

2017 VOTER GUIDE

Why is voting important to YOU?

YOUR VOTE is the single most powerful voice you have to tell the government how you feel about things that will have an impact on your financial and physical well-being, and the protection of your rights! **ONLY YOU KNOW** what is best for you and your community. Do not count on other people to know what is right for you unless you tell them!

Who can vote?

To be eligible to register and vote in Ohio, you **MUST**:

- ★ Be a United States citizen. Any native or naturalized citizen is eligible.
- ★ Be a resident of Ohio. You need to have lived here at least 30 days before an election.
- ★ Be 18 years old. If you will be 18 on or before the General Election but not before the Primary Election, you may vote in the Primary Election for candidates, but not on issues or for precinct committeemen.

Where can I register to vote?

Register to vote for the upcoming election. You must register at least 30 days before Election Day.

1. On-line at the Ohio Secretary of State's website at: <https://olvr.sos.state.oh.us/ovru/ModifyAddress.aspx>
2. Register in-person at the Board of Elections or at any Job and Family Services office.
3. Register by mail and return the application to the Board of Elections or at any Job and Family Services office.

When you vote, take your I.D.

State law requires voters to show identification to vote.

Acceptable forms of I.D. are:

- An unexpired Ohio driver's license or state identification card with present or former address so long as the voter's present residential address is printed in the official list of registered voters for that precinct;
- A military identification;
- A photo identification that was issued by the United States government or the State of Ohio, that contains the voter's name and current address and that has an expiration date that has not passed;
- An original or copy of a current (within last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, current government check or paycheck with the voter's name and present address; or
- An original or copy of a current other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and present address.

If you do not have the required proof of identity, you may cast a **provisional ballot**.

All Ohioans have the opportunity to vote from home by requesting an **absentee ballot**. Contact the Board of Elections office for more information.

What are your rights?

As a voter you:

- can ask for written or verbal instructions;
- must be given another ballot if you make a mistake up to three times;
- can bring an aide or interpreter if you are disabled or have a language barrier;
- cannot be prevented from voting for any reason if you are a registered voter;
- can vote if you are in line at the correct polling location at the time the polls close;
- must be given an explanation and offered a solution if you are not allowed to vote;
- must be provided with a voting machine that is in working condition.

2017 DATES TO REMEMBER

April 3

Last day to register for
Primary Election

May 2

Primary Election Day
Polls open from
6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

October 10

Last day to register for
General Election

November 7

General Election Day
Polls open from
6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.



Absentee Voting

- Any qualified Ohio voter may request an absentee ballot **WITHOUT** stating a reason.
- You must request an absentee ballot from the county board of elections in which you are registered or from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office at www.sos.state.oh.us, or 1-877-767-6446.
- Requests can be made by mail up to three days before the election and in person at the Board of Elections until the day before the election.

2017 Absentee Voting Deadlines

Primary Election

April 29: Last day for the Board of Elections to receive requests by mail for the Primary Election. Must be received by noon.

May 1: Last day to apply for and vote in person with an absentee ballot at the Board of Elections for the Primary Election. Office closes at 2pm. In the event of a hospitalization, contact the Board of Elections.

May 2: Primary Election Day.

General Election

Nov. 4: Last day for the Board of Elections to receive requests by mail for absentee ballots. Must be received by noon.

Nov. 6: Last day to apply for and vote in person with an absentee ballot at the Board of Elections for the General Election. Office closes at 2pm. In the event of a hospitalization, contact the Board of Elections.

Nov. 7: General Election Day.

Provisional Voting



- Provisional voting is a safety-net used to protect your right to vote.
- If voter registration records have not been updated by either the voter or the county board of elections, provisional voting allows voters to cast ballots and have their registration information verified later.
- Provisional voting allows voters who have moved within 30 days of an election to vote in their new precincts.
- Voters who do not bring acceptable I.D. to the polls will be **required** to vote provisionally.

Did you know?

- You do NOT have to vote on everything...you can just vote on the issues or candidates you care about.
- You do NOT have to belong to a political party to vote. Your party affiliation (if you choose to have one) is determined by your party declaration and candidate ballot in a Primary Election. You may vote on issues without declaring a political party by requesting an "issues-only" ballot.
- Jury duty is selected not only from voter registrations, but ALSO from those with a DRIVER'S LICENSE.
- A voter with a disability or who is unable to read or write may be assisted by anyone the voter chooses, except by a candidate for office in that precinct, an employer or his/her agent, or an officer or agent of the union a voter belongs to. The voter may be assisted by two poll workers of opposite political parties. No one who assists a voter may disclose any information about how that person voted.

FOR MORE VOTER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Athens County Board of Elections, 15 S. Court St., Athens, OH 45701 or (740)592-3201

<http://www.athensboardofelections.com/>

Ohio Secretary of State, 1-877-767-6446 or <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>

League of Women Voters of Athens County, <http://athensleagueofwomenvoters.org/>

Athens County Job & Family Services, 13183 State Route 13, Millfield, OH 45761

1-800-762-3775 or <http://jfs.athensoh.org>