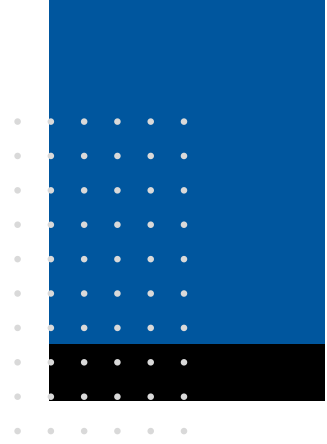




# OHIO GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

2024

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## WHY THIS ELECTION MATTERS

### Greetings, democracy lovers!

As we write this, the summer season is coming to a close. The Cleveland VOTES team and countless dedicated partners are gearing up for what we know will be a busy fall election season. Admittedly, for many of us the weight of this upcoming season comes with an influx of strong feelings.

Election season, for some, can feel like a tidal wave rushing through our communities. And while that may feel incredibly over-whelming, we encourage you to pause and reflect on what you can do NOW so that instead of being swept away by the wave's power, you harness that power instead. And while there are many factors we do not have direct control over, one thing is for certain---we can always count on each other.

As we see countless ads, receive dozens of text messages, and see many (many!) yard signs, it's important to remember: your vote holds tremendous weight. We implore everyone not

just to recognize their power, but to ACTivate that power in others.

And you can activate in the way that makes sense for you, whether it's sharing this Election Guide with your network, canvassing door-to-door, writing postcards, working the polls on election day, and/or conversing with your loved ones about the issues + candidates. All of it is necessary work!

This FREE Election Guide--like all of our community resources--is our team's way of ensuring that we maintain our commitment to EDUCATE, CONNECT and EMPOWER our community.

Thanks for staying #ElectionReady!

In power,

**Cleveland VOTES**

# BEFORE YOU VOTE

## Pre-voting steps

### 1. Check your voter registration status.

It's always good to check your voter registration status (even if you're \*sure\* you're registered) in the months and weeks leading up to an election. Factors that can change your status include moving (even a few blocks), a name change, and/or citizenship status change. Ohio also regularly purges people from the state voter rolls. You can check here to see if you've been purged. If so, you'll need to re-register.

You can check your registration status at voterlookup.ohiosos.gov. You can register to vote online at olvr.ohiosos.gov or mail this form to your county board of elections. In-person registration is available at boards of elections, Bureau of Motor Vehicles locations, public libraries and several other spots.

You'll need this information to register: **name, address, date of birth, the last four digits of your Social Security number, and your Ohio driver's license or state ID number.**

You can register to vote online at [olvr.ohiosos.gov](https://olvr.ohiosos.gov)

**VOTER SEARCH**

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION AND/OR FIND YOUR VOTING PRECINCT AND POLLING LOCATION BY ENTERING THE INFORMATION BELOW.

All fields are required.

First Name:

Last Name:

County:

**Voter Registration and Information Update Form**

Please read instructions carefully. Please type or print clearly with blue or black ink.

For further information, you may consult the Secretary of State's website at: [sos.ohio.gov](https://sos.ohio.gov) or call 1-877-626-CHIO (877-767-6448).

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

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election.
- You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote.
- You are not incarcerated (in jail or in prison) for a felony conviction.
- You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court.
- You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violations of election laws.

Use this form to register to vote or to update your current Ohio registration if you have changed your address or name.

**NOTICE:** This form must be received or postmarked by the 30th day before an election at which you intend to vote. You will be notified by your county board of elections of the location where you vote. If you do not receive a notice following timely submission of this form, please contact your county board of elections.

**Numbers 1 and 2 below are required by law.** You must answer both of the questions for your registration to be processed.

**Identification Requirements**  
If you have a current Ohio driver's license or state ID card, you must provide that number on line 10. If you do not have an Ohio driver's license or state ID card, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number on line 10. If you have neither, please write "None".

**Residency Requirements**  
Your voting residence is the location that you consider to be a permanent, not a temporary, residence. Your voting residence is the place in which your habitation is fixed and to which, whenever you are absent, you intend to return. 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. If you have questions about your specific residency circumstances, you may contact your local board of elections for further information.

**Your Signature**  
In the area below the arrow in Box 14, please write your current, handwritten signature or make your legal mark, taking care that it does not touch the surrounding lines so when it is digitally imaged by your county board of elections it can effectively be used to identify your signature.

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**

Please see information on back of this form to learn how to obtain an absentee ballot.

I am:  Registering as an Ohio voter  Updating my address  Updating my name

1. Are you a U.S. citizen?  Yes  No

2. Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before the next general election?  Yes  No

If you answered NO to either of the questions, do not complete this form.

3. Last Name:  First Name:  Middle Name or Initial:  J., Jr., III.

4. House Number and Street (Enter new address if changed):  Apt. or Lot #  5. City or Post Office:  6. ZIP Code:

7. Address (Mailing Address if different):  8. County (Select your county):

9. Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY) (required):  10. Ohio driver's license number, state ID card number, SSN and/or age of your identity number (see form if ID required to be listed or provided):  11. Phone Number (optional):

12. PREVIOUS ADDRESS IF UPDATING CURRENT REGISTRATION: Previous House Number and Street:  Previous City or Post Office:  Previous County:  Previous State:

13. CHANGE OF NAME ONLY (Former Legal Name):  Former Signature:

14. I declare under penalty of election falsification that I am a citizen of the United States, will have lived in this state for 30 consecutive days preceding the next election, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the general election.

Your Signature ↓ Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

FOR BOARD USE ONLY (do not write in this box)  
City:  Village/Town:   
Ward:   
Precinct:   
School Dist.:   
Comp. Date:   
Review Date:   
House Dist.:

## 2. Come up with a voting plan.

Once you establish that you are registered to vote, you will also need to decide **when**, **where** and **how** you will vote. Ohio allows a certain amount of early voting days for each election. We have created a helpful timeline of voting deadlines on page 10.

If you want to vote by mail, you'll need to request an absentee ballot. Either visit your local Board of Elections website and request one there, or follow [these instructions for requesting a mail-in ballot](#) from the Ohio Secretary of State's office. If you'd prefer to vote in person early or on Election Day, make sure you know the location of your local Board of Elections or [polling place](#). Also make note of the voting hours for the day you plan to vote. And finally, decide what type of valid voter I.D. you will bring with you to the polls.

The infographic is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID FOR VOTING IN PERSON IN OHIO', lists five items: 01 An Ohio driver's license, 02 An Ohio state ID card, 03 An interim identification form issued by the BMV, 04 A U.S. passport or passport card, and 05 A U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card. The right column, titled 'NO LONGER ACCEPTED FORMS OF ID FOR VOTING IN PERSON IN OHIO', lists five items with a red 'X' in a box: Utility or cell phone bill, Paycheck or government check, Bank statement, Government document from Social Security or Ohio Jobs and Family Services, and Student ID or county military ID.

Form of ID	Status
An Ohio driver's license	Acceptable
An Ohio state ID card	Acceptable
An interim identification form issued by the BMV	Acceptable
A U.S. passport or passport card	Acceptable
A U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card	Acceptable
Utility or cell phone bill	Not Accepted
Paycheck or government check	Not Accepted
Bank statement	Not Accepted
Government document from Social Security or Ohio Jobs and Family Services	Not Accepted
Student ID or county military ID	Not Accepted

### A NOTE ABOUT VOTER I.D. REQUIREMENTS

Since the new Ohio voter ID law [took effect in 2023](#), it's extra important to choose a valid form of I.D. *before* you vote because it can impact whether you are allowed to vote or not. You can read more about the current voting ID requirements for our state [here](#). If you do not have one of the forms of identification listed, [VoteRiders provides free voter ID assistance](#).



## VOTING FAQs



### **What should I do if I don't have a photo I.D.?**

If you don't have a valid photo ID, voting by mail is probably the best option for you. Voting by mail allows voters to provide a mailing address and the last 4 digits of their social in order to vote by mail. OR you can contact [VoteRiders](#), who will help you obtain an I.D.



### **How can I find the closest dropbox?**

Absentee ballots can be returned at your county board of elections (NOT your neighborhood polling place). Find your drop box location [here](#). And place your completed absentee ballot in the drop box by 7:30 pm on Election Day.



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

If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor, you have the right to vote, even if you are incarcerated. If you have been arrested for a felony but have not been convicted, you still have the right to vote. And if you are on parole or probation, live in a halfway house, or are on house arrest, you have the right to vote. Once you are out of jail or prison for a felony conviction, you must re-register to vote, even if you were previously registered. The only time you may not vote is if you are currently incarcerated on a felony conviction. But, you re-gain the right to vote once you are released. Just re-register at [voteohio.gov](#).

### Ohio Voter Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ You are a citizen of the United States
- ✓ You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the next general election
- ✓ You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote
- ✓ You are not incarcerated for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States
- ✓ You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court
- ✓ You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violating election laws

# VOTING FAQs [CONT'D]



## How can I get a ride to the polls?

[RideShare2Vote](#) can give you a free ride. And sometimes there are local initiatives to get people to the polls -- ask around!



## How can I see what's going to be on my ballot?

Most local boards of elections websites have sample ballots that you can review ahead of time. You can also go to [Ballotpedia](#) and put your address into their Sample Ballot Lookup Tool to get a detailed breakdown of the offices and issues that will appear on your ballot.



## I showed up at my polling place at 7:30pm. Can I still vote?

If you are in line at your polling place by 7:30pm, stay in line – you have the right to vote! If you get in line by 7:30pm and any poll workers try to turn you away, call or text **866-OUR-VOTE** and a trained volunteer can help you report and resolve it.



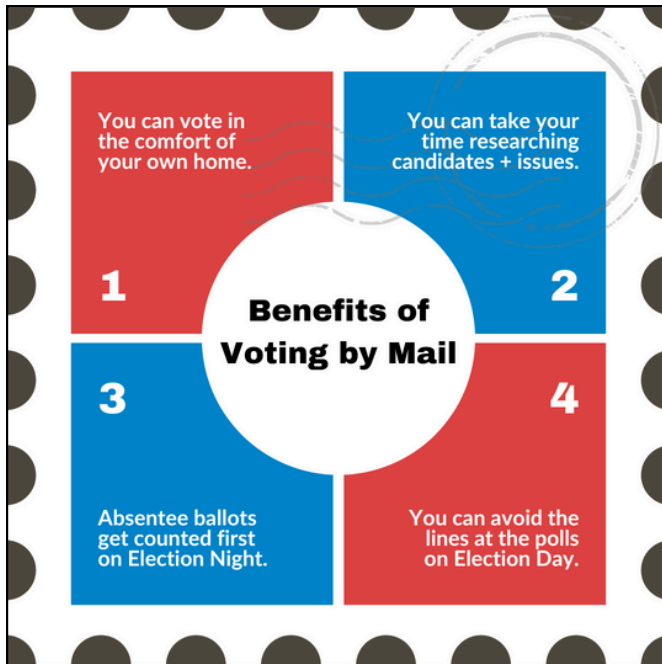
## How much postage do I need to put on my ballot?

Postage may vary according to the number of races on your local ballot. (longer ballot = heavier envelope). Check the instructions included with your ballot or contact your [county board of elections](#) to determine proper postage. You can buy postage at your local post office and oftentimes grocery and drug stores.

## HAVE A QUESTION ON ELECTION DAY?

Call or text **866-OUR-VOTE** to speak with a trained Election Protection volunteer.

Want to feel more secure *before* you hit the polls? Visit [866ourvote.org](https://866ourvote.org) to learn more about the Election Protection resources available to you.



## Can I track my ballot?

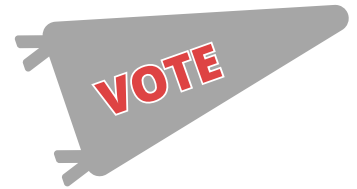
You can [track your ballot](#) from the moment you request it until it's received by your county board of elections. Once your ballot is received, it is securely stored until it is counted.

# VOTING FAQs [CONT'D]



## What are the voting guidelines for college students?

### If you're entering or currently attending college...



#### Voting in Your Hometown Election

Though you may be living on or near campus during the school year, you can participate in your hometown elections even from out of state. You can do so by maintaining your permanent home address as your voting residence and casting your ballot by:

- Requesting an absentee ballot from your county board of elections and voting by mail ([click here for more information about absentee voting](#));
- Voting in person in the 28 days before a primary or general election at your [home county board of elections](#) if you won't be at home on Election Day;
- Or, if you will be at home on Election Day, going to your assigned polling location for your home precinct.

Plan ahead before you go away to school. You can [request your absentee ballot](#) NOW from your hometown county board of elections to vote.

#### Voting from Your Campus Address

You may be able to vote from your campus address. Please review the [residency requirements for voter registration](#) or contact your [county board of elections](#) to discuss your specific circumstances.

If you are eligible and choose to vote in the election from your campus community, you must fill out a new [voter registration form](#) at least 30 days prior to the election using your campus address. This will cancel your hometown registration as you can only vote once in any given election.

### If you're leaving college...

If you are moving out due to graduation (congrats!) or other factors, make sure you take a couple of minutes to update your voter registration. This will ensure you can vote with ease in the next election.

Simply choose your option below based upon your plans.

- [Staying in Ohio](#)
- [Leaving Ohio](#)



*Have a question that didn't get answered here? Contact your local board of elections.*



# VOTING FAQs [CONT'D]



## What are the guidelines for voters who have a disability?

### Accessible voting options available in Ohio

All eligible people with disabilities have the right to vote with accommodations (unless a probate court has revoked this right). In Ohio, voters have numerous options when it comes to when, where, and how they can cast their ballots this November.

Voters with disabilities can vote by mail or in person. Absentee voters with a qualifying disability under the ADA can request an **accessible absentee ballot**. This allows them to receive their ballot in an accessible format on any device and mark their ballots privately and independently with any assistive technology they need. Requests must be submitted ahead of time through the Ohio Secretary of State's website [here](#). Also, if you experience an unforeseeable hospitalization, cannot vote on election day, or missed the application deadline for an absentee ballot due to an illness or disability, you can still request an absentee ballot.

If you have a disability and want to **vote in person**, Ohioans have the right to polling locations free of any barriers to their entrances and exits, and these locations must have ramps, wide doors, and accessible parking. Voters also have access to several different types of assistive voting technologies (depending on their needs) such as:

- Braille and tactile lettering
- Audio ballots
- Zoom screen/large print text
- Screen/text color contrast
- Screen height or tilt adjustments
- Sip/puff navigation
- Touch screen or push button navigation



Voters with disabilities can also bring someone with them if they need assistance during the voting process (such as a family member, friend, or health aide). Election workers can provide assistance if voters aren't able to bring someone.

Curbside voting is another option available to any voter who is physically unable to enter their polling location. In this option, two poll workers from opposite parties will bring a ballot to you. Voters have the option to sit in their vehicle to vote or vote at the door of the early voting location. They can also send in a representative to let election workers know they need help. If voting early and you opt for curbside voting, you must call the location before your arrival so election workers can make the necessary arrangements. On election day, calling ahead is not a requirement for curbside voting (but is still recommended as a courtesy).

It should be noted that regardless of disability status, all voters still must cast their ballots during the designated voting hours (which is 6:30 a.m. -- 7:30 p.m. on Election Day).

Still have questions? Check out the [Voters with Disabilities webpage](#) from the Ohio Secretary of State or contact your local Board of Elections.

# **VOTING FAQs [CONT'D]**



## **What should I do if I want to register to vote but also keep my voter info private?**

When you register to vote, your mailing address becomes publicly available on voter registration lists, including the Ohio Secretary of State's website. While this feature of the voter registration process makes it easier to quickly look up your voting info when you need it, there might be some scenarios where you want to keep your personal information private.

One of the most common examples where privacy is needed is when someone has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual battery, human trafficking, rape, or menacing by stalking. Sadly, abusers can often locate their victims through public records or even a simple internet search. Because of this, Ohio took a stand to protect those who are most vulnerable. The Secretary of State's office ensures that a **Safe at Home** program participant's personal information stays hidden from public records so they can stay safe, participate in our democratic processes, and rebuild their lives.

When a person enrolls as a participant in Safe at Home, the Secretary of State's office does all of the following:

- Assigns them a substitute address to serve as their address in virtually all state and local public records. This substitute address is used in almost every type of government office, from law enforcement issuing a speeding ticket, to public school records, to court documents.
- Provides them with mail forwarding to help keep their home address away from private companies. Participants choose if they would like to use the mail forwarding system, or if they would like to provide their true address for mail--the choice is entirely up to them. However, Safe at Home will provide this option for as long as the person remains in the program.
- Provides a special confidential voter registration form. A person who is otherwise eligible to vote can participate in the democratic process without fear of their address becoming public. Their voter registration information will not appear on public voter registration lists, and they can vote by mail to avoid any disclosure.
- Provides information about a legal pathway to protect real estate records for those who would like to buy a home. Ohio's Safe at Home laws convert records held by a county recorder, auditor, engineer, and others to a confidential status.

To join the program, survivors must apply through a certified Application Assistant who works or volunteers at an agency or organization that helps survivors of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, rape, or sexual battery. These assistants receive supplemental training and are certified by the Secretary of State to vet and help individuals complete their program applications.

You can learn more at [ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/safe-at-home/](https://ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/safe-at-home/).




# GENERAL ELECTION INFO

## November 5, 2024

The November 2024 General Election is a presidential election, but that is not the only race that will appear on the ballot. The graphic below breaks down the national and statewide races. Also, be sure to consult the important election dates + deadlines below when you're creating your voting plan.

**RACES ON THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT**

**OHIO** 

**FEDERAL**

- **PRESIDENT**
- **SENATE [1 SEAT]**
- **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [ALL SEATS]**

**STATE**

- **SENATE [16 SEATS]**
- **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES [ALL SEATS]**
- **SUPREME COURT [3 SEATS]**
- **APPEALS COURTS [MULTIPLE SEATS]**
- **K12 EDUCATION BOARD [6 SEATS]**

**2024**

NOTE: Individual ballots will vary city and district. Visit [ballotpedia.org](https://ballotpedia.org) to see a more detailed breakdown of your ballot.

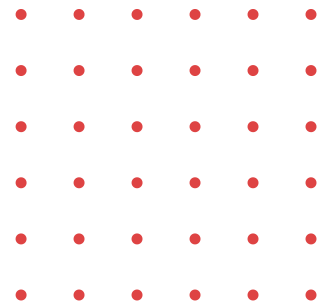
**November General Election Dates** **2024**

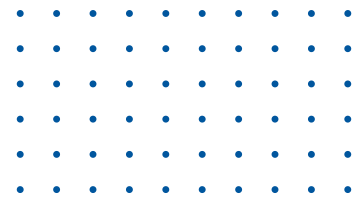
- Oct. 7 -- Registration Deadline
- Oct. 8 -- Opening of Early In-Person and Vote-by-Mail (Absentee) Voting
- Oct. 29 -- Deadline for Vote-by-Mail / Absentee Applications
- Nov. 3-- Last Day of Early In-Person Voting
- Nov. 4 -- Vote-by-Mail / Absentee Ballots Postmark Deadline
- Nov. 5 -- Election Day
- Nov. 9 -- Deadline for Board of Elections to Receive Absentee Ballots via Mail

VISIT [OHIOSOS.GOV/ELECTIONS](https://OHIOSOS.GOV/ELECTIONS) FOR MORE INFO

### What is the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission Amendment?

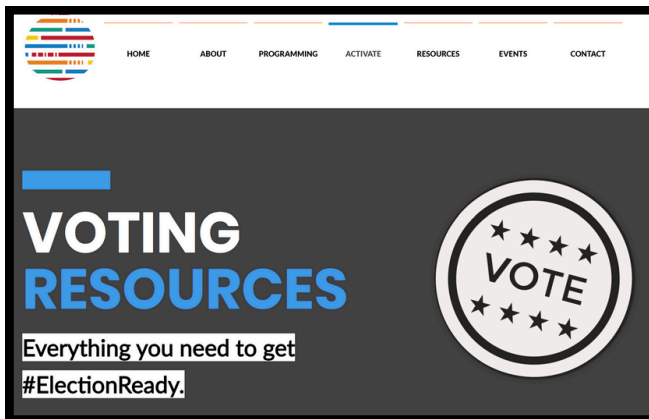
Ohioans will also see a ballot measure on their ballots: the **Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission Amendment**. A **YES** vote would end gerrymandering by allowing citizens, not politicians, to draw legislative districts using an open and transparent process. It will also create a 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens who broadly represent the different geographic areas and demographics of the state. A **NO** vote would keep the current map-drawing process in place.





# OTHER RESOURCES

Looking for a “one-stop shop” for all your election needs? Check out the CV voter activation page!



- ★ Check your voter registration status
- ★ Register to vote
- ★ Request an absentee ballot
- ★ Find your polling location
- ★ Get voter I.D. assistance
- ★ And more!

[clevotes.com/voter-activation](https://clevotes.com/voter-activation)

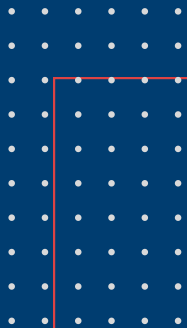


## BECOME A POLL WORKER!

Ever wonder what it would be like to help conduct an election? People are needed on Election Day to help staff the polls, transport ballots and materials, and maintain political balance. Be a part of history, support democracy, and have fun by becoming an Election Day Worker.

Visit [eac.gov/help-america-vote](https://eac.gov/help-america-vote) to find election worker positions in your area.





CLEVELAND  
**VOTES**  
EDUCATE CONNECT EMPOWER

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