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 & keep my address up to date with the board of elections.
- Remember to bring valid identification with me to the polls.
- Know my proper polling place & precinct.

This Guide to Voting in Ohio will help you prepare for the upcoming election. The guide contains information on voter registration and details absentee balloting requirements as well as what to expect at your polling location on Election Day.

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Registering to Vote

To vote in Ohio you must:

- register at least 30 days before Election Day;
- be a citizen of the United States;
- be at least 18 years old on or before the next general election; and
- be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days before the election (your residence is a location you consider your permanent dwelling).

Getting Started

1. To register to vote, you must complete a voter registration form. Go to www.MyOhioVote.com to access the online Voter Registration System, download a blank form, or request one be mailed to you by the Secretary of State’s Office or your county board of elections. You may also pick up a voter registration form at a number of other places, including public libraries, public high schools, Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle locations and the Department of Job and Family Services. For a complete list of locations, visit www.MyOhioVote.com.

2. Properly complete the voter registration form, including all required information noted in the instructions.

3. Once you have completed your registration, return it by mail to the Secretary of State’s office, your county board of elections or one of the locations listed previously in #1. You will then be sent a notice from your county board identifying your polling location and precinct.

4. You may check your voter information at www.MyOhioVote.com. If the search does not return your information, please contact your county board of elections to check on the status of your registration.

Your Options for Voting

Voting on Election Day

- Polls are open on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- You must cast your ballot at your designated polling place.
- If you do not know the location of your precinct or polling place, please contact your county board of elections or use the voter lookup tool available on the Secretary of State’s website, www.MyOhioVote.com.
- Remember to bring an acceptable form of identification to the polls on Election Day.

Acceptable Form of Identification Examples

- A current and valid driver’s license or state identification card
- An original or copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address.
- Military identification

Absentee Voting by Mail

If you are a qualified Ohio voter and your registration is up to date, you are eligible to cast an absentee ballot.

- Absentee voting begins the day after the close of voter registration.
- You must request that an absentee ballot be mailed to you no later than noon on the Tuesday before an election, though you should request an absentee ballot as early as possible to have time to receive, vote and return your ballot.
- You may also download a request form at www.MyOhioVote.com.

Early In-Person Absentee Voting

Starting the day after the close of voter registration, you may cast your absentee ballot in person at your county board of elections or voting center as designated by the county. Check with your county board of elections for more specific information.

Keep Your Registration Current

If you are registered to vote but have moved within Ohio and/or changed your name, you should update your voter registration at least 30 days prior to the election. You can do so by:

- submitting a new registration form with your new residence and/or name; or

Common Reasons for Voting a Provisional Ballot

Any of the following scenarios would require you to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day. For a complete list, visit www.MyOhioVote.com.

- You are not registered to vote or did not update your address at least 30 days prior to the election.
- You are unable or decline to provide an acceptable form of identification (see list on previous panel).
- You already requested an absentee ballot for that election.

The content of a provisional ballot is the same as a regular ballot, but it is cast “provisionally” until election officials can verify your eligibility to vote.

If you cast a provisional ballot and did not provide an acceptable form of identification, you must appear in person at the board of elections within seven days immediately following Election Day with your ID for your ballot to be counted. For more information on provisional ballots visit www.MyOhioVote.com.