

CONSTITUENTS FIRST: Safe Voting FAQs

PENNSYLVANIA

The global pandemic is changing voting behavior, creating opportunities for confusion and misinformation. As a state legislator, you are uniquely positioned to help inform and keep your constituents up-to-date. We hope you find this FAQ for safe elections in Pennsylvania helpful. MAP is continuously adding resources for legislators. For more information please contact us at policy@millennialaction.org.

VOTER FAQs

- **What do I need before voting?**
 - **October 19th, 2020 is the last day to register to vote for the upcoming election.** Register to vote online [here](#), or contact your local election administrator for other registration options.

- **Can I vote in person?**
 - Early Voting: Yes, [early voting](#) begins Monday, September 14th, 2020 and ends Tuesday, October 27th, 2020. Contact your local election official [here](#) to find early voting locations.
 - Election Day: Yes, find your polling location [here](#).
 - **What do I need to bring with me?**
 - If you have not voted at your polling location before you *will* need a valid form of ID. Find acceptable identifications [here](#). If you've previously voted at your polling location, you *will not* need to provide ID.
 - **Will polls be staffed?**
 - Legitimate concerns exist around staffing polling places, and consolidating voting locations—as many states did during primaries—only adds confusion to the process and increases crowding at the polls. If you are concerned about your state's ability to staff the polls, here are some solutions that have broad support amongst the public:
 - 76% support recruiting young people to serve as poll workers
 - 71% support encouraging businesses to provide employees with paid time off on Election Day to serve as poll workers
 - 70% support giving state employees time off to serve as poll workers
 - 68% support flexibility in allowing people to serve as poll workers outside of their precinct of residence

- **Can I vote Absentee/Vote-by-mail?**
 - Pennsylvania distinguished between voting *absentee* and voting *by mail*.
 - Anybody in Pennsylvania can vote-by-mail, no excuse is required. Request a vote-by-mail ballot [here](#).
 - Mailed ballot request forms must be received by your local election official no later than **5 PM, October 27th, 2020**.
 - Absentee voters are those who will be absent from their voting precinct on election day and must provide a reason for requesting an absentee ballot.

Otherwise, the application process is exactly the same as for a regular mailed ballot, and uses the same [form](#).

- ***ID and witness requirements?***
 - You must provide a copy of an eligible ID when requesting a mailed or absentee ballot. Please see a list of acceptable identifications [here](#).
- ***How do I return my ballot?***
 - Prepaid postage will be provided with all mailed and absentee ballots.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Mailed ballots in Pennsylvania include a return envelope as well as a **secrecy envelope** to help protect the identity of voters. **All absentee voters MUST submit their completed ballot into the provided secrecy envelope**, and place that envelope in the provided return envelope before returning that sealed envelope by mail or in-person. **If you do not place your ballot in the secrecy envelope, and then the return envelope, your ballot will be rejected.**
 - Some counties have plans to install certified ballot drop box locations. Please check with your [county election administrator](#).
- ***What deadlines do I need to be aware of?***
 - October 19th: Deadline for all methods of voter registration.
 - 5:00 PM, October 27th: Deadline for mail-in and absentee ballot applications to be submitted to the voter's county election office.
 - 8:00 PM, November 3rd:
 - Deadline for mail-in and absentee ballots to be received by the voter's county election office.
 - Deadline for voters to fill out an emergency absentee ballot request form.
- ***When will we know election results?***
 - Voters should be encouraged to exercise patience awaiting election results come November. Increased use of absentee ballots will undoubtedly slow election tallies in some places.
 - If you are highly concerned about delayed election results, and your state does not allow early canvassing, election officials can make changes to expand the ballot processing timeframe without compromising security, as [Maryland recently did](#).
- **All information above is current as of 9/23/20.** For more details, check the [Pennsylvania Voter Information page](#).