

## Who can register to vote?

You can...if you're a U.S. citizen, you'll be at least 18 years old on election day, and have been a resident of your election district for at least 30 days.

## Why should I register?

If you don't register, you won't be permitted to vote on Election Day – and if you don't vote you are letting someone else decide how you'll be governed.

## How do I register?

You can register:

- in person at the office of your county board of elections.
- By mail. Mail in application forms are available at libraries, public agencies, county voter registration offices, liquor stores, many post offices and can be downloaded from <http://www.dos.state.pa.us>.
- When applying for or renewing a driver's license.

Call your county board of elections for your most convenient registration opportunity.

## When should I register?

To vote you must register at least 30 days before the next election. To vote for candidates in a primary election you must register in one of the political parties.

## What will I need to register?

The application form will ask you for your driver's license number. If you do not have a driver's license you can supply the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have a Social Security number write "none" in that space.

## How can I stay registered?

A voter can be removed from the registration rolls if they have not voted in two successive federal elections. If you are unsure of your registration status call your county board of elections. (See "Who can answer my questions?")

## Where should I vote if I'm a college student?

Decide whether to use your family home or your campus address as your voting residence. Then follow the steps listed to register. Students living away from home and registered in their home community will need to vote absentee.

## When do I vote?

Vote on Election Day, which occurs four times during a two-year period:

- In even-numbered years, there is a primary in May, or April during a presidential election, and a general election for U.S. President or Pennsylvania Governor in November.
- In odd-numbered years, there is a primary in May and a municipal election in November for local, municipal and judicial elections.

## Where do I vote?

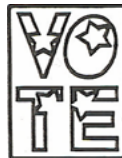
Vote close to home...in your precinct polling place. Your precinct's name and number are on the voter card that you will receive after you have registered. For polling place locations call your county board of elections. Notices will be in some local newspapers or ask a neighbor.

## Are you voting for the first time in that election district?

If so **do** bring a **photo ID** such as a driver's license, student ID or some other form of US or PA government issues ID or a US or PA government issues non-photo ID, a firearm permit, or a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check. A complete list of acceptable forms of ID should be posted near the entrance to the polling place.

## When are the polls open?

The polls open at 7:00 a.m. and stay open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. You can vote as long as you are in line by 8:00 p.m.



## What should I expect when I go to my polling place?

When you arrive there may be people representing various candidates and political parties outside the polling place. They should be at least 10 feet from the entrance. **You have a right** to refuse to speak to them or accept their literature. **Do** take literature such as a voters guide or marked sample ballot into the polling place to help guide your vote.

Inside, the polling place will be a single room. **Do** study the sample ballot displayed near the entrance along with a statement of instructions, and a statement of penalties.

The election officials will include an Election District Board consisting of a **judge of elections, a majority inspector, and a minority inspector**. They are assisted by one or more **clerks**. If voting machines are used there will also be a **machine inspector**. Each political party and/or candidate may have official **poll watchers** to monitor the voting process.

Voting procedures will vary depending on the voting system in use in that district. Sign your registration certificate and give it to one of the officials as directed. **Vote carefully**. To eliminate confusion or error **you can request instructions** on how to correctly use the system used in the polling place.

## What if my name is not on the registration list?

A member of the Election Board will help you determine if you are in the right polling place. If so, or **if your eligibility to vote is challenged for any reason, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot**. Your ballot will be counted if the county board of elections determines you are qualified. You will be given instructions on how to find out if your vote was cast.

## Can I bring my children with me?

Please do. Children under 18 can go into the voting booth and learn how it's done.

## Can I vote for someone not on the ballot?

Yes. The procedure will vary depending on the system in use in your voting district. Voting machines have write-in slots for each office on the ballot. The voter opens the slot and writes the desired name on the exposed piece of paper. In the case of electronic voting cards, directions must be obtained from an election official.

## If I am unable to go to the polls on Election Day, how can I vote?

Official absentee ballot applications are often available at the same places you can get registration applications, or call your county board of elections or one of the political parties. Complete the application and return it directly to your county board of elections. If your application is approved, you will be sent an official absentee ballot. The deadline for the ballot application is 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the election. The deadline for ballots to be received by the county board of elections is 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. An emergency application for an absentee ballot may be executed up until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election.

## Who can answer my questions about registration and voting?

- Your County Board of Elections. Phone numbers are available at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or call the League of Women Voters 800-692-7281 x 10.
- The State Board of Elections 717-787-5280 or [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

## 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> and [www.dnet.org](http://www.dnet.org).

Before each election the League's non-partisan Voters Guide is published in many newspapers and can be viewed on our web site.

## Voter's Bill of Rights

*When you go to vote it is your right to...*

Inspect a sample ballot (this should be posted near the entrance along with an instruction sheet and a penalties sheet).

Ask a poll worker for a demonstration or further instruction on how to vote on the type of system in use at that polling place.

Receive voting assistance in the voting booth.

Vote if you are in line by the time the polls close.

Vote for the candidate of your choice (In a primary election you can vote only for candidates in the political party in which you are registered).

Ask to cast a provisional ballot if your eligibility to vote is challenged for any reason.

### **ELECTION CALENDAR FOR 2006**

**Primary Election**                      **5-16-06**

**Last day to Register**                      **4-17-06**  
**for Primary Election**

**General Election**                      **11-7-06**

**Last day to register**                      **10-10-06**  
**for Municipal Election**

Polls are open from 7 AM to 8P M

# TAKING CHARGE

## A GUIDE TO REGISTRATION AND VOTING IN PENNSYLVANIA



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
PENNSYLVANIA

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*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government through education and advocacy. Members are women and men of every age, race, background and political perspective who believe that informed citizens are the key to effective government.*

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