A toolkit for the Pennsylvania voter

Everyone.VotesPA.com
2018 Voter Registration Deadlines

April 16, 2018 for May 15, 2018 Primary Election

October 9, 2018 for November 6, 2018 General Election
Who can register to vote in Pennsylvania?

You must be:

• A citizen of the United States for at least one month
• A resident of Pennsylvania and the election district in which you want to register and vote
• Eighteen years of age or older on or before the next election
How to Register to Vote

www.register.votespa.com
How to Register to Vote

2. IN-PERSON

3.
How to Register to Vote
How to Register to Vote using the Online Voter Registration Application

2. Fill out the form and submit your application.
3. Use the application number to track your submission.
4. Get your voter registration card in the mail.

Register now at register.votesPA.com
Where to access the Online Voter registration application

www.register.votespa.com
www.votespa.com
VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Deadline Alert: 03/28/2016 is the last day to register before the 04/25/2016 election.

Your registration is **not complete** until processed and accepted by your county voter registration office.

**To vote in the next election**, you must complete your application by 03/28/2016. You can submit your application:

- On this web site
- Delivered to your county voter registration office.
- By mail to your county voter registration office, postmarked by 03/28/2016.

[Click here to download a blank voter registration form](#)

- If you are on active duty in the military, or you are a hospitalized or bedridden veteran, you can register at any time. See [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for more information.

If you have one, please have your PA driver's license or PennDOT ID available to reference as you complete the application.

Frequently Asked Questions
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Deadline Alert: 03/29/2016 is the last day to register before the 04/26/2016 election.

Your voter registration application, including your signature on file at PennDOT, has been sent to your county voter registration office.

Your application number is: 22373.

Your registration is not complete until processed and accepted by your county voter registration office.

To check the status of your application, go to Find Voter Application Status and enter your application number, name, and date of birth.

If your registration is accepted, you will receive a Voter Registration Card from your county by nonforwardable mail.

If you do not receive your Voter Registration Card within 14 days, contact your county voter registration office.

For a copy of your application, download and print your application form.

Download and print your application form

If you provided an email address in the application form, a message has already been sent to you at the email provided.

If you did not provide an email address, and would like a message, enter your email below and click on the Submit button.

Email

Submit

COPYRIGHT © 2016 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

This website is compatible with the following browsers:
Voter Application Status

Application Type
Online Voter Registration

Application Number

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

Submit
VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Deadline Alert: 03/28/2016 is the last day to register before the 04/26/2016 election.

We were not able to match the information you provided to a PA driver’s license or PennDOT ID.

You entered:
PennDOT number: 11222333
First name: JOHN
Middle name:
Last name: SMITH
Suffix: 
Birth date: 01/01/1955

You can go back to the form to edit your information or continue with the voter registration process.

Go Back – Edit Information  Upload a Signature  Continue to Print and Mail
Upload a Signature

Instructions

- Please select signature image using the **Browse** button.
- The image should be in format/extension - .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, .tiff
- Image size should be equal or higher to **180 X 60 pixels**.

Please select a image: **Browse...**
Upload a Signature

Instructions

- Place a cursor on image and **drag** to position your signature **inside the red box**.
- **Zoom** the image using the slider bar below the image box.
- Signature should be clear and needs to fit **inside the red box**.
- Click **Preview/Submit** button to view how the signature will appear and submit it.

[Image showing a signature upload interface with instructions and buttons for Clear, Rotate, and Preview/Submit.]
Deadline Alert: 03/28/2016 is the last day to register before the 04/28/2016 election.

Your voter registration application including your signature has been sent to your county voter registration office.

Your application number is: 22075.

Your registration is not complete until processed and accepted by your county registration office.

To check the status of your application, go to Find Voter Application Status and enter your application number, name, and date of birth.

If your registration is accepted, you will receive a Voter Registration Card from your county by non-forwardable mail.

If you do not receive your Voter Registration Card within 14 days, contact your county voter registration office.

For a copy of your application, download and print your application form.

Download and print your application form

If you provided an email address in the application form, a message has already been sent to you at the email provided.

If you did not provide an email address, and would like a message, enter your email below and click on the Submit button.

Email

Submit
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Deadline Alert: 03/28/2016 is the last day to register before the 04/26/2016 election.

We were not able to match the information you provided to a PA driver's license or PennDOT ID.

You entered:
PennDOT number: 11222333
First name: JOHN
Middle name:
Last name: SMITH
Suffix:
Birth date: 01/01/1955

You can go back to the form to edit your information or continue with the voter registration process.

Go Back – Edit Information  Upload a Signature  Continue to Print and Mail

PRIVACY POLICY  SECURITY POLICY  AGENCIES  CONTACT US
COPYRIGHT © 2016 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

This website is compatible with the following browsers:
VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Deadline Alert: 03/28/2016 is the last day to register before the 04/26/2016 election.

Your application number is: 21783

Your PA driver’s license or PennDOT ID number could not be verified.

You must print, sign, and mail your voter registration form.

Your application is not complete until your county voter registration office receives your signature. To meet the registration deadline, your printed and signed application must be received by the county voter registration office or postmarked no later than 03/28/2016. If your application is accepted, you will receive a Voter Registration Card from your county.

Use the link below to:
- Print your voter registration application
- Sign and date it
- Mail it to your county voter registration office. The address will be printed on the form for you.
- Do not FAX your application form.

To check the status of your application, go to Find Voter Application Status and enter your application number, name, and date of birth.

☐ I do not want to print the form, please send me a signature form.

Download and print your application form

If you provided an email address in the application form, a message has already been sent to you at the email provided.

If you did not provide an email address, and would like a message, enter your email below and click on the Submit button.

Email

Submit
You’re registered to vote!

Now what?

- What’s on the ballot?
- Where do I go?
- When do I vote?
- What is a primary election and how do they work?
- What happens when I show up at the polling place?
What’s on the ballot - 2018?

State Offices

United State Senator
Representative in Congress
Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Senator in the General Assembly
Representative in the General Assembly
Want more information?


- Committee of Seventy: https://www.seventy.org/tools/elections-voting

- Candidate websites
When do I vote?

Election Dates:
Primary: May 15, 2018
General: November 6, 2018

Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm
Where do I go?

votespa.com/polls
FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

The Polling Place Search will help you locate the polling place for a given residential address. Begin by typing the county of residence. After the county has been selected, the city field will activate, allowing you to enter a city. Then enter the street name and the house number.

If the polling place is not found, check the information you entered and make sure it is the correct residential address. Click Search again. If the polling place is still not found, contact your county election office.

* County:

City:

* Street Name:

House #:

Search
What happens when I show up at the polling place?
Voting Machines

First-time voter?

The state of Pennsylvania uses 10 different voting systems. Know what to expect before you arrive at your polling place. View a demonstration of the voting system used in your county.

Search by county at votesPA.com
Electronic Voting Systems for PA Counties
Updated 1/31/2017

Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) = 50 Counties  
Optical Scan = 13 Counties  
DRE & Optical Scan = 4

Danaher ELECTronic 1242 (6)  
ES&S M100/iVotronic (1)  
Hart eScan/eSlate (3)  
Sequoia Edge II (1)

ES&S M650/AutoMark (2)  
ES&S iVotronic (24)  
Premier TSX (16)

ES&S M 100/AutoMark (11)  
Hart eSlate (1)  
Sequoia Advantage (2)
Absentee Voting

You may vote absentee before Election Day if you cannot appear to vote at your polling place on Election Day.

You must have a reason or “excuse” that you cannot appear.

www.votespa.com/absentee
Reasons for Absentee voting

1. Away from municipality where you vote because:
   - Business, duties or occupation cause you to be away during time polls are open
   - Leave of absence, sabbatical
   - Vacation
   - College student living at school
Reasons for Absentee voting

2. Cannot go to the polling place because:

- Illness or disability
- Observance of religious holiday
- Hospitalized veteran
- Election duties
Reasons for Absentee voting

3. Military Service
Absentee Voting Information

Voters must provide driver’s license number, last 4 digits of Social Security Number, or a copy of an acceptable photo ID when applying for an absentee ballot.

www.votespa.com/absentee
Absentee Voting Deadlines

Absentee Ballot Application Deadline Primary:  May 8, 2018
Absentee Ballot Application Deadline General:  October 30, 2018

Voted Absentee Ballot:
**MUST BE RECEIVED** by the county board of elections by
5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day.

Postmarks do not count as received!

Absentee Ballot Deadline Primary:
**MUST BE RECEIVED BY:** May 11, 2018
Absentee Ballot Deadline General:
**MUST BE RECEIVED BY:** November 2, 2018
What is a provisional ballot?
A paper ballot that is given to voters who do not appear eligible to vote at the polling place because their name is not listed in the poll book or are first-time voters without acceptable identification.

It is “provisional” because the ballot may or may not be counted depending on whether the voter is found to be eligible to vote for all or some of the races on the ballot.
Provisional Ballots

Pollworkers should offer, or voters may request a provisional ballot IF:

• You believe you are registered to vote but your name is not listed in the poll book or supplemental poll book;
• You are a first time voter and are unable to show acceptable identification
Provisional Ballots

What should you do if your name is not in the poll book?

• Have the poll worker call the county voter services office and verify your registration and polling place
• If you are registered and in the correct polling place you should be able to vote normally
• If you are in the incorrect polling place, you should go to the correct polling place, time permitting
Provisional Ballots

Provisional Ballots are the ballot of last resort! BUT, you should not leave the polling place without at least voting a provisional ballot.

- Follow all instructions for casting a provisional ballot carefully
- Fill out all the information and sign the affidavit on the outer envelope
- Make sure you insert your ballot in the secrecy envelope and then insert it into the outer envelope
- Sign the front of the outer envelope too!
- Make sure you get your Provisional Ballot Identification Receipt.
- The receipt will provide instructions on how to access the Commonwealth’s free access system.
Provisional Ballots

The Board of Elections will decide whether provisional ballots are counted 7 days after the election

• The board will examine the ballots and envelopes to ensure that all procedures were followed
• The Board will check the voter’s registration status
• If the voter was registered and eligible and did not cast any other ballot, the ballot will be counted. The board will count part of the ballot if the voter was in the incorrect polling place and not entitled to vote for all races in the polling place in which the ballot was voted.
Check the status of your provisional ballot

https://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us/Pages/ProvisionalBallotSearch.aspx
Pennsylvania Voter Protection
Test Your Knowledge
True or False: You can only register to vote if you are 18 (or older).
True or False: You can only register to vote if you are 18 (or older).

Mainly True: You can register to vote before your 18th birthday as long as you turn 18 on or before the very next election.
True or False: College Students from other states who attend college in PA may not register to vote in PA.
True or False: College Students from other states who attend college in PA may not register to vote in PA.

False: In Pennsylvania, a college student has 2 choices: She may register at her on-or off-campus address or register at her prior address. Note that the choice of registration may affect other aspects of the student’s life, e.g. car insurance premiums.
True or False: You cannot vote if you have a prior felony conviction.
True or False: You cannot vote if you have a prior felony conviction.

**False:** In Pennsylvania, people with felony convictions on their record can vote as long as they are not actually serving time for a felony conviction when they vote on Election Day.
True or False: You cannot register to vote if you are living in transitional housing after incarceration.
True or False: You cannot register to vote if you are living in transitional housing after incarceration.

**False.** Someone who has served their minimum sentence and is released to community correctional facility may register to vote and vote because they are no longer incarcerated.
True or False: You can vote while you are in prison if you are serving time for a misdemeanor only.
True or False: You can vote while you are in prison if you are serving time for a misdemeanor only.

**TRUE**: You can vote from prison by absentee ballot if you are convicted of a misdemeanor.

- To get an absentee ballot, you must fill out an absentee ballot request form/application and return it by the appropriate deadline.
- You will also need to include your driver’s license number on your application. If you don’t have a driver’s license, you will need the last four digits of your Social Security number.
True or False: You cannot vote if you’re on probation, parole, or house arrest.
True or False: You cannot vote if you’re on probation, parole, or house arrest.

**False.** People who are on probation, parole, or house arrest can vote. Also, people who are awaiting trial can vote, even if in prison. The only time a person convicted of a felony cannot vote is when s/he is serving her/his sentence behind bars.

Pennsylvania no longer has “pre-release status.”
True or False: You cannot vote in Pennsylvania if you were convicted of a felony in another state and that state did not restore your voting eligibility.
True or False: You cannot vote in Pennsylvania if you were convicted of a felony in another state and that state did not restore your voting eligibility.

False: Even if you were convicted of a felony in one of the few states that permanently takes away voting eligibility, because Pennsylvania does not do that, if you are a resident of Pennsylvania and you meet all of the other requirements for becoming a voter, you can register.
True or False: If you don’t have ID you cannot vote.
True or False: If you don’t have ID you cannot vote.

True and False: Only first time voters must show acceptable ID, photo or non-photo. If you don’t have ID, you can vote a provisional ballot.
• **ACCEPTABLE PHOTO IDs:**
  • Pennsylvania driver’s license or PennDOT ID card
  • ID issued by any Commonwealth agency
  • ID issued by the U.S. Government
  • U.S. passport
  • U.S. Armed Forces ID
  • Student ID
  • Employee ID

**ACCEPTABLE NON PHOTO ID**
• Non-photo ID issued by the Commonwealth
• Non-photo ID issued by the U.S. Government
• Firearm permit
• Current utility bill
• Current bank statement
• Current paycheck
• Government check
True or False: Your county issued voter registration card can be used as ID when you vote.
True or False: Your county issued voter registration card can be used as ID when you vote. True.
True or False: You can use your Student ID to vote on Election Day.
True or False: You can use your Student ID to vote on Election Day.

**True:** Any student ID is an acceptable form of ID for first time voters in a polling place.
True or False: If you don’t have a driver’s license, you can’t vote.
True or False: If you don’t have a driver’s license you can’t vote.

False: Voters do not need Photo ID to vote. Caution: Not everyone who has a driver’s license can vote! You must be
1) a U.S. citizen and
2) 18 years old or older on or before the next election
True or False: If your name is not in the poll book, you cannot vote.
True or False: If your name is not in the poll book, you cannot vote.

False. The pollworkers can check other sources including:

• A supplemental voter list;
• The master list at the county by calling the county voter registration office.
• The county can also determine if the voter is in the correct polling location.
• If a voter is not on any list but believes he is registered, the voter may vote a provisional ballot.
True or False: Voters are not allowed to have help inside the voting booth.
True or False: Voters are not allowed to have help inside the voting booth.

False: You CAN have help if you are unable to read the information on the machine or the ballot for any reason, or if you cannot operate the machine without help. You can choose your helper.
True or False: You can see what is on the ballot before you vote.
True or False: You can see what is on the ballot before you vote.

True: Election officials must post sample ballots in or around the polling place on Election Day. The sample ballot is often printed on colored paper so that it’s easy to see. You may also access sample ballots before the election through some counties’ websites.
# Sample Ballot

| Position                        | Office Type | Description | Party | Name | Address | Vote
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judge of the Supreme Court</td>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge of the Court of Appeals</td>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</td>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</td>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Commissioner</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Treasurer</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Recorder</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Auditor</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Clerk</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Clerk</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Clerk</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Clerk</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Press the green vote button below only after you have made all your choices.**
True or False: You can choose who assists you with voting.
True or False: You can choose who assists you with voting.

True. You have the right to choose the person who will help you. For example, you can have your child, or another relative assist with interpretation.
True or False: You can bring your children into the polls with you.
True or False: You can bring your children into the polls with you.

True: You can enter the polling place with more than one child/minor(s); however only one of them can go into the voting booth with you.
True or False: Only elections officials can challenge a voter.
True or False: Only elections officials can challenge a voter.

• False: In addition to elections officials, certified pollwatchers and any voter who is in the polling place to vote may challenge a voter’s eligibility to vote. (only 10 voters are permitted inside at one time).
True or False: The only grounds for challenging a voter at the polls are identity and residency.
True or False: The only grounds for challenging a voter at the polls are identity and residency.

- True: a voter may be challenged on the grounds that she is not the person she claims to be (identity); or that the voter has moved out of the voting district (residency.)

- A voter may not be challenged on the grounds of the voter’s eligibility to register. Those kinds of challenges are made to the County Board of Elections, not at the precinct.
True or False: If you are challenged, you can only vote by provisional ballot.
True or False: If you are challenged, you can only vote by provisional ballot.

**False:** This depends on the type of challenge.

- A first time voter without ID: gets a provisional ballot
- Voter who believes she is registered but not in the book: gets a provisional ballot
- Residency or identity challenge: Voter must get a witness to sign an affidavit as to voter’s identity or residency. If voter does so, then the voter gets a **regular** ballot.
True or False: If the electronic voting machines are broken, voters are out of luck and cannot vote.
True or False: If the electronic voting machines are broken, voters are out of luck and cannot vote.

False: If 50% or more of DRE voting machines are broken, voters must be offered emergency paper ballots to vote. *NAACP v. Cortes*, No. 08-5048 (E.D.Pa. 2008)

• Voters in opscan districts with paper ballots can still vote if scanner is broken. Ballots are inserted into special slot for later counting.
Questions?