



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register to vote?

Pennsylvania residents may register to vote online at www.vote.pa.gov/register or download a PDF of the [Voter Registration Application](#) from the Voter Services website. You may also contact Voter Services at (570) 327-2267 to request that a registration form be mailed to you. Voter registration closes 15 days prior to every primary and election.

How old must I be to register to vote?

You can register to vote if you will be 18 years old on the following Election Day.

How can I find out if I am already registered to vote?

Voters may check their registration status [online](#) at the Pennsylvania Department of State; or contact Voter Services.

If I didn't vote last year, am I still registered to vote?

Probably. However, federal and state voter maintenance laws may require counties to mark voters as Inactive and eventually cancel voter registration records under certain circumstances. Contact Voter Services to confirm your registration status.

How do I change my name, address, or political party?

You can change your name, address, or political party on your voter registration record by completing a new voter registration application and indicating the changes you wish to make. Voter registration closes 15 days prior to every primary and election.

How do I find information about candidates who are running for public office?

The Office of Voter Services is non-partisan. We publish lists of offices and candidates that will appear on the ballot, but we cannot provide advice about candidates or distribute campaign materials. Voters who want to learn about candidates should consume news from different mediums and attend public debates or forums.



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When are the polls open on Election Day?

The polls open at 7:00am and close at 8:00pm. Voters who are in line before the polls close at 8:00pm are still permitted to vote.

How does the voting process work on Election Day?

- 1) When you enter the polling place, the election worker may ask you for your name, address, and/or birthdate in order to locate you in the District Register. An election worker will announce your name.
- 2) After confirming that you are eligible to vote, the poll worker will ask you to sign next to your name. If any of your information is incorrect (name, address, party, etc.), you may complete a new voter registration application at the polling place to update your record for future elections.
- 3) When instructed, proceed to vote your ballot. Carefully review all instructions during the voting process.
- 4) If you have any questions while voting, ask an election worker BEFORE casting your ballot. Once you have cast your vote, it cannot be changed.

Why can't I vote in a primary if I am not registered as Democratic or Republican?

Pennsylvania holds closed primaries in which only Democratic and Republican voters may participate. Democratic and Republican voters must vote a party-specific ballot on which they will nominate candidates to be party nominees on the November ballot. Democratic and Republican voters MUST vote their own party's primary ballot. If there is a referendum or special election on the ballot, all registered voters may vote on the referendum or special election regardless of party affiliation.

Why can't I cast a straight party vote?

Straight party voting was abolished in the Commonwealth by Act 77 of 2019. Voters must manually vote each contest on the ballot.