

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

1. **Can I take the application form home to fill out?**

*Yes. You can mail it to the courthouse. You can also take forms for other members of your family, neighbors, etc.*

2. **What if I can't remember whether or not I have previously registered to vote?**

*You should **not** fill out an application unless you are sure you have never registered. If you are not sure, call the county voter registration office to find out if your name is on the voter roll. If not, they can mail you a registration form. (In Indiana County call 724-465-3852)*

3. **What if I once registered to vote but I have moved, or changed my name, or want to change my party registration?**

*You should fill out a voter registration application form to make any of these changes.*

4. **What if my name is not on the list of registered voters when I go to the polls to vote?**

*Persons whose names are not listed to vote may vote by Provisional ballot.*

5. **What if I have been in jail? Can I register to vote?**

*A convicted felon who has been released*

*from prison may register to vote. Convicted felons who are incarcerated on the date of an election are not eligible to vote, irrespective of whether they are registered. However, pretrial detainees and misdemeanants are eligible to vote if they otherwise qualify to vote under law.*

6. **Why can't I vote in a Primary Election if I am registered in a minority party (Green or Libertarian) or Independent (no affiliation)?**

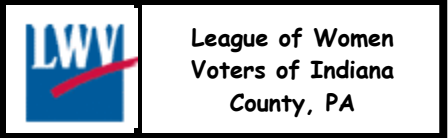
*Pennsylvania has a closed Primary system. The purpose of a Primary election is to choose candidates from the two major parties (Democratic or Republican) who will be on the ballot in the fall election. **All** registered voters can vote on ballot questions in a Primary Election.*

7. **When I go to the polls on election day in November, must I vote only for candidates from the party in which I am registered?**

*No. You can vote for any candidate on the ballot, or you can write in the name of a person who is not listed on the ballot.*

8. **How can I get candidate and ballot information?**

*For non-partisan information call the League of Women Voters 800-692-7281 x 10 or visit <http://www.palwv.org>. Before each election the League's non-partisan Voters Guide is published in many newspapers and can be viewed the web site.*



## Guide for Registering Voters in PA

This guide has been prepared by:

**League of Women Voters of Indiana County, PA**

[www.palwv.org/indiana](http://www.palwv.org/indiana)

**September, 2007**

READY. SET. VOTE. 

## GUIDE TO REGISTERING

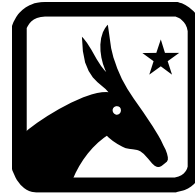
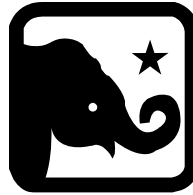
1. The deadline to apply to register to vote is 30 days prior to each election.
2. Voter registration application forms can be picked up at the county voter registration office in the courthouse.
  - *Application forms can also be downloaded at [votespa.com](http://votespa.com) or call 1-877-868-3772)*
3. Who can register to vote? Ask applicants if they are
  - A US citizen?
  - A resident of Pennsylvania?
  - 18 years old by election day?
4. Applicants who have voted at any time from their current address do not need to re-register unless they want to change their name, address or party affiliation.
5. Filling out the application form
  - Remind applicants not to use nicknames. The name on the application should match the name on the applicant's ID.
  - Applicants should use their driver's license number. The last 4 digits of the Social Security # should **not** be used unless there is no driver's license.
  - If the address is a post office box applicants must supply a street address as well or use the map on the application to show where they live.
  - The 'municipality' will be a borough or a township.

*Filling out the application form, continued*

Applicants do **not** have to include their race or telephone number.

### Party registration

- Registrants may choose to register under one of the main parties:  
Republican or Democratic



- Registrants can also register under one of the various minor parties recognized in PA such as Green or Libertarian. "No affiliation" is usually referred to as "independent".
- Remind applicants who register in a minor party or as independent that they will **not** be able to vote for **candidates** in a Primary Election, but they can vote on ballot questions.



### After the application is completed:

Remind registrants they are **not yet registered to vote!**

Applications must be processed in the county voter registration office and the prospective voter must receive a **voter identification card** in the mail. This should take no longer than two weeks. If

applicants do not get their voter ID cards after two weeks they should call the county office. (In Indiana County call 724-465-3852)

The voter identification card will list the polling district (precinct number) and the location of the voter's polling place, often a church or school. **Remind registrants they cannot vote anywhere except at the polling place listed on their ID card.**

Prospective voters must take their **voter registration card and some other form of identification, preferably a driver's license or other photo ID, with them to the polls.** Call the voter registration office for other acceptable forms of ID.

**ALL COMPLETED REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE AT THE COURTHOUSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

FOR INFORMATION ON VOTING IN PA GO TO [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or Call 1-877-868-3772.