

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

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JTS Box Number: IFES\_76  
Tab Number: 19  
Document Title: 1980 Voter Information  
Document Date: 1980  
Document Country: United States -- Ohio  
Document Language: English  
IFES ID: CE02432



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Voter Information

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# 1980 Voter Information

**Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.**  
**Secretary of State**  
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Columbus, Ohio 43216  
614/466-2530

Polls open at 6:30 a.m.—close at 7:30 p.m.

**Primary Election is Tuesday, June 3**  
**General Election is Tuesday, November 4**

## **In 1980 Ohio Voters will elect:**

- President and Vice-President
- United States Senator
- Representatives to Congress (all 23 districts)
- State Senators (even districts)
- State Representatives (all 99 districts)
- County Commissioners (two per County)
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Clerk of Courts
- Sheriff
- County Recorder
- County Treasurer
- County Engineer
- County Coroner
- Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court
- 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 Committees of Political Parties
- Members of State Board of Education (about one-third)
- Delegates and Alternates to the National Conventions of the Major Political Parties

## **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 4, you may vote in the primary election June 3. 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 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 military and their spouses.

## How can I register?

- At the office of the Board of Elections.
- At branch registration offices or locations established by the Board.
- At the office of a motor vehicle deputy registrar when you apply for a driver's license or State of Ohio identification card.
- 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 county 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 deliver them to the Board for you.

Registration forms must be received by the Board by the date registration closes 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 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 from one county to another (this will require filling out a registration form), or if you change your name.

## Change of address ?

If you are now registered and move, 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.
- 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 prior to the close of registration in order to be valid for that election.

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.
- 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 by the date registration closes in order to be valid for that election.

If you fail to notify the Board by that time, you may go to the polling place in the precinct where you are registered and complete a notice on election day.

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*Caution: If you also change your residence, you must notify the Board as explained above.*

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### **REGISTRATION CLOSES:**

- For June 3 Primary Election—May 4, 1980
- For Special Elections—30 days before Election Day
- For November 4 General Election—October 5, 1980

# **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 involves signing your name and address on the poll list. Your signature on the poll list will be compared with 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 ballots are in use, each ballot contains detailed instructions for marking that ballot.

## **What can I do if I spoil my ballots?**

- 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 a voter ever receive assistance in voting?**

- Persons who are physically unable to mark ballots may be assisted in the voting booth by a relative. If no relative is at hand, two judges of elections of opposite political parties may enter the voting booth to assist. These judges may not disclose any information about how you voted.
- A blind or illiterate person may be assisted by anyone of his own choosing.

## **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 non-partisan primaries in which the two candidates receiving the most votes for an office are nominated.
- In a general election all voters elect officials from 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. You are declaring yourself a member of the party whose ballot you request, and may not vote in the primary of another party unless you change your affiliation and sign a sworn affidavit 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 non-partisan 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 had an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency.
- You have a personal illness or physical disability. (A doctor's certificate is not needed.)
- You are an election official.
- You cannot vote on election day because of religious observances.
- 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 absentee ballots, giving the following information:

- Your name and voting residence.
- Your reason for being absent from the polls on election day (from the list above).
- Your party choice if the election is a primary.

## **Can application be made in person?**

- Yes.

## **What is the deadline for applying for absentee ballots?**

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

- 12 noon of May 31 for the June 3 primary election
- 12 noon of the third day before a special election
- 12 noon of November 1 for the November 4 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. The hospital must be in the county where you are registered to vote.

**All Absentee Ballots must be received at the Board office by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.**

## **Armed Service Absentee Voting**

### **Who may vote armed service absentee ballots?**

- If you serve in the U.S. armed forces, you or your spouse may vote by armed service absentee ballot if you otherwise meet the requirements for voting in Ohio.
- Your spouse may not vote by armed service absentee ballot unless he or she has left Ohio to be with you.

### **What is the voting residence of a service member?**

- That place where he resided when he first entered the service, unless he establishes a voting residence elsewhere in Ohio.



## **Must armed service absentee voters register?**

- No.

## **How do I apply for armed service absentee ballots?**

Write to the Board of Elections in your county and request armed service absentee ballots, giving the following information:

- Your name and voting residence.
- That you are serving in the U.S. armed forces or are the spouse 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 mailed.
- Your spouse or a near relative may request the Board to mail ballots to you. Application may be made in person or by mail.

## **Can I apply in person?**

- Yes.

## **What is the deadline for applying?**

Requests to have ballots mailed must be received at the Board by:

- 12 noon of the third day before a Primary Election.
- 12 noon of the third day before a special election.
- 12 noon of November 1 for the November 4 General Election

Requests to vote ballots in person at the Board office must be made by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

## **Presidential Ballot**

### **Former resident?**

If you move from Ohio after October 5, 1980, and you are not eligible to vote in your new state because of so recent a move, you may be eligible to vote in Ohio for President and Vice-President but not for other offices. You may vote the presidential ballot only and vote by absentee ballot.

