

WHO CAN VOTE

Can I vote in West Virginia?

- You can vote in the November 5 election if you're registered to vote by October 15, 2024.
- You can register to vote if you meet **all** of the following qualifications: (1) You are a US citizen and a WV resident; (2) You will be 18 by the time of the election; (3) You are not currently serving a sentence, or parole or probation for a felony, bribery in an election, or treason.

What if I'm a student?

- You can register to vote at whatever address you consider your primary residence. This can be your school address or your home address.

What if I've been convicted of a crime?

- If you were convicted of a misdemeanor you **can** vote, even if you are in jail.
- If you were convicted of a felony, bribery in an election, or treason, you cannot vote while you are serving your sentence, including probation or parole.
- If you have been charged with a crime, but not convicted, you **can** vote.

What if I'm homeless?

- You don't need a home to register, but you do have to reside in the county in which you are registering and identify an address, which can be a shelter, assistance shelter, or family address.

What if I've moved or changed my name?

- You have to re-register every time you move or change your name.
- If you moved or changed your name before October 15, 2024 you can vote normally if you moved within the same precinct. You can vote provisionally if you moved within the same county. If you moved outside your county and did not re-register to vote you won't be able to vote in the November 3 election.
- If you moved after October 15, 2024, call your County Clerk's Office as soon as possible to find out where to vote.

How do I know if I'm registered?

- You can check your registration status online at <https://services.sos.wv.gov/Elections/Voter/AmlRegisteredToVote>, or by calling your County Clerk's Office.

REGISTRATION

How do I register?

- You can register to vote:
 - (1) **in person**, by filling out a voter registration application at your county clerk's office;
 - (2) **by mail**, by filling out a mail-in voter registration application and mailing it to your county clerk's office;
 - (3) **online**, by filling out a voter registration form at <https://ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register>;

- (4) **when you apply for services** at the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and state agencies that provide public assistance (such as Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps) or services to people with disabilities. You may also register at marriage license offices and military recruitment offices.

- You can get a mail-in voter registration application from the Secretary of State's office, your county clerk's office, from most libraries, colleges, and high schools, by calling 304-558-6000, or online at <https://ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register#Qualifications>.

What's the registration deadline?

- October 15, 2024.

What if I miss the deadline?

- You won't be able to vote in the November 5 election, but you can register to vote for future elections.

VOTING EARLY & ABSENTEE VOTING

Can I vote before Election Day?

- Yes. You may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. In-person early voting is available from October 23rd to November 2nd at an early voting center.

What's early voting?

- Early voting allows any registered voter to vote in person at special early voting centers beginning in late October.
- Contact your County Clerk for the location and hours.

Can I vote absentee?

- In the 2024 election you must have a valid reason to vote by absentee ballot. People at risk of health complications from Covid-19 may use Covid as an excuse. You must submit an application no later than October 31st, 2024. You can get an application at your County Clerk's office or by downloading from the Secretary of State's website. If your application is approved, your ballot will be mailed to you.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

- Applications must be received no later than October 31st, 2024. You can fill out an application online at govotewv.com, or you can get one from your County Clerk's office, or by downloading it at <http://www.sos.wv.gov/elections/forms/Documents/Forms%20-%20Voter/Absentee%20Ballot%20Application.pdf>. If your application is approved, your ballot will be mailed to you.



How do I know if my absentee ballot has been counted?

- You can check the status of your ballot by contacting your county clerk, or online at: <https://services.sos.wv.gov/Elections/Voter/AbsenteeBallotTracking>

Do I need ID to vote absentee?

- First time voters who registered online or by mail will have to send a copy of their ID with their ballot. If you do not have access to a photocopier, contact your county clerk for instructions.

What's the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

- To be counted, your ballot must be postmarked no later than election day and received by your County Clerk's office no later than five days after the election, excluding Sundays.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

When is Election Day?

- Tuesday, November 5.

When are the polls open?

- Polling places are open from 6:30 AM through 7:30 PM. You have the right to vote if you're in line or inside your polling place when the polls close.

Can I get time off from work to vote?

- Employers must grant employees time off to vote if a request is made at least 3 days before the election. In certain professions employers may be able to make other accommodations.

Where do I vote?

- On Election Day, you have to vote at the polling place to which you're assigned.
- Your assigned polling place will be listed on the voter registration card that you should receive in the mail when you register.
- If you do not have your card, you can call your local elections office or look up your polling place online at: <https://services.sos.wv.gov/Elections/Voter/FindMyPollingPlace>

What if I am disabled and my polling place is not accessible?

- If you find this out before Election Day, call your County Clerk right away and ask for an accommodation. You must request a reassignment no later than 30 days prior to the election.
- You can also send someone into the polling place to request curbside voting on your behalf. Poll workers will bring a ballot or voting machine outside so you can vote.
- Otherwise, bring one or more people to assist you. You have the right to have anyone you choose assist you, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, an officer or agent of your labor union, or the judge of elections.

Can I get a ballot in my native language?

- Election materials in West Virginia are available in English

only, but you have the right to bring a translator with you to the polls or to get assistance in your language from anyone you choose, including a poll worker, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, an officer or agent of your labor union, or the judge of elections

What if I need help in the voting booth?

- If you need help because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker when you get to your polling place. You have the right to vote on an accessible voting machine. You also have the right to have anyone you choose assist you in the voting booth, including a poll worker, as long as the person is not your employer, and agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.
- If you need language assistance, bring an interpreter with you to the polls. You have a right to bring an interpreter with you to communicate with poll workers and translate the ballot.
- If you need instructions on how to use the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to help you at any time you ask – even after you have entered the voting booth.

What if you cannot go to your polling place?

- If you are hospitalized, or a poll worker, and in some counties if you are a new resident to a hospital or nursing home you can apply for an emergency absentee ballot. You can apply 7 days before the election up to noon of Election Day. In that case, two election workers will deliver a ballot to you.

VOTER ID

Do I have to show ID?

- Yes. As of July 1, 2017, you need to show an ID to vote.

What are the accepted forms of ID?

- Accepted forms of ID include a voter registration card, a valid driver's license from any state, any other ID issued by the WV DMV, US passport or passport card, Military ID, US or WV government employee ID, student ID, concealed carry permit, bank or debit card, utility bill or bank statement issued within 6 months of the election, health insurance card, Medicare card, Social Security card, birth certificate, WV hunting or fishing license, WV SNAP ID card, WV TANF program card, WV Medicaid card or other current government document that shows your name.

What if I don't have any ID?

- A poll worker who knows you can allow to vote. Alternatively, person who can show their photo ID has known you for at least 6 months can sign a sworn statement saying you are who you claim to be. You may be required to respond to a mailing confirming that you voted.

What is a provisional ballot?

- A provisional ballot is used to record your vote when there's an unresolved question about your eligibility.

Will my provisional ballot be counted?

- Your provisional ballot will only be counted if election officials determine after the election that you were eligible to vote. Most provisional ballots aren't counted, and you should use one only if there's no way for you to vote on a regular ballot.

PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

What if I'm not on the voter list?

- First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place.
- If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot, even if your name is not on the voter list, as long as you're willing to swear that you believe you are registered to vote.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

- Go to the right polling place. You can ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered. You can also call your County Clerk's office or look up your polling place online at <https://services.sos.wv.gov/Elections/Voter/FindMyPollingPlace>.
- If you can't figure out where you're registered, go to the polling place that you think is most likely to be the right one and ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure that you're at the right polling place.

What if someone challenges my right to vote?

- Ask for a provisional ballot. Election officials will rule on the challenge before the election results become final.

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

- Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher, call your County Clerk's office, or call one of the election hotline numbers listed at the end of this brochure.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?

- Tell a poll worker before you cast your vote. If you make a mistake on a paper ballot, you have the right to a replacement ballot as long as you catch your mistake before you cast your ballot. If your voting machine malfunctions tell a poll worker right away.

How do I make a complaint?

- First, ask for an election supervisor at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints that arise on Election Day. Candidate, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers at your polling place who might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you who you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your County Clerk's office or the Secretary of State.



KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS:

West Virginia

Secretary of State Voter Hotline:
(304) 558-6000

American Civil Liberties Union of WV:
(304) 345-9246

Election Protection:
866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683)

US Department of Justice:
(800) 253-3931

This card is designed to help protect your right to vote. Keep it handy, and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status.
- Consider voting early or absentee if possible. If you plan to vote at the polls, go early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.
- If voting in person, locate your polling place and note the hours of operation.
- Check to see if identification is required to vote.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time.
- Ask for help if you need it.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The ACLU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but we believe that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote.

www.acluww.org
304-345-9246