

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_76
Tab Number: 48
Document Title: Voting in Pennsylvania: Your vote is your
voice. Say something.
Document Date: 1981-1982
Document Country: United States --
Pennsylvania
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02461



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voter info

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Voting In Pennsylvania



Your vote is your voice.

Say something.



DICK THORNBURGH, GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

WILLIAM R. DAVIS
Secretary of the Commonwealth

RICHARD ANDERSON
Commissioner of Elections

Published by
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Bureau of Elections

TO VOTE IN PENNSYLVANIA, YOU MUST BE REGISTERED

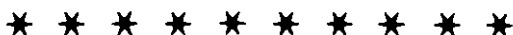
You may register if:

- You have been a U.S. Citizen for at least 30 days preceding the election
- You will be at least 18 on the day after the election
- You have lived in your election district at least 30 days preceding the election (If you are a registered Pennsylvania voter who has moved with the 30 day period prior to the election you may vote in your old district) You must re-register if:
 - You have not voted during the preceding 2 years
 - You have changed your party affiliation
 - You have moved out of the election district in which you voted previously.

Register in person at your County Court House or through mail registration forms which are available throughout the Commonwealth. When registering, you must state your party affiliation if you wish to vote for party candidates in a primary election.

HOW TO REGISTER BY MAIL

- Obtain an official mail registration application. You will find applications at the County Court House, many post offices, state stores, public libraries, party committees, the League of Women Voters and other various public offices.
- Read the instructions very carefully and complete the application in its entirety.
- Seal the application and drop it in the mail — it's postage free.
- The County Board of Elections will send you a notice that your application has been received and is being processed. If you do not receive the notice within ten days from the date the application is sent, contact your County Board of Elections.
- When the County Board of Elections accepts your application, they will then send you a wallet size voters identification card.



ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee voting is provided by law in Pennsylvania for certain voters (see chart below). Contact your county board of elections to find out where you can obtain an official absentee ballot application. Upon completion of the application you should deliver it to the county board. If approved, the county will send you an official absentee ballot.

Make sure you apply in plenty of time because state law provides that **ALL BALLOTS MUST BE VOTED AND RETURNED TO THE COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS BY 5 PM ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION. ANY BALLOTS RECEIVED AFTER 5 PM FRIDAY BUT BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY WILL BE COUNTED FOR FEDERAL OFFICES ONLY.**

In addition to regular application procedures and deadlines, any elector who after the Tuesday prior to the election becomes physically ill or disabled or is called out of the county because of business, occupation or duties may apply for an absentee ballot by executing an Emergency Application until 5 PM on the Friday before the election.

Application procedures and deadlines differ for various absentee voters. Please refer to the chart below for additional information. Keep in mind that there are several other classes of electors such as those confined in mental institutions, penal institutions and public nursing homes for which special provisions apply. For more information on the voting rights of these electors, contact your county board of elections.

Absentee Voting Categories	Must Elector be Registered?	Deadline for ballot application to be filed	Comments
1. Military Electors	No	No deadline	Although there is no deadline to apply, the absentee ballot must be returned by 5 PM on the Friday before election
2. Electors (outside of county of residence) who are: (a) members of Merchant Marine (b) serving within religious or welfare groups attached to Armed Forces (c) civilian employees of the United States Government outside of the territorial limits of the U. S. (d) spouses and dependents residing with the foregoing, and, (e) spouses and dependents residing with military electors	Yes, however, normal registration deadlines do not apply. May register concurrently with voting.	No deadline	Although there is no deadline to apply, the absentee ballot must be returned by 5 PM on the Friday before election
3. Hospitalized veteran (outside county of residence)	No	No deadline	Although there is no deadline to apply, the absentee ballot must be returned by 5 PM on the Friday before election
4. Civilians outside county of residence because of occupations, business or duties and their spouses and dependents who accompany them	Yes	5 PM Tuesday prior to election	May obtain absentee ballot by submitting to your county a written request containing name, voting residence and signature
5. Electors who are physically ill or disabled	Yes	5 PM Tuesday prior to election	<p>— Application must have supporting declaration of attending physician or, if none, by an unrelated elector</p> <p>— May apply to county to get on a permanently disabled electors list in which case an absentee ballot application is sent automatically to elector and physicians supporting declaration is needed only once every two years.</p>

VOTING PROCEDURES

Once you are registered follow these procedures when you go to the polls to cast your vote:

At every primary and general election, upon entering the polling place, you will first sign a voter's certificate. After placing your name and address on the certificate, you will then hand it to the election officer in charge of the district register. That officer will then compare your signature on the certificate with the signature on the district register card. If the signature on the voter's certificate is genuine, you will be permitted to vote.

After the information on the certificate has been entered by the election official into the register, you will proceed to vote.

If you live in a district where paper ballots are used, you will be handed a folded ballot. Each ballot contains detailed instructions for voting. Enter the voting booth and mark the ballot accordingly. If you should accidentally tear, soil or mistakenly mark a ballot, you may return it to the election officials and request another one. After completing the ballot, refold it in the same manner as it was given to you and leave the voting booth. After showing the ballot number to the officer at the ballot box, tear off the perforated corner and drop the ballot into the box. . . it's that simple.

If you live in a district where voting machines are used, an election officer will instruct you in the use of the machine on a table-top model. You then enter the voting booth, close the curtain and vote. . . it's just as simple.

Only if your registration indicates that you are physically unable to mark a ballot or operate a machine will you be permitted to have assistance in casting your vote. In this case, you would be allowed to select any registered voter of the election district to enter the voting booth to help you in voting. Remember: the polls open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8:00 P.M. on election day.



HOW REGISTRATION BY MAIL WORKS

1. Fill out application and drop in mail — it's postage free. When received the county will send you notification of receipt.
2. The county prepares two cards from your application: ORIGINAL CARD goes to polling place on election day; DUPLICATE CARD is filed in registration office.
3. On election day, registered voter signs a certificate at the polling place.
4. Election official compares signature with the ORIGINAL CARD in polling place file.
5. If signature matches, elector votes.

ELECTION CALENDAR

1981

Last day to register before MUNICIPAL election.....	October 5, 1981
Absentee ballots must be received by the county boards of election by 5:00 P.M. of this date to be counted	October 30, 1981
MUNICIPAL ELECTION.....	November 3, 1981

1982

Last day to register before PRIMARY election.....	April 19, 1982
Absentee ballots must be received by the county boards of elections by 5:00 P.M. of this date to be counted	May 14, 1982
GENERAL PRIMARY	May 18, 1982
Last day to register before GENERAL election.....	October 4, 1982
Absentee ballots must be received by the county boards of elections by 5:00 P.M. of this date to be counted	October 29, 1982
GENERAL ELECTION.....	November 2, 1982

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Your County Board of Elections
County Court House

OR

Department of State
Bureau of Elections
305 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-5280

Polls Open 7:00 A.M. — Close at 8:00 P.M.
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Voting In Pennsylvania



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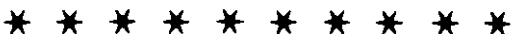
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