballot has been received.

If you don't receive confirmation, contact the PA Department of State via email (ra-voterreg@pa.gov) or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA.

You can also check the status of your ballot on the Pennsylvania Department of State's tracking website. [Pavoterservices.pa.gov](https://pavoterservices.pa.gov)

What is The Process for Mail in Ballots?

When voters complete an online application for an absentee or mail-in ballot, their application is sent directly to their county election office, which verifies their voter registration.

Once ballots are finalized, the county election office will mail the voter their ballot at the address the voter provided when they filled out the application. The Department of State recently announced that it will pay for postage on ballot return envelopes at no cost to the voter.

Make sure you sign your mail-in ballot and that it is placed inside the special sealed envelope which you then place in the outer envelope which is used to mail or hand in your ballot.

How Can I Trust What Happens to My Mail-In Ballot?(This information was provided by the philadelphiacitizen.org)

- Each voter gets a ballot with a barcode that corresponds to your name, address and election precinct.
- It is printed on a special paper.
- Once the ballot is dropped off it is verified.
- It goes through a process to verify the signature.
- Machines scan the barcode and if it comes up questionable it is set aside for further review.
- The ballot is removed from the envelope and moved to the next step by machine so no one can see how you voted.
- Scanning machines count the ballots.
- Your signature is authenticated - electronically and manually by bipartisan teams.

Can I Still Vote In Person?

Absolutely! If you feel more confident about voting in person, the polls will be open on their normal hours, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. The list of polling places for November 3 hasn't been approved yet, but we will update you ASAP after they are announced.

The CDC has listed health protocols in polling places for poll workers as well as voters to include masks, social distancing and in accordance with CDC guidelines the poll machinery is to be wiped down between each voter.

What Happens If I Applied For Mail In Ballot and It Never Came or I Don't Want to Use It?

Go to your regular polling place. Tell them you had a problem with mail-in voting and they'll give you a provisional ballot (i.e. a hand-counted, same-day paper ballot).

Your provisional ballot will be discarded if your mail-in ballot was successfully tallied.

You will receive a provisional ballot number which you should be able to check the status of your ballot online after the election through the Department of State.

If you have your mail-in ballot but did not use it, bring it with you to the polling place on Election Day, you can surrender it at your polling place and vote on the machine instead.

How Do I Make a Plan For Voting?

Everyone should have a plan going into the fall election.

We can learn what other states are doing to protect voters. For example,

Mississippi has some of the most restrictive voting practices in the country. Decades of efforts to suppress the vote and keep people from exercising their rights have led civil rights groups and advocates in that state to develop a strategy. The takeaway is that preparation is key:

- Check your voter registration status regularly. Treat your voter status like you do your bank account so there are no Election Day surprises.

- Share your voter registration status link with family, friends and neighbors so they can be up to date on their registration status.

- Make sure friends and family know how to do this and offer to help those who cannot check or who DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.

- Check your polling place several times prior to Election Day for closures and consolidations.

- Check the Monday before Tuesday's election. You do not want to show up at the wrong polling place.

- Share the polling-place link with family, friends and neighbors. Help those who can't check for themselves by checking their polling place for them.

- Develop an Election Day plan for yourself and for any family, friends, and neighbors needing assistance to and from the polls.

- Plan to vote early to avoid long lines that build up throughout the day. Know what the weather will be like on Election Day.

- Bring folding chairs, umbrellas, water and snacks in case lines are long.

- If you have family members over the age of 65, help them secure an absentee ballot request so they do not have to choose between their health or their vote.

- Get involved with a voting-rights organization in your community or region of the state.

- -Organizations are always looking for virtual volunteers to help fight back against voter suppression. This election cycle, virtual volunteers are making huge impacts without even leaving the safety of their own homes.

Information Provided by MississippiFreePress.Org