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VOTER
INFORMATION
GUIDE

for
1990 ELECTIONS

Primary Election Tuesday, May 8

General Election Tuesday, November 6

Polls open at 6:30 A.M.
close at 7:30 P.M.

prepared by
SHERROD BROWN
Secretary of State

In 1990 Ohio Voters will elect:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Auditor of State
Secretary of State
Treasurer of State
United States Senator
Representatives to Congress (all 21 districts)
State Senators (odd-numbered districts)
State Representatives (all 99 districts)
County Commissioner
County Auditor
Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court (two)
Court of Appeals Judges
Common Pleas Judges (some counties)
County Court Judge (some counties)
Members of County and State Central
Committee of Political Parties
Members of State Board of Education (one-third)
Unexpired terms for some offices

Voter Eligibility

You are qualified to vote if:

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You are at least 18 years old on the day of the election at which you seek to vote. If you will be 18 on or before November 6, you may vote in a primary election. You may vote for candidates only and not on issues.
- You have been a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days before the election.
- You have been registered to vote in the precinct in which you reside at least 30 days before the election.

How is residence determined?

By law your residence is the place to which, whenever you are absent, you have the intention of returning. Leaving for temporary purposes, such as military service or school attendance, need not result in a change of residence for voting purposes.

Can a student vote from his school address?

Yes, if he regards that place as his residence. Otherwise, he must vote in his home community.

Registration

Does everyone have to be registered?

Yes, except for members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents if they left Ohio to be near the service member.

How can I register?

- At the office of the board of elections or the Secretary of State.
- At branch registration offices or locations established by the board.
- At any public high school or vocational school.
- At the office of a motor vehicle deputy registrar.
- At any state agency that deals with the public.
- By mail. You may request registration forms by mail, by telephone, in person, or by having another person obtain them for you. After you have completed the forms, you may return them to the board by mail.
- By completing registration forms obtained from any office designated to distribute registration forms. You may return the completed forms to the board by mail, in person, or have another person deliver them for you.
- By completing registration forms obtained from any individual who may distribute registration forms. You may return the completed forms to the board by mail, in person, or have another person deliver them for you. You may also return the forms to the individual from whom you obtained them. That person will give you a receipt and may deliver them to the board for you.

• **Registration forms must be RECEIVED by the board of elections or the Secretary of State 30 days before an election to be valid for that election.**

Do I declare my politics when I register?

No.

Will I ever have to re-register?

No, unless you move to a different county or do not vote in any election for four successive years.

However, you must notify the board of elections if you change your place of residence from one precinct to another within a county, or if you change your name. If you move from one county to another, you must fill out a new registration form.

Change of address?

If you are now registered and move within the same county, you must report the change of address to the board of elections. You may report the change:

- By mail.
- At the board of elections or at a branch registration office established by the board or at the office of the Secretary of State.

- At the office of a motor vehicle deputy registrar when you apply for a driver's license or State of Ohio identification card.

This notice must be RECEIVED by the board of elections or the Secretary of State's office 30 days before an election to be valid for that election.

Exceptions:

If you move within your precinct, you may complete a change of residence notice at your polling place on election day.

If you move from one precinct to another or from one county to another *after* registration closes, you may return to the polling place in the precinct where you were properly registered and vote at that election. While there you can complete forms to change your registration so that you can vote at your new location at the next election.

Change of name?

If you are now registered and have changed your name by marriage or other legal action, you must report the change to the board of elections. You may report the change:

- By mail.
- At the board of elections or at a branch registration office established by the board or at the office of the Secretary of State.
- By completing a notice of change in voting status and filing it with the court when you apply for a marriage license or when your name is changed by court order.

This notice must be received by the board of elections or the Secretary of State's office 30 days before an election to be valid for that election.

You may also register the name change at the polling place but only at the first election immediately following the name change.

CAUTION: *If you also change your residence, you must notify the board of elections as explained above.*

Registration closes:

For May 8 primary election — April 9

For special elections — 30 days before election day

For November 6 general election — October 9, 1990

Voting Procedures

Where do I vote?

Each voter must cast his ballot at the polling place designated to serve the precinct in which he resides. If you are in doubt as to the location of this polling place, you should check with your county board of elections.

Then what?

The first step in casting a ballot is to sign your name and address on the poll list. Your signature on the poll list will be compared to your signature on the registration card. If the signatures compare to the satisfaction of the precinct officials, you will then be allowed to vote.

Instructions for marking ballots or operating machines.

In counties where voting machines or marking devices are used, detailed instructions on the use of these machines or devices are provided at the polling place.

In areas where paper mark sense ballots are in use, each ballot contains detailed instructions for marking that ballot.

What can I do if I spoil my ballot?

If you tear, soil, or erroneously mark a ballot, you may return it to the precinct officials and another ballot will be given to you. Before you return the spoiled ballot, be sure to conceal any marks you have made on it.

Can any voter receive assistance in voting?

Persons who are physically or mentally disabled or illiterate may be assisted by anyone of their own choice, except their employer or his agent, their union officer, or a candidate whose name appears on the ballot. Or they may be assisted by two pollworkers of opposing parties. No one who assists a voter may disclose any information about how that person voted.

Primaries

What is the difference between a primary and a general election?

In a primary election the members of each party **nominate** candidates for the general election. Some municipalities have nonpartisan primaries.

In a general election all voters elect officials from among the party nominees and independent candidates.

How do I establish which party's ballot I am entitled to vote?

If you are a new voter, you may vote the primary ballot of any political party. If you voted the primary ballot of a political party in 1988 or 1989 and this year desire to vote the ballot of another party, then you must change your affiliation by signing a statement to that effect.

May I vote on issues in a primary without declaring my politics?

Yes. If you are qualified to vote on issues at a primary election, you may vote on such issues without voting for the candidates of a political party. Issues are on a separate nonpartisan ballot.

ABSENTEE VOTING

You may vote by absentee ballot if:

- You will be absent from the county on election day.
- You are 62 years of age or older.
- You will be hospitalized on election day.
- You have a personal illness or physical disability.
- You are an election official.
- You cannot vote on election day because of religious belief.
- You will be in jail for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial.

How do I apply?

Write or go to the board of elections in your county and request an absentee ballot, giving the following information (a form is available for convenience but its use is not required):

- Your name and voting residence.
- The election for which you are requesting a ballot.
- Your reason for being absent from the polls on election day (from the list above).
- Your party choice if the election is a primary.
- The mailing address to which ballots are to be mailed.
- Your signature.

Can application be made in person?

Yes.

What is the deadline for applying for absentee ballots in 1990?

Your written request for ballots must be received at the board by:

- 12 noon May 5 for the May 8 primary election.
- 12 noon of the third day before a special election.
- 12 noon November 3 for the November 6 general election.

Note: The deadline is 3 p.m. on election day in the case of medical emergencies. To be eligible under this provision, you must be confined in a hospital because of a medical emergency that occurred not more than 6 days before the election. A near relative may deliver and return your ballot if you so request and state the relative's name and relationship on the application.

All absentee ballots must be received at the board office by 7:30 p.m. on election day in order to be counted.

Exception: Ballots mailed out of the country will be counted if received by the board up to 10 days after election day if postmarked by election day.

Armed Service Absentee Voting

Who may vote armed service absentee ballots?

If you are serving in the U.S. armed forces outside the state, you and your spouse and dependents may vote by armed service absentee ballot if you otherwise meet the requirements for voting in Ohio.

Your spouse and dependents may vote by armed service absentee ballot only if they left Ohio to be with you.

What is the voting residence of a service member?

That place where you resided when you first entered the service, unless you establish a voting residence elsewhere in Ohio.

Must armed service absentee voters register?

No.

How do I apply for armed service absentee ballots?

You, a spouse, or a near relative may request the board to mail ballots to you. Application may be made in person or by mail.

An Ohio application form or a federal post card application may be used for convenience, but neither is required; however, all mail requests must include the following information:

- Your name and voting residence.
- That you are serving in the U.S. armed forces or are the spouse or dependent of a service member.
- The election for which ballots are requested.
- Your party choice if the election is a primary.
- The mailing address to which ballots are to be sent.
- Your signature.

May I apply in person?

Yes.

What is the deadline for applying?

Requests to have ballots mailed in 1990 must be received at the board of elections by:

12 noon May 5 for the May 8 primary election.

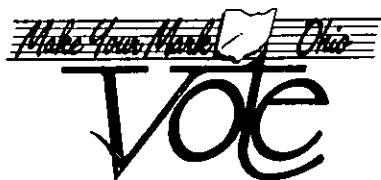
12 noon of the third day before a special election.

12 noon of November 3 for the November 6 general election.

If you have requested an absentee ballot by noon of the third day before an election, you may return it or vote it in person at the board of elections until 7:30 p.m. on election day. Exception: Ballots mailed out of the country will be counted if received by the board up to 10 days after election day if postmarked by election day.

How can I vote if I am discharged before the election but after the close of registration?

If otherwise qualified to vote by armed service absentee ballots, you and your spouse and dependents may vote at the office of the board of elections at any time before 7:30 p.m. on election day. If you are registered, you vote at your precinct polling place on election day.



Sherrod Brown Secretary of State

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