

### OHIO LAW

According to the Ohio Revised Code:

- Voting locations must be free of barriers to enter and exit. Nothing should block the entrance or exit.
- Voting locations must have ramps, wide doors and accessible parking. See R.C. 3501.29.

To review the Ohio Revised Code visit [codes.ohio.gov](http://codes.ohio.gov).

## ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO VOTE

### CURBSIDE VOTING

At any polling place that is exempt from the accessibility requirements, if you have a disability and are unable to enter the polling place, you can vote curbside.

Two voting officers from different political parties will bring a ballot to you. You can sit in



your car and vote. Or you can vote at the door of the building.

### ABSENTEE VOTING

This is another way to vote. Mail-in absentee voting gives people with disabilities the opportunity to vote without having to travel to their voting location.

If you are registered to vote, you can get a paper ballot and use it to vote. You will return it to the county board of elections by mail or in person.

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Note: Make sure you have enough stamps on the envelope when you send it back.

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You can also vote in-person before Election Day. In-person absentee voting starts 25 days before a presidential primary and 35 days before a general election. In-person absentee voting ends the day before Election Day.

Call your county board of elections to find out where to vote in-person absentee before Election Day.

### ABSENTEE VOTING – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**When do I apply for an absentee ballot?**

You can apply for an absentee ballot anytime after January 1st of the year of the election you want to vote in.

Absentee ballots will be ready by these dates:

- 35 days before a primary election
- 35 days before a general election
- 25 days before a presidential primary election

Absentee voting ends the day before the election.

Call your county board of elections to find out about any special elections.

### **How do I get an absentee ballot?**

You must ask for an absentee ballot in writing. You can do this in two ways.

1. You can get the correct form on the Secretary of State's Web site ([www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us)).  
or
2. You can ask for an absentee ballot in writing. You will need to give your county board of elections all the information below:
  - Your name

- Your signature
- The address you used when you registered to vote
- Your birth date
- One of these:
  - Your driver's license number, or
  - The last four digits of your Social Security number, or
  - A copy of your current and legal identification (see "What should I bring with me when I vote?")
- The name of the election in which you want to vote (for example, the November presidential election)
- A statement saying you are a qualified voter
- If you are voting in a primary election, you must ask for a specific ballot (for example, you must ask for a ballot to vote for Republicans or Democrats or only issues)
- Your address (if you want your ballot mailed to you)

### How do I return my request for an absentee ballot?

After you fill out your request for an absentee ballot, you can return it in several ways:

#### By mail

Make sure your request form is signed with your original signature. Send it to the board of elections in the county where you are registered to vote.

- ***Deadline to send in your request for a ballot:*** 12:00 noon on the Saturday before the election.
- ***Important.*** Please send your request as soon as possible before the election.



### By fax

Only active members of the U.S. armed services, and their spouses and dependents, can fax their absentee ballot applications.

### In person

Find out when ballots are available. Then go to your county board of elections during regular business hours. You can ask for and receive your ballot. You can vote at that time.

- ***Deadline to request a ballot:*** The day before the election.

### If you have a disability and are confined to a public or private institution:

The county board of elections has a duty to deliver your absentee ballot to you if you have a disability and are confined to a public or private institution. The board of elections will send out two people of opposing political parties to deliver the ballot to you and return it to the board of elections office.

If you have a disability and are confined to a public or private institution, you must fill out an application stating your disability and the fact that you are confined. Send the application to the board of elections.

If you are unable to mark the ballot by reason of your disability, you may request that the two people sent by the board of elections help you in marking the ballot.

### **If you are in the hospital on Election Day**

If you or your minor child must stay in the hospital for medical reasons as a result of an accident or medical emergency, you can still vote.

- Fill out and sign your request for an absentee ballot.
- Bring your request to the board of elections in the county where you registered to vote.
- Your request must say where and why you (or your minor child) are in the hospital and the date of admission to the hospital.
- If the hospital is in the same county where you vote, two officials from the board of elections can bring the ballot to you. They will wait while you vote, and they will bring back the ballot to the board of elections, or
- You can ask a relative to pick up the ballot and bring it to you. You can vote on that ballot. Your relative can then take back the absentee ballot to the board of elections.

- ***Deadline to request a ballot:*** 3:00 p.m. on Election Day.

### **When do I have to send in the absentee ballot for it to be counted?**

Once you have voted, you must return your absentee ballot as follows:

#### **If you voted from anywhere in the United States**

In person: return your completed ballot to your county's board of elections. The deadline is 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

By mail: the ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before the election and received by the board of elections before the eleventh day after the election.

#### **If you are out of the country and want to vote**

Fill out your ballot and send it to your county board of elections. The ballot identification envelope cannot be postmarked any day after the election. The county board of elections must receive the ballot by the tenth day after the election.