

CHALO VOTE!



THIS GUIDE COVERS -

- ★ Voter Registration
 - ★ Making a Plan to Vote
 - ★ Cast Your Ballot
 - ★ Vote By Mail
 - ★ Vote In Person
 - ★ FAQ
 - ★ Official PA Helpful Links
-

VOTER'S GUIDE → PENNSYLVANIA

The 2016 Presidential Election was decided by 44,292 votes in Pennsylvania. There are 145,000 eligible South Asian voters in Pennsylvania. Our voices can decide the future of this country. Our values and beliefs will be respected by making our voices heard. Lack of knowledge or mistrust of the process and your rights should never soften your voice.

All votes matter and help shape the future of this country and the country we leave to future generations.

This guide serves as a reference tool to help simplify the process of voting and to answer common questions that come up during the voting process. In order to take the first step towards voting this year, go to chalo.vote now and check your voter registration status and let us guide you through the process of voting and give you the tools you need to vote confidently and meaningfully.

TAKE THE 1ST STEP NOW AND VISIT

CHALO.VOTE →

IMPORTANT DATES —

Voter Registration Deadline:
October 19th 2020

Vote by Mail Application Deadline:
October 27th 2020

Election Day and Vote By Mail Ballot Deadline:
November 3th 2020 (7AM-7PM)

STEP 1 VOTER REGISTRATION

The first step to voting is registering to vote with the state. In order to be eligible to register to vote in Pennsylvania you need to meet 3 criteria.

- BE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS
- BE A RESIDENT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS
- BE 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE THE ELECTION

VOTER REGISTRATION

If you meet the criteria, check to see if you are registered to vote at your current address using the [Chalo Vote registration tool](#). We recommend you check your registration even if you know you are registered in case any information has changed.

Enter in your information at:
chalo.vote/registration

If you are registered then you will be directed to apply for a vote by mail ballot for the upcoming election.

See Vote by Mail sections below for more information.

If you are not registered, then you will be asked to enter your state and then have a link that will direct you to the online voter registration form for Pennsylvania as seen below. You can find more information on the FAQ or in our specific guide to filling out the Voter Registration form for Pennsylvania.

The form will take a few days to process, and can be tracked using the application number you receive after filling out the form at the following site –

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterApplicationStatus.aspx>

STEP 2

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

The most important step to following through with voting is knowing when your elections are and having a plan to vote in them.

For election dates you can sign up for reminders with us when checking your registration at [chalo.vote](https://www.chalo.vote) or you can check the election calendar on the Pennsylvania Secretary of State's website –

<https://www.votespa.com/About-Elections/Pages/Upcoming-Elections.aspx>

From there you can make a plan to vote using the **two different options** Pennsylvania provides to vote in every election.

REGISTER TO → VOTE BY MAIL

Vote by mail is an option available to all voters where a voter can request a ballot be delivered to their home for them to fill out and mail or deliver back to the County elections office.

**ANY VOTER CAN REQUEST A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT
AND DO NOT NEED TO SUPPLY A REASON TO REQUEST A BALLOT THROUGH MAIL!**

- ★ Request a ballot online using your driver's license number or the last 4 digits of your social security to confirm your identity.
- ★ Once a ballot is requested, the process can be tracked online and the ballots will start to be mailed out 50 days before the election.
- ★ Once you receive your ballot you will need to fill it out and return it to the County Election office, not your polling place, so that it arrives by Election Day.

Mail-in ballots can only be requested up until the Tuesday before election day (7 days before election). Requesting a vote by mail ballot does not disqualify you from voting in person. If you would like to still vote in person, request a provisional ballot at your polling place and do not turn in your absentee ballot.

REGISTER TO → VOTE IN PERSON

This is the traditional method of voting where voters can arrive at their specified polling place and vote in person on the day of the election.

- ★ You must show up to your specific polling place between 7AM and 7PM to cast your vote on election day.

If you are someone that travels a lot for work or are not sure that you will be in the state for any reason, requesting a Vote By Mail ballot is a safer option that allows more time in case anything comes up that prevents you from voting on election day.

***Chalo Vote! recommends all voters Vote by Mail in the current COVID-19 world and beyond as it is the safest way to vote.**

It also gives you time with your ballot before the election and can be tracked to make sure your vote counts.

Voting on election day should be considered a **final option.**

If you choose to vote on election day and can't because something came up, there is no way to cast your vote.

STEP 3

CAST YOUR BALLOT

Once you know your options and decide how you are going to vote, then you just need to find candidates that you support and cast your ballot.

To learn more about candidates you can go to our partner Ballot Ready's site ballotready.org and read about the basic information and issues for all the candidates in your area.

In order to cast your ballot, you need to either send your ballot in the mail if you applied for a mail in ballot or go to your polling place on election day between 7AM and 7PM and cast your vote in person.

Some rules and tips for both methods →

VOTE BY MAIL

You should receive your vote by mail ballot no later than 2 weeks before the election if you requested it in advance and within 3 days of requesting the ballot if you submit your form within 2 weeks of the election. Once you receive your ballot, you can return it to the elections office with 3 easy steps.

Status of your ballot can be tracked using the following website where you can be sure that your ballot has arrived and been counted:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/BallotTracking.aspx#application>

Once you receive your ballot, you can return it to the elections office with 3 easy steps ↓

- 1** Mark your ballot following the instructions provided by the secretary of state's office with your ballot.
- 2** Once your ballot is complete, place your ballot in the secrecy envelope and then place the secrecy envelope into the official envelope and seal it. On the outside of the envelope make sure that you sign the declaration or your ballot may be rejected.
- 3** Mail or deliver your ballot to your county elections office so that it arrives by 7PM on Election day. The ballot must arrive at the elections office by election day, not just put in the mail by then.

VOTING IN PERSON

In order to cast your vote in person, you must show up in person with your state issued ID at your polling location. You **MUST** vote at your specific polling location which you can find in your personalized election center with the link below.

Find your Polling Location:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>

When voting in person expect the following steps to cast your vote when you arrive at your polling location ↓

- 1** Follow the signs that say “VOTE” on them to the voting area and check-in with the poll worker sitting at a table with your state issued ID.
- 2** Depending on your county, the poll worker will either provide you with a paper ballot or upload your personal ballot to a specific machine and direct you there.
- 3** Once at the machine that you have been directed to, follow the prompts on the screen and select your candidates for each election and answer each question. If you have a paper ballot make sure to fill in the bubble completely for each candidate you select. Make sure to choose only one candidate for each election.
- 4** After completing the ballot on the machine, you will have an option to print the ballot. Once you select that button, you will be able to review the paper ballot and notify the poll worker if there are any errors. If filling out a paper ballot, ensure you have made all your selections and head to the tabulator machine.
- 5** When voting by machine, if you review your ballot and it looks good, click VOTE and you have officially voted! If voting by paper ballot, follow the instructions to insert your ballot into the tabulator machine and then you have officially voted!

FAQ

VOTER REGISTRATION

Should I fill out the optional information including Phone Number, Email, and Party?

- ★ The more information you fill in the more informed you stay. Your phone number and email will be used to keep you informed of upcoming elections in your area.
- ★ You MUST designate a party in order to vote in a primary for that party.

When do I need to be registered by in order to vote in an election?

- ★ You need to be registered at least 30 days before the election

I might have registered to vote in the past, but don't know if I am currently registered or if my address is up to date.

- ★ You can check your registration status online at the following site: <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx>
- ★ You can check registration using your Name or you Driver's License number or PennDOT ID
- ★ Name will require your County, Zip Code, Name, and Date of Birth
- ★ Driver's License or PennDOT ID will require your license or PennDOT ID # and your Date of Birth

I checked my status and am registered to vote, but the address is not my current address, how do I update my address?

- ★ You can update your address using the same voter application form you would use to register as a new voter and select the reason in Question 3 as "Change of Address"
(<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>)

FAQ

VOTE BY MAIL

When is the last day I can apply for a vote by mail ballot?

- ★ Applications for Vote by mail ballots must be RECEIVED by your county election office the Tuesday (7 days prior) to the date of the election.

If I apply for an absentee ballot, but change my mind can I still vote in person?

- ★ Yes! If you never received your mail-in ballot or don't have it with you when you get to your polling place you can ask for a provisional ballot which will be counted after all votes have been counted and they confirm you have not submitted a vote by mail ballot.
- ★ If you have your empty absentee ballot, you can bring it with you to your polling place and they will void the ballot and allow you to vote normally.

If I put my ballot in the mail on election day will it still be counted?

- ★ NO. Your ballot must arrive at your county election office by 8PM on election day. If you are not able to put in the mail by the Thursday prior to the election, we would recommend dropping it off at the county election office in person or at a dropbox if your county has them. If you do put it in the mail within a few days of the election, make sure to use certified mail to track its status.

What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a mail in ballot?

- ★ Functionally there is no difference between the two, but Pennsylvania has a designation for mail in ballots, which are another method of voting, and absentee ballots, which are reserved for people who are going to be out of state or country during the election.

Do I have to apply for a ballot for every election?

- ★ Not entirely. You can fill out an application to receive ballots for a full election year, but you must fill out a new application every year to ensure you receive ballots in this manner.
- ★ When filling out a request for a mail in ballot or when registering to vote, you will be asked if you want to receive ballots for the remainder of the year and if you want to receive an application to receive ballots for the year at the beginning of every year. Check that option and you can decide each year if you want to receive mail in ballots for the rest of the year.

How do I ensure I fill in the ballot properly?

- ★ If you have any questions you can always contact our hotline or your county election office, but make sure that you fill in exactly ONE oval to pick your choice for each election and then put the ballot into the appropriate secrecy envelope before putting it into the main envelope and sealing it. You MUST sign the main envelope in order to certify it is you voting and have your vote counted.

VOTING IN PERSON

Is there early voting available in Pennsylvania?

- ★ No. Pennsylvania does not offer early voting so if you would like to vote in person, you must vote at your polling location on election day.
- ★ If you are unsure of your work situation or availability on election day, we STRONGLY recommend that you apply for a mail in ballot to make sure you are able to cast your vote safely and in a timely manner

How do I vote using the voting machine at my polling location?

- ★ Different counties have different machines and steps to cast your vote in person, but you can ALWAYS ask for assistance from a poll worker or bring a friend or family member to assist you.
- ★ You can also view an instructional video or view a step by step guide for how to use your counties voting machine at this link (<https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Voting-System-Demos.aspx>). Just click on your count and then the learn more button. The scroll down to the instructional video section.

HELPFUL LINKS

Chalo Vote! Home Page:

<https://chalo.vote>

PA Elections Home Page:

<https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

PA Voter Eligibility:

<https://www.votespa.com/Register-to-Vote/Pages/Voter-Registration-Requirements.aspx>

PA Voter Registration Application:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

PA Voter Registration Status Check:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx>

PA Vote By Mail Details:

<https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>

PA Vote By Mail Tracker:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/BallotTracking.aspx>

MORE INFORMATION AT
CHALO.VOTE