

# 2012 Ohio Voter Information Guide

## My vote

**My Right • My Responsibility**

Hours for early in-person absentee voting are standard throughout all 88 Ohio counties and have been updated since this item's publication. For hours and locations for early in-person absentee voting, visit [www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/Voters/absentee/inperson.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/Voters/absentee/inperson.aspx).

**Jon Husted**  
Ohio Secretary of State





**JON HUSTED**  
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Hours for early in-person absentee voting are standard throughout all 88 Ohio counties and have been updated since this item's publication. Hours for early in-person absentee voting are:

**Tuesday, October 2 - Friday, October 5:**

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, October 8:**

Closed for state holiday

**Tuesday, October 9 (*deadline to register to vote*):**

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 10 - Friday, October 12:**

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, October 15 - Friday, October 19:**

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, October 22 - Friday, October 26:**

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, October 29 - Thursday, November 1:**

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, November 2:**

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 3:**

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 4:**

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, November 5:**

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Updated October 16, 2012*

Dear Ohio Voter:

This year, Ohio voters will weigh in on the election of the president and vice-president of the United States, representatives to the United States Congress, members of the Ohio General Assembly, county office holders, judges, boards of education members and clerks of courts.



While there's no denying Ohio's standing as a "battleground state" when it comes to presidential elections, it is important to remember that the leaders we elect at every level of government will have a great impact on our communities and on the future of Ohio.

Remember, your vote is both your right and your responsibility. This Voter Information Guide is meant to provide you all the tools and information you need to cast your ballot in the 2012 elections. I hope you will find it useful in answering questions regarding voter registration, absentee voting and what you need to know when you arrive at your polling place on Election Day.

Local elections officials as well as the Secretary of State's office are committed to ensuring that each Ohioan who is eligible to cast a ballot is able to do so, and that all Ohioans can have confidence in the results.

Thank you for doing your part to maintain a healthy democracy by casting your vote this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Husted". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "J" and "H".

Jon Husted  
Ohio Secretary of State

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## 2012 Election

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### IN 2012, VOTERS THROUGHOUT OHIO WILL ELECT:

- Electors for President and Vice President
- U.S. Senator (1)
- Representatives to Congress (all 16 districts)
- State senators (even-numbered districts)
- State representatives (all 99 districts)
- County commissioners (2 each to full terms)
- County coroner
- County engineer
- County prosecutor
- County recorder
- County sheriff
- County treasurer
- Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court
- Court of appeals judges
- Common pleas court judges
- County court judges
- County clerk of courts
- Members of state board of education (some districts)
- Members of state and county central committees of political parties

## Voter Registration

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Does everyone who wants to vote in Ohio have to be registered to vote here?

Yes.

#### What are the qualifications to register and to vote in Ohio?

You are qualified to register to vote in Ohio if you meet all the following requirements:

1. You are a citizen of the United States;
  2. You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the next general election. (If you will be 18 on or before November 6, you may vote in the primary election to nominate candidates, but you cannot vote on issues or party central committees until you are 18);
  3. You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote;
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4. You are not incarcerated (in prison or jail) for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States;
5. You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court; and
6. You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violating the election laws.

You are eligible to vote in elections held in your voting precinct 30 days after you are duly registered to vote in this state. You may request an absentee ballot during that 30 day period.

### **Where is my residence for voting purposes?**

Your residence is important because it determines the contests for which you are eligible to vote (e.g., the proper congressional district, school district, etc.). Your voting residence is determined by the county board of elections using guidelines established by Ohio law ([R.C. 3503.02](#)). Your voting residence is the place in which your habitation is fixed and to which, whenever you are absent, you intend to return. Also, your voting residence is a location you consider to be a permanent, not a temporary, residence. You will not lose your voting residency in Ohio if you leave temporarily and intend to return to Ohio, unless you are absent from the state for four consecutive years. You may contact your local board of elections if you have any questions regarding your specific situation.

**(Exception:** You will not lose your residency after four years if your absence from Ohio is due to your employment with Ohio or the U.S. government, including military service, unless you vote in, or permanently move to, another state or country.)

If you do not have a fixed place of habitation, but you are a consistent or regular inhabitant of a shelter or other location to which you intend to return, you may use that shelter or other location as your residence for purposes of registering to vote.

For information on voting rights of those in the uniformed services and U.S. citizens living outside the U.S., [see page 14, "Uniformed Services and Overseas Citizens."](#)

## **May a college student register and vote from his or her school address in Ohio?**

It depends. A college student may vote using his or her Ohio school residence address if the student does not intend to return to a different permanent address. When a college student registers to vote from his or her school address, the school residence is considered to be the place to which the student's habitation is fixed and to which, whenever the student is absent, the student intends to return, and is considered by the student to be his or her permanent residence at the time of voting. Any other previous residence for voting purposes is no longer valid. It is illegal for a person to register and vote from two different addresses.

## **How can I register to vote?**

You may register to vote in person or by mail.

If you have Internet access, you may download a voter registration form from the Secretary of State's website: [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov). You may also use the National Mail Voter Registration form available at: [www.eac.gov/voter\\_resources/register\\_to\\_vote.aspx](http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx).

You also may ask a county board of elections or the Secretary of State's office to mail a voter registration application to you.

You may obtain a voter registration application, and register to vote, in person at any of the following locations:

- The office of the Secretary of State;
- The office of any of the 88 county boards of elections;
- The office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- Public libraries;
- Public high schools or vocational schools;
- County treasurers' offices; or
- Offices of designated agencies, including:
  - ◇ The Department of Job and Family Services;
  - ◇ The Department of Health (including the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program);
  - ◇ The Department of Mental Health;

- ◇ The Department of Developmental Disabilities;
- ◇ The Rehabilitation Services Commission; or
- ◇ The office of any state-assisted college or university responsible for providing assistance to disabled students.

When you have finished your voter registration application, please review it carefully for completeness and accuracy. You may either personally deliver, or send by U.S. mail, your voter registration application to a county board of elections or the Secretary of State's office. You, or another person acting on your behalf, also may deliver your application to one of the offices listed above, but you should ensure your application reaches the office of a board of elections or the Secretary of State no later than the voter registration deadline, the 30th day before the election at which you want to vote.

### **What is the registration deadline?**

Ohio has a 30-day voter registration requirement. However, if the voter registration deadline falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, then the deadline is extended to the next day that is not a Sunday or a legal holiday.

### **Registration by U.S. mail**

If you choose to register to vote using the U.S. mail, you may send your properly completed and signed registration application to the office of a county board of elections or the Secretary of State's office. Your application must be postmarked by the voter registration deadline, the 30th day before the election, in order to be eligible to vote in that election.

### **Registration in person**

If you choose to register to vote in person, you may deliver your registration application to the office of a county board of elections, the Secretary of State's office, a state or local office of a designated agency ([see previous list](#)), the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, the office of a county treasurer. Your application must be received by the voter registration deadline, the 30th day before the election, in order to be eligible to vote in that election.

You also may entrust your completed registration application to another person for delivery to elections officials. However, that person must deliver your application to a county board of elections or the Secretary of State's office within 10 days after you completed the application, or by the voter registration deadline, whichever is earlier.

## **What identification is required to register to vote?**

When registering to vote, you must provide your name, current residential address for voting purposes, date of birth, signature (see below) and a qualifying form of identification.

### **Registering in person:**

If you have a current valid Ohio driver's license, you must provide that number. If you do not have an Ohio driver's license number, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you have neither, an identification number will be issued to you by the county board of elections.

### **Registering by U.S. mail:**

If you register by mail and do not provide either a current Ohio driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number, you must enclose with your application a copy of one of the following forms of identification: current valid photo identification card, military identification, or a current (within one year) utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or government document showing your name and current address.

## **Do I have to sign my voter registration application?**

Yes. Ohio law requires the applicant to sign the voter registration application. "Sign" or "signature" means your written, cursive-style legal mark written in your own handwriting. If you do not use a cursive-style legal mark in your regular business and legal affairs, "sign" or "signature" means any other legal mark that you use in your regular business and legal affairs that is written in your own handwriting.

## **What if I am unable to sign my voter registration form or other election documents?**

If you are unable to sign your own name and have no other legal mark, make an "X," if possible, on the application signature line. The person who witnessed you making that mark must write his or her name beneath the signature line.

If you are unable to make an "X," you must indicate in some manner to the person assisting you that you want to register to vote. The person registering you must sign the application form and attest that you indicated that you want to register to vote.

**May a person who has my “power of attorney” sign my name to my voter registration application?**

No. However, if by reason of disability you are unable to physically sign your name or affix your mark to the application, you may appoint an “attorney-in-fact” in accordance with the specific requirements of [R.C. 3501.382](#). Your attorney-in-fact then may sign a voter registration application on your behalf, but only at your direction and in your presence. Contact your county board of elections or the Secretary of State’s office for the proper forms necessary to designate an “attorney-in-fact” for this purpose.

**What are my obligations to keep the board of elections informed of address or name changes?**

If you are already registered to vote but have moved within Ohio and/or changed your name, you must update your voter registration by submitting a new voter registration form or change of address form for your new residence and/or name.

Ohio’s voter registration application also serves as a change of address and change of name form. A form may be obtained online at [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov), at all locations where voter registration forms may be obtained ([see page 5](#)).

If your change of name and/or address form is completed properly, the board of elections will update your registration and send you a notice reflecting your new name and/or address. If your form is incomplete, the board will send you a notice of the information necessary to update your registration. If your valid change of name and/or address form is received or postmarked by the voter registration deadline, then you will be eligible to vote a regular (rather than a provisional) ballot at that election.

You may also update your registration during the 28 days immediately before, or on the day of, an election, but this may require you to vote a “provisional ballot” as described later in this guide.

**Do I declare my political party affiliation when I register?**

No. Under Ohio election law, you declare your political party affiliation by requesting the ballot of a political party in a partisan primary election.

If you do not desire to affiliate with a political party in Ohio, you are considered to be an unaffiliated voter. An unaffiliated voter does not vote the ballot of a political party in a primary election. However, an unaffiliated voter may vote the Official Questions & Issues Ballot, if there is one for the voter's precinct at the election.

### **May I vote if I have been convicted of a crime?**

As noted under the "Voter Registration" section of this guide, a person currently serving time in jail or prison for a felony conviction can neither register to vote nor vote. Additionally, a person who has twice been convicted of a violation of Ohio's elections laws is permanently barred from voting in Ohio. An otherwise qualified person convicted of a misdemeanor may vote, and an otherwise qualified person who had been convicted of a felony may register and vote while on probation or parole, or after completing his or her jail or prison sentence.

The voter registration of a person who is incarcerated on a felony conviction is cancelled; once that person has completed his or her jail or prison sentence, or is on probation, parole or community control, he or she must re-register to vote by the registration deadline before voting.

### **What happens after I submit my voter registration application?**

If the information contained on your application is found to be complete and truthful, the board of elections for the county in which you reside will accept your voter registration application. The board must register you to vote not later than 20 business days after receiving your application and promptly mail a notice to your voting residence address confirming that you are registered to vote, identifying your voting precinct and the location of your precinct, and stating the identification requirements for voting.

If you do not receive a notice that your registration was accepted or rejected, please contact your county board of elections before Election Day to determine if the board received your application.

### **Can I check my voter information online?**

Yes. You may check your voter information by performing a search on the Secretary of State's website: [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov). If performing such a search returns the information you registered, your county board of elections has successfully processed your voter registration form. If the

search does not return your information, please contact your county board of elections to check on the status of your registration. You should perform this kind of search before the deadline to register to vote so that in the event that the board of elections did not receive your information, or if it is not accurate, you have time to submit a new form before the deadline.

## Absentee Voting

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### When does absentee voting begin and end?

**Primary and general elections:** For uniformed services voters and overseas voters eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), the absent voters ballots must be ready 45 days before an election. For all other voters, absentee voting begins 35 days before the day of an election. Mail in absentee ballots must be requested by noon on the Saturday before the election.

In-person absentee voting for UOCAVA voters ends at 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election. For in-person absentee voting for non-UOCAVA voters, the deadline is 2:00 p.m. the Monday before the election. **For a list of all early in-person voting hours, please reference the second page of this file.** There is an exception for voters hospitalized due to emergencies, as further described under the "Absentee Deadlines" section beginning on page 12 of this guide.

If delivered in person to the board office, all absentee ballots must be received no later than the close of polls on Election Day. If postmarked before Election Day and mailed to the board office, absentee ballots must be received no later than the 10th day after the election.

**Special elections:** Special elections are elections that are held on a day other than the day of a primary or general election. If the laws governing the special election make it impossible for the absent voter ballots to be printed by the timelines listed in the above section, then absentee voting for the special election begins as many days before the day of the election as reasonably possible. You may contact your county board of elections to learn if a special election is being held in your precinct and, if so, when absentee ballots will be available.

Once absentee ballots are available for voting, any eligible voter may receive and return an absentee ballot in person at the county board of elections office or, if a board of elections has designated another location as its absentee voting site, in person at that designated location, or by U.S. mail.

For the current elections calendar, please visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov).

### **Who is eligible to vote by absentee ballot?**

Any qualified Ohio voter whose registration information is up to date may request and vote an absentee ballot without stating a reason.

### **What is the application process for obtaining an absentee ballot?**

Ohio law provides separate application processes for different classifications of absentee voters (i.e., uniformed services, overseas, and regular citizens). In all cases, absentee ballots must be applied for in writing. If you are properly registered to vote, you must submit your written request to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located. Your request must contain certain information as described in the following sections and your signature. To avoid potential problems with your application, you are encouraged, but not required, to use an application form prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State. Application forms are available for download on the Secretary of State's website: [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov).

If you are not on active duty as a member of the U.S. armed services or other uniformed services, which includes Ohio's organized militia (the Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Naval Militia, and Ohio Military Reserve), or if you are a U.S. citizen not residing outside of the U.S., you are considered a "regular" absentee voter for the purpose of this guide.

## REGULAR ABSENTEE VOTERS

If you are a regular absentee voter, you may use the application form prescribed by the Secretary of State ([Form 11-A](#)) to apply for your absentee ballot. If you choose not to use the prescribed form, your written application need not be in any particular format, but it must contain all of the following information:

1. Your name;
2. Your legal signature;
3. The address at which you are registered to vote;
4. Your date of birth;
5. One of the following items showing proof of your identification:
  - a. Your Ohio driver's license number;
  - b. The last four digits of your Social Security number; or
  - c. A copy of your current and valid photo identification, military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address (**Note:** You cannot use a voter registration acknowledgement notice that the board of elections mailed to you as proof of identification.)
6. A statement identifying the election for which you are requesting an absentee voter's ballot;
7. A statement that you are a qualified elector;
8. If the request is for a partisan primary election ballot, your political party affiliation; and
9. If you want the ballot to be mailed, the address to which you want it mailed.

## ABSENTEE APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR REGULAR ABSENTEE VOTERS

### To receive your absentee ballot:

1. **In person:** After absentee ballots are available for voting, you may go to your county board of elections office or, if the board has designated another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of the board of elections office, during early in-person voting hours, but no later than 2 p.m. the Monday before the election. **For a list of all early in-person voting hours, please reference the second page of this file.**

2. **By mail:** Beginning January 1, 2012, or 90 days before the date of an election, whichever is earlier, you may mail your properly completed absentee ballot application bearing your original signature to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located. The board must receive your request by noon of the third day before the election (usually a Saturday). However, you should submit your request as far in advance of the election as possible to ensure there is sufficient time for the board to mail you a ballot and for you to timely return that ballot.
3. If you or your minor child is in the hospital on Election Day: Regardless of where you or your minor child is hospitalized, you must submit a properly completed and signed request to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located by 3 p.m. on Election Day. To be eligible under this provision, you or your minor child must be confined in a hospital because of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency. Your application must specify where, why, and when you or your minor child came to be hospitalized. If you or your minor child is hospitalized in the same county where you are registered to vote, two representatives of the board of elections can deliver the ballot to you, wait while you mark the ballot, and return your voted ballot to the board office. Additionally, you may include in your absentee ballot application a request that your county board of elections give your unmarked ballot to a designated relative – your spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece – who shall deliver the ballot to you in the hospital and return your voted ballot to the board office.

**For your absentee ballot to be counted, it must be received as follows:**

1. If you are a voter in the United States, your ballot may be returned:

**By U.S. mail:** The return envelope containing your marked ballot must either be **received** by the board of elections prior to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, or **postmarked** no later than the day before the election and received by the board of elections no later than 10 days after that election. (**Note:** Ohio’s election law states that “postmarked” does not include a date marked by a postage evidence system, such as a postage meter. Therefore, the return envelope must bear a valid postage cancellation stamp affixed by the U.S. Postal Service.)

**In person, either by you or an eligible family member:** Your marked ballot, which must be sealed in the completed and signed identification envelope provided with the ballot, must be delivered to the board of elections office no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

2. If you are a voter outside the U.S. on Election Day, your ballot envelope must be submitted for mailing not later than 12:01 a.m. on Election Day and received by your county board of elections not later than the 10 days after a special, primary or general election.

(**Note:** No voted ballot may be returned to a board of elections by fax or e-mail. If a voted ballot is returned by fax or e-mail, it will not be accepted, processed, or counted.)

## **UNIFORMED SERVICES AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTERS ("UOCAVA VOTERS")**

The voting rights of U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. and members of the uniformed services (U.S. Armed Forces, Merchant Marine, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), including Ohio's organized militia (Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Naval Militia, and Ohio Military Reserve) on active duty away from their Ohio voting residence are governed by Chapter 3511 of the Ohio Revised Code as well as a federal law known as "The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act" ("UOCAVA").

To assist UOCAVA voters, the Ohio Secretary of State has created a special publication, the "Military Ready to Vote" or MRV, which is available at [www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com](http://www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com). You should also use as a resource the Federal Voting Assistance Program at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and the Overseas Vote Foundation at [www.OverseasVoteFoundation.org](http://www.OverseasVoteFoundation.org).

## Election Day Voting

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Where do I vote on Election Day?**

On Election Day, you must cast your ballot in your precinct at your designated polling place between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. If you do not know where your designated precinct or polling place is located, please contact your county board of elections. If you have access to the Internet, you may also visit the Secretary of State's website, [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov), for the location of your designated polling place.

#### **How do I mark my ballot?**

Instructions for marking and casting your ballot are posted in each polling place. If you have any questions about how to mark or cast your ballot, or if you have incorrectly marked a ballot, immediately contact a precinct election official for instructions before you continue.

#### **May I receive assistance in voting?**

A voter with a physical or mental disability, or a voter who is unable to read or write, may be assisted by anyone of the voter's choice, except a candidate whose candidacy is being voted on in that precinct, the voter's employer or the employer's agent, or an officer or agent of the voter's union. A voter may also be assisted by two poll workers (each of a different political party). No one who assists a voter may disclose any information about how that person voted.

#### **Will I need an ID to Vote?**

Yes. All voters must bring acceptable identification to the polls in order to verify their identity. Acceptable identification includes a current and valid photo identification; military identification; or a copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a voter registration acknowledgement notification mailed by the board of elections, that shows the voter's name and current address.

A voter presenting an Ohio driver's license that shows the voter's former address is permitted to cast a regular ballot so long as the voter's current residential address is printed in the official poll list of registered voters for that precinct.

Voters who do not provide one of these documents at the precinct will still be able to vote using a provisional ballot. Voters who do not have any of the above forms of identification, including a Social Security number, will still be able to vote by signing an affirmation statement swearing to the voter's identity under penalty of election falsification and by casting a provisional ballot.

## **VOTING BY PROVISIONAL BALLOT**

### **What is a provisional ballot?**

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote if a voter's eligibility is in question and the voter would otherwise not be permitted to vote at his or her polling place. The content of a provisional ballot is no different from a regular ballot, but it is cast "provisionally" until election officials can verify the voter's eligibility to vote in the particular precinct at that election.

There are several scenarios in which a voter may cast a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot may be used on Election Day if a voter's eligibility is in question, or before (or on) Election Day if a voter has recently changed his or her address or name and did not update his or her voter registration.

### **Where would I cast a provisional ballot?**

**Before Election Day:** If you have changed your name or moved from one Ohio precinct to another and did not update your voter registration prior to the deadline for submitting your change of address (30 days before the election), then you may cast a provisional ballot in person at the office of the board of elections, or a place designated by the board of elections for that purpose, beginning the 28th day before the election.

**On Election Day:** In the precinct at the designated polling place based upon your current residential address, or, if you have changed your name or moved from one Ohio precinct to another and did not update your voter registration prior to the deadline for submitting your change of address (30 days before the election) then you may cast your provisional ballot in person at the office of the board of elections, or a place designated by the board of elections for that purpose.

## **What scenarios would require me to cast a provisional ballot?**

Any of the following scenarios would require you to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day:

- Your name does not appear on the official poll list for that precinct, or an election official asserts that you are not eligible to vote or is unable to determine your eligibility;
- You are unable or decline to provide the required proof of identity, which includes a current and valid photo identification, military identification, or a copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address. (**Note:** You cannot use as proof of identification a voter registration acknowledgement notice that the board of elections mailed to you.);
- Your name appears on the official poll list for that precinct as having already requested an absentee ballot;
- Your name is marked on the poll list or signature book with a notation that certain registration mailings have been returned as undeliverable;
- A hearing on a challenge to your eligibility as an elector has been postponed until after Election Day;
- Your signature, in the opinion of the precinct officers, does not match the signature on your registration form; or
- Your eligibility to cast a ballot has been challenged by the precinct officials.

## **After I cast a provisional ballot, do I have to do anything to make sure my vote is counted?**

Before your provisional ballot can be included in the official count of an election, the board of elections must confirm your eligibility to cast the ballot, as well as the validity of the ballot that you cast.

If you cast your provisional ballot and provided acceptable proof of identity, you typically do not need to provide any additional information to the board of elections.

If you cast a provisional ballot and did not provide acceptable proof of identity at the time of voting, you must appear in person at the board of elections to provide such proof within the 10 days immediately following Election Day, in accordance with Ohio law. The following guidelines apply:

1. If you cast a provisional ballot because you had, but could not provide to election officials at the time you voted, acceptable proof of your identity or the last four digits of your Social Security number, you must provide to the board of elections one of the following:
  - Acceptable proof of your identity in the form of a current and valid photo identification;
  - A military identification;
  - A copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (but not a voter registration acknowledgement notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university); or
  - The last four digits of your Social Security number.
  
2. If you cast a provisional ballot because, at the time you voted, you had, but declined to provide, an acceptable form of identification or the last four digits of your Social Security number, and you declined to execute the written affirmation statement swearing to your identity under penalty of election falsification, you must provide to the board of elections one of the following:
  - Acceptable proof of your identity in the form of a current and valid photo identification;
  - A military identification;
  - A copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (but not a voter registration acknowledgement notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university); or
  - The last four digits of your Social Security number.
  
3. If you cast a provisional ballot because, at the time you voted, you did not have any acceptable form of identification or a Social Security number, and you declined to execute the written affirmation statement swearing to your identity under penalty of election falsification, you must provide to the board of elections one of the following:
  - Acceptable proof of your identity in the form of current and valid photo identification;
  - A military identification;

- A copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (but not a voter registration acknowledgement notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university);
  - The last four digits of your Social Security number; or
  - A signed affirmation statement (provided by the board of elections) stating that you do not have any of the above items.
4. If you cast a provisional ballot because your right to vote was challenged at the polling place under R.C. 3505.20, and the election officials either determined that you were ineligible to vote or were unable to determine your eligibility, you must provide any identification or other documentation required to resolve the challenge.

## **TTY Assistance**

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The Secretary of State's office maintains a telephone line to provide information on registration and voting for hearing-impaired citizens: (614) 728-3295 or (877) 889-6446.

## **County Boards of Elections Directory**

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For specific elections information in your county, contact your local board of elections. For the most up-to-date contact information, visit the Ohio Secretary of State website at: [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov)



### As a Precinct Election Official

- Get a front row seat on Election Day by staffing a polling place
- Do your part for your country, state and local community
- Earn extra spending money in the process

Thousands of Precinct Election Officials are needed to staff the polls on Election Day. Get more information about joining the P.E.O. ranks by signing up at [www.PEOinOhio.com](http://www.PEOinOhio.com) or filling in the information below and mail it back to the Ohio Secretary of State's office at: 180 E. Broad St., 15th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Name (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County where I am registered to vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

I am fluent in a language other than English.

Language: \_\_\_\_\_

### To become a Precinct Election Official in Ohio:

- You must be at least 17 years of age and registered to vote
- You must be a registered voter in the county in which you plan to work
- You cannot be running as a candidate for the election in which you are working
- You must not have been convicted of a felony

### Keep in mind:

- All P.E.Os are required to attend a training session scheduled by your county board of elections prior to the election
- You can expect to work from about 5:30 a.m. (polls are open at 6:30) until 8:30 p.m. (polls close at 7:30), though working hours vary from county to county

# My vote

**My Right • My Responsibility**

As an Ohio voter, when I exercise my **RIGHT** to vote on Election Day, I have a **RESPONSIBILITY** to do my part.

## I will...

- Register to vote 30 days prior to Election Day and keep my contact information up-to-date
- Remember to bring appropriate identification with me to the polls
- Know my proper polling place & precinct



For more information visit  
[www.MyOhioVote.com](http://www.MyOhioVote.com)

## Jon Husted

Ohio Secretary of State



Elections Division  
180 E. Broad St., 15th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-2585

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