



2008 Ohio Voter Information Guide

Updated: September 2008



VOTING RIGHTS I N S T I T U T E

Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner

The Ohio Secretary of State's office seeks to promote civic participation and a stronger democracy through ensuring every Ohioan's right to vote in an election system that is free, fair, open and honest.

For additional **Voting Rights Institute** information, please reference page 21.

Dear Ohio voter:

This year Ohio voters will help elect a new U.S. president and vice-president, along with electing congressional representatives, state senators, state representatives, county office holders, Ohio Supreme Court justices, boards of education members, and various judges and clerks of courts.

While there is expected great interest in the presidential election, the many other races on the ballot will have a great impact on the lives of citizens in our communities throughout Ohio. Many of today's local leaders will become tomorrow's state and federal leaders. Your participation is critically important at every level of the ballot, and decisions you make each and every year have lasting effects for your children, grandchildren and those who will follow us.

This Voter Information Guide has been developed to assist you in participating in Ohio's 2008 elections. The guide contains information on voter registration, absentee voting requirements and what to expect at your polling place on Election Day.

Your local election officials, along with the Secretary of State's office, are working to ensure that every Ohioan who wants to vote and who is eligible to vote may do so easily in a system that is free, fair, open and honest.

Your vote - whether at the polling place or in the comfort of your own home using an absentee ballot - is important. As election officials, the Secretary of State and boards of election are working to earn and maintain your confidence in our state's election process. We work to ensure that every eligible vote is counted so that you, the voter, remain the driving force behind our democratic system of government. Thank you for your citizenship in voting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Brunner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Brunner
Ohio Secretary of State

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Voter Registration | 4 |
| Voting Procedures | 9 |
| Before Election Day | 9 |
| Voting by Absentee Ballot | 9 |
| Regular Absentee Voters | 10 |
| Active Duty Members of Ohio's Organized Militia | 11 |
| Active Duty Members of the Armed Services..... | 12 |
| Uniformed and Overseas Citizens..... | 13 |
| Absentee Deadlines..... | 14 |
| On or Before Election Day | 15 |
| Voting by Provisional Ballot..... | 15 |
| On Election Day..... | 19 |
| Voting at the Precinct Polling Place..... | 19 |
| TTY Assistance..... | 21 |
| Voting Rights Institute (VRI)..... | 21 |
| 2008 Election Dates to Remember..... | 22 |
| County Boards of Elections Contact Information | 23 |
| Poll Worker Sign Up | 29 |

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In 2008, voters will elect:

- President and vice president;
- Representatives to Congress (all 18 districts);
- State senators (even-numbered districts);
- State representatives (all 99 districts);
- County commissioners (2 to be elected);
- County coroner;
- County engineer;
- County prosecutor;
- County recorder;
- County sheriff;
- County treasurer;
- Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court (2 to be elected);
- Court of appeals judges;
- Common pleas court judges;
- County court judges;
- County clerk of courts;
- Members of state board of education (6 of 11 districts); and
- Members of state and county central committees of political parties

Voter Registration

Does everyone who wants to vote in Ohio have to be registered to vote here?

Yes.

What are the qualifications to register and to vote in Ohio?

You are qualified to register to vote in Ohio if you meet all the following requirements:

1. You are a citizen of the United States;
2. You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election. (If you will be 18 on or before November 4, you may vote in the primary election for candidates, but you cannot vote on issues until you are 18);
3. You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote;
4. You are not incarcerated (in prison or jail) for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state or the United States;
5. You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court; and
6. You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violations of the election laws.

You are eligible to vote in elections held in your voting precinct more than 30 consecutive days after you are duly registered to vote in this state.

Where do I vote?

Ohio election officials determine a person's qualifying voting address using guidelines established by Ohio law (Revised Code (R.C.) 3503.02). Where an individual votes depends on where he or she is determined by law to reside. A voter may vote from only one residence. Your voting residence is the place in which your habitation is fixed and to which, whenever you are absent, you intend to return. Your voting residence should be one you consider to be permanent, not temporary. You will not lose your voting residency in Ohio if you leave temporarily and intend to return, unless you are absent from the state for four consecutive years. (Exception: You will not lose your residency after four years if your absence from Ohio is due to your employment with Ohio or the United States government, including military service, unless you vote in, or permanently move to, another state.)

If you do not have a fixed place of habitation, but you are a consistent or regular inhabitant of a shelter or other location to which you intend to

return, you may use that shelter or other location as your residence for purposes of registering to vote.

For information on voting rights of U.S. citizens living outside the U.S., see page 13, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens.

May a college student register and vote from his or her school address in Ohio?

Yes, a student may vote using his or her Ohio school residence address. However, the student may not also vote an absentee ballot where he or she last lived (e.g. with one or more parent or guardian). When a college student votes from his or her school address, the school residence is considered to be the place to which the student's habitation is fixed and to which, whenever the student is absent, the student intends to return, and is considered by the student to be his or her permanent residence at the time of voting.

How can I register to vote?

If you have Internet access, you may download a voter registration form from the Secretary of State's Web site: www.sos.state.oh.us.

You also may ask a county board of elections (listed on pages 23 through 28) or the Secretary of State's office to mail a registration form to you.

You may obtain a form in person, and register in person, at any of the following locations:

- The office of the Secretary of State or any of the 88 county boards of elections;
- The office of any Deputy Registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- Public libraries;
- Public high schools or vocational schools;
- County treasurers' offices; or
- Offices of designated agencies including:
 - The Department of Job and Family Services;
 - The Department of Health – Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program;
 - The Department of Mental Health;
 - The Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities;
 - The Rehabilitation Services Commission; or
 - Any state-assisted college or university that provides assistance to disabled students.

When you have completed your voter registration form, please review it carefully for completeness and mail it or personally deliver it to your county board of elections or the Secretary of State's Office. Another person, or one of the offices listed above, may deliver it for you, but you will want to ensure it reaches the board within 10 days and no later than 30 days before the election at which you want to vote.

What is the registration deadline?

Ohio has a 30-day voter registration requirement. If you register to vote by mail, your properly completed and signed registration application may be mailed to your county board of elections or the Secretary of State's Office. Your voter registration form must be postmarked by the 30th day before the first election at which you want to vote.

If you do not submit your registration application by mail, you, personally, must deliver the form to a county board of elections, the office of the Secretary of State, a public library, high school or vocational school, county treasurer's office, any Deputy Registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles office or designated agency no later than 30 days before the election at which you want to vote.

If you do not make the deadline, your registration counts for the next succeeding election and beyond. To keep your registration on file you must vote at least once during a period of two succeeding federal general elections after you register.

If you are entrusting another person to deliver your completed form, that person must deliver your registration form to a county board of elections or the Secretary of State's office within 10 days or by the registration deadline, whichever is earlier.

What if I am unable to sign my voter registration form or other election documents?

Ohio law requires a person to sign or affix a signature to the voter registration application. "Sign" or "signature" means your written, cursive-style legal mark written in your own handwriting.

However, if you do not use a cursive-style legal mark in your regular business and legal affairs, "sign" or "signature" means your other legal mark that you use in your regular business and legal affairs that is written in your own handwriting.

If you are unable to sign your own name and have no other legal mark, make an "X," if possible, on the application signature line and have the person who witnessed you making that mark place his/her name and address beneath the signature line.

If you are unable to make an "X," you must indicate in some manner that you want to register to vote. The person registering you must sign the form and attest that you indicated that you want to register to vote.

May a power of attorney be used to sign a voter registration form?

If by reason of disability you are unable to physically sign your name or affix your mark to the application, and you have appointed an attorney-in-fact according to the specific requirements of R.C. 3501.382, your attorney-in-fact may sign it on your behalf, at your direction and in your presence. This is the only situation in which a power of attorney may be used to sign a voter registration form, and only powers of attorney prepared according to R.C. 3501.352 may be used.

What are my obligations to keep the board of elections informed of address or name changes?

If you are already registered to vote but have moved within Ohio and/or changed your name, you must update your voter registration by completing a new voter registration form or change of address form.

Change of address forms may be obtained online at www.sos.state.oh.us, at all locations where voter registration forms may be obtained (see page 5), and from the probate court and the court of common pleas of any Ohio county.

Your completed form may be delivered in person to any of these offices by you: the Secretary of State, a board of elections, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, a county treasurer's office, any Deputy Registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles or an office of a designated agency. Designated agencies include:

- The Department of Job and Family Services;
- The Department of Health - Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program;
- The Department of Mental Health;
- The Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities;
- The Rehabilitation Services Commission; and
- Any state-assisted college or university that provides assistance to disabled students.

If you return your completed form by mail, you must send it to your county board of elections or the Secretary of State's Office.

If your change of name and/or address form is completed properly, the board of elections will update your registration and send you a notice. If the form is incomplete, the board will send you a notice of the information necessary to update your registration. If your valid change form is received or postmarked at least 29 days before an election, you will be eligible to vote a regular (rather than a provisional) ballot at that election. You may vote either in person on or before Election Day or by mail via absentee ballot.

You may also update your registration during the 28 days immediately before, or on the day of, an election, but this may require you to vote a "provisional ballot" as described later in this guide.

Do I declare my political party affiliation when I register?

No. Under Ohio law, you may declare your political party affiliation by requesting either a Republican or Democratic ballot in a partisan primary election. If you are "Independent," you are considered independent of any political party. Political parties other than Democratic or Republican may or may not qualify for a primary election ballot, depending on the political party's previous activities to qualify under the law.

May I vote if I have been convicted of a crime?

As noted under the "Voter Registration" section of this guide, a person currently serving time in jail or prison for a felony conviction cannot register to vote or vote. Additionally, a person who has twice been convicted of a violation of the elections laws is permanently barred from voting in Ohio. An otherwise qualified person convicted of a misdemeanor may vote, and one convicted of a felony may register and vote while on probation or parole or after completing his or her jail or prison sentence.

What happens after I submit my voter registration application?

A board of elections must accept your voter registration application if the information contained within the application is found to be complete and truthful. Once accepted, the board must register you to vote not later than 20 business days after receiving your application and promptly mail a notice to your voting residence address confirming that you are registered to vote, identifying your voting precinct and the location of your precinct polling place, and stating the identification requirements for voting.

If the board does not accept your registration application, it must immediately mail you a notice stating why your application was rejected and requesting you to provide whatever information or verification is necessary to complete your application.

If you do not receive a notice that your registration was accepted or rejected, please contact your county board of elections before Election Day to determine if the board received your application.

Can I check my voter information online?

Yes. You may check your voter information by performing a “Voter Information Search” on the Secretary of State’s Web site: www.sos.state.oh.us. If performing such a search returns the information you registered, your county board of elections has successfully processed your voter registration form. If the search does not return your information, please contact your county board of elections to check on the status of your registration. You may also be able to check your voter information through your county board of elections’ Web site, although not all county boards have the capacity to provide this service.

Voting Procedures

Before Election Day:

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

When does absentee voting begin and end?

Absentee voting begins 25 days before the presidential primary and 35 days before the general election and – except for voters hospitalized due to emergencies, as further described under the “Absentee Deadlines” section beginning on page 14 of this guide, – ends the day before the election. (**Note:** Absentee voting does not always begin 35 days before a special election. You may contact your county board of elections to learn if a special election is being held in your precinct and, if so, when absentee ballots will be available.)

Once absentee ballots are available for voting, any voter may receive and return an absentee ballot in person at the county board of elections office, or receive and return the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail.

Who is eligible to vote by absentee ballot?

Any qualified Ohio voter may request and vote an absentee ballot without stating a reason.

What is the application process for obtaining an absentee ballot?

Ohio law provides separate application processes for different classifications of absentee voters (militia, armed services, overseas, etc.). In all cases, absentee ballots must be applied for in writing. If you are properly registered to vote, you must submit your written request to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located. Your request must contain certain information (described in the following sections) and your original signature. You may, but are not required to, use an application form prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State. Application forms are available for download on the Secretary of State's Web site: www.sos.state.oh.us.

If you **are not** an active duty member of Ohio's organized militia (including the Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Naval Militia, and Ohio Military Reserve), an active duty member of the U.S. armed services serving outside of Ohio, or a U.S. citizen residing outside of the U.S., you are considered a "regular" absentee voter for the purpose of this guide.

REGULAR ABSENTEE VOTERS

If you are a regular absentee voter, you may use the application form prescribed by the Secretary of State (11-A) to apply for your absentee ballot. If you choose not to use the prescribed form, your written application need not be in any particular format, but it must contain all of the following information:

1. Your name;
2. Your signature;
3. The address at which you are registered to vote;
4. Your date of birth;
5. **One** of the following items showing proof of your identification:
 - (a) Your Ohio driver's license number; or
 - (b) The last four digits of your Social Security number; or
 - (c) A copy of your current and valid photo identification, military identification; or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university). (**Note:** You cannot use a notice that the board of elections mailed to you as proof of identification.);

6. A statement identifying the election for which you are requesting an absentee voter's ballot;
7. A statement that you are a qualified elector;
8. If the request is for a partisan primary election ballot, your political party affiliation; and
9. If you want the ballot to be mailed, the address to which you want it mailed.

For information regarding application deadlines, please see "Absentee Deadlines" at the end of this section.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF OHIO'S ORGANIZED MILITIA (Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Naval Militia and Ohio Military Reserve, collectively)

If you are on active duty with Ohio's organized militia, your written application must contain all the information required of a regular absentee voter and either the address to which the ballot is to be mailed or the fax number to which it is to be faxed. If you are planning to request that the ballot be mailed to you, you may use the application form prescribed by the Secretary of State (11-A) to apply for your absentee ballot.

Alternatively, an absentee application may be submitted on your behalf by one of the following relatives: your spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother or sister of the whole blood or half blood, son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece. Your relative must use the application prescribed by the Secretary of State (Form 11-C), available from the board of elections or the Secretary of State's office or Web site: www.sos.state.oh.us. This application, which must be signed and sworn to by your relative ("the applicant"), must contain all the following information:

1. Your full name;
2. A statement that you are a qualified elector in the county;
3. The address at which you are registered to vote;
4. Your date of birth;
5. **One** of the following items showing proof of your identification:
 - (a) Your Ohio driver's license number; or
 - (b) The last four digits of your Social Security number; or
 - (c) A copy of your current and valid photo identification, military identification; or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill

(including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university).
(**Note:** You cannot use as proof of identification a notice that the board of elections mailed to you.);

6. A statement identifying the election for which the absentee ballot is requested;
7. A statement that you are a member of the organized militia serving on active duty outside your Ohio county of residence;
8. If the request is for a partisan primary election ballot, your political party affiliation;
9. A statement specifying the applicant's relationship to you;
10. The address to which the ballot is to be mailed or fax number to which it is to be faxed;
11. The signature and address of the person making the application; and
12. The applicant's notarized statement attesting to the validity of the application.

For information regarding application deadlines, please see "Absentee Deadlines" at the end of this section.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES

If you are serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces outside Ohio and meet the requirements for voting in Ohio, you may vote an armed services absentee ballot. Your spouse and dependents may vote an armed services absentee ballot only if they left Ohio to be with or near you.

What is the voting residence of a service member?

The voting residence of a service member is the place in Ohio where the service member resided immediately preceding the commencement of his or her service, unless he or she later established a voting residence elsewhere in Ohio.

Must armed services absentee voters be registered to vote?

Yes.

How do I apply for an armed services absentee ballot?

Qualified electors who are members of the armed services have multiple options available when applying for absentee ballots:

1. If you are not currently a registered Ohio voter, you may use the

current Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), available online at www.fvap.gov, both to register to vote and to request absentee ballots.

2. If you already are a registered Ohio voter, you may request an absentee ballot using a form prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State (Form 11-A if you will be in Ohio during the absentee period, Form 11-D or an FPCA otherwise).
3. If you already are registered to vote, you may designate a relative to request an absentee ballot on your behalf. Your relative must use the form prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State (Form 11-E).

For information regarding application deadlines, please see "Absentee Deadlines" at the end of this section.

UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS

The voting rights of U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. and members of the uniformed services stationed outside Ohio are governed by federal law (The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act - "UOCAVA"), as well as state law.

Overseas Citizens: Generally, if you are a citizen residing outside the U.S., you are eligible to vote in federal elections in the state in which you resided immediately before leaving the U.S. if you were, or could have, registered to vote in that state while residing there, or currently are eligible under state law to vote in that state.

Note: Federal law does not require any state to extend voting eligibility to a person who never resided in that state on the basis that one or both of the person's parents formerly resided in that state.

If you are eligible, you may vote a federal ballot (candidates for U.S. president, vice president and U.S. House of Representatives) from the Ohio precinct in which you resided immediately before leaving the U.S. to live in a foreign country, even though you may no longer have ties to, and may not intend to return to, Ohio. You must register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot using the current Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) using either the postcard or online version. The online FPCA can be downloaded from www.fvap.gov.

You may also be eligible to vote a regular Ohio ballot if you maintain a qualifying voting address in Ohio and have lived outside Ohio less than four consecutive years.

Uniformed Services Personnel: If you are a member of the uniformed services (armed forces, merchant marine, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), you are eligible to vote a regular ballot from the voting address in Ohio at which you resided for 30 days immediately before leaving Ohio to commence active duty service.

For information regarding application deadlines, please see "Absentee Deadlines" at the end of this section.

For additional information on voting by overseas citizens and uniformed services personnel, please contact the secretary of state's Elections Division or the board of elections in the Ohio county in which you previously resided. You may also visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site: www.fvap.gov, or the Overseas Vote Foundation's Web site: www.overseasvotefoundation.org

ABSENTEE DEADLINES

To receive your absentee ballot:

1. In person: You may go to the board of elections office of the county in which your voting residence is located during regular business hours after absentee ballots are available for voting, but no later than the day before the election, and request, receive and vote your ballot at the board office.
2. By mail: You may mail your properly completed absentee ballot application bearing your original signature to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located. The board must receive your request by noon on the Saturday before the election. However, you should submit your request as far in advance of the election as possible to ensure there is sufficient time for the board to mail you a ballot and for you to timely return that ballot.
3. By fax: If you are a member of the U.S. armed forces or an organized state militia, you may fax your absentee ballot request to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located. The board must receive your request by noon on the Saturday before the election. You may request that the board fax your ballot to you, but you must return your marked ballot by mail.
4. If you or your minor child is in the hospital on Election Day: Regardless of where you or your minor child are hospitalized, you must submit a properly completed and signed request to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located by 3 p.m. on Election Day. To be eligible under this provision, you or your minor child

must be confined in a hospital because of an unforeseeable medical emergency. Your application must specify where, why and when you or your minor child came to be hospitalized. If you or your minor child are hospitalized in the same county where you are registered to vote, two representatives of the board of elections can deliver the ballot to you, wait while you mark the ballot, and return your voted ballot to the board office. Additionally, you may include in your absentee ballot application a request that your county board of elections give your unmarked ballot to a designated relative – your spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece – who shall deliver the ballot to you in the hospital and return your voted ballot to the board office.

For your absentee ballot to be counted, it must be received as follows:

1. If cast from anywhere in the U.S. and you return it by mail, it must be postmarked* (the day before the election) and received by the board of elections no later than 10 days after the election. If you return it in person or if a near relative delivers it to the board for you, it must be delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on Election Day.
2. If you are a voter outside the U.S. on Election Day, your ballot envelope must be signed and postmarked by the close of polls on Election Day and received by your county board of elections not later than the 20th day after the presidential primary election or by the 10th day after a special or general election.

**Postmarked does not include a date marked by a postage evidence system such as a postage meter.*

On Or Before Election Day:

VOTING BY PROVISIONAL BALLOT (R.C. 3505.181)

What is a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote if a voter's eligibility is in question and the voter would otherwise not be permitted to vote at his or her polling place. The content of a provisional ballot is no different from a regular ballot, but it is cast "provisionally" until election officials can verify the voter's eligibility.

There are several scenarios in which a voter may cast a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot may be used on Election Day if a voter's eligibility is in question, or before (or on) Election Day if a voter has recently

changed his or her address or name and did not update his or her voter registration.

What Election Day scenarios would require me to cast a provisional ballot?

Any of the following scenarios would require you to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day:

- Your name does not appear on the official poll list for an election, or an election official asserts that you are not eligible to vote or is unable to determine your eligibility;
- You are unable or decline to provide the required proof of identity, which includes a current and valid photo identification, military identification; or a copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university). (**Note:** You cannot use as proof of identification a notice that the board of elections mailed to you.);
- Your name appears on the poll list or signature book as having requested an absentee ballot;
- Your name is marked on the poll list or signature book with a notation that registration mailings have been returned as undeliverable;
- A hearing on a challenge to your eligibility as an elector has been postponed until after Election Day;
- Your signature, in the opinion of the precinct officers, does not match the signature on your registration form; or
- Your eligibility to cast a ballot has been challenged by the precinct officers.

After I cast a provisional ballot, do I have to do anything to make sure my vote is counted?

Before your provisional ballot can be included in the official count of an election, the board of elections must confirm your eligibility to cast the ballot, as well as the validity of the ballot that you cast.

If you cast your provisional ballot and provided acceptable proof of identity, you typically do not need to provide any additional information to the board of elections.

If you cast a provisional ballot and **did not** provide acceptable proof of identity at the time of voting, you must appear in person at the board of

elections to provide such proof within the 10 days immediately following Election Day, in accordance with Ohio law. The following guidelines apply:

1. If you cast a provisional ballot because you had – but could not provide to election officials at the time you voted – acceptable proof of your identity or the last four digits of your Social Security number, you must provide to the board of elections **one** of the following:
 - a. Acceptable proof of your identity in the form of a current and valid photo identification;
 - b. A military identification;
 - c. A copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (but not a voter registration notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university); or
 - d. The last four digits of your Social Security number.

2. If you cast a provisional ballot because, at the time you voted, you had – but declined to provide – an acceptable form of identification or the last four digits of your Social Security number, and you declined to execute the written affirmation statement swearing to your identity under penalty of election falsification, you must provide to the board of elections **one** of the following:
 - a. Acceptable proof of your identity in the form of a current and valid photo identification;
 - b. A military identification;
 - c. A copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (but not a voter registration notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university); or
 - d. The last four digits of your Social Security number.

3. If you cast a provisional ballot because, at the time you voted, you did not have any acceptable form of identification or a Social Security number, and you declined to execute the written affirmation statement swearing to your identity under penalty of election falsification, you must provide to the board of elections one of the following:
 - a. Acceptable proof of your identity in the form of a current and valid photo identification;
 - b. A military identification;
 - c. A copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or

- other government document (but not a voter registration notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address (including from a public college or university); or
- d. The last four digits of your Social Security number; or
 - e. A signed affirmation statement (provided by the board of elections) stating that you do not have any of the above items.
4. If you cast a provisional ballot because your right to vote was challenged at the polling place under R.C. 3505.20, and the election officials either determined that you were ineligible to vote or were unable to determine your eligibility, you must provide any identification or other documentation required to resolve the challenge.

If I have recently moved but did not update my voter registration, can I vote a provisional ballot?

Yes. If you are an Ohio voter who moved from one Ohio precinct to another Ohio precinct and did not submit your change of address to election officials by the 29th day before the election, you still may vote in that election by taking the following steps:

1. If you move from one precinct to another in the same Ohio county, you may report the change and vote using one of the following procedures:
 - (a) During the 28 days immediately before the election, go to your county board of elections office or designated site, submit a proper change of address and provisional affirmation statement and vote a provisional ballot for your new voting address; or
 - (b) On Election Day, go to one of the following three places: the polling place in the precinct in which your new voting address is located, the board of elections office, or a site designated by that board of elections; submit a proper change of address and provisional affirmation statement and vote a provisional ballot for your new voting address.

2. If you move from the Ohio county in which you are registered to vote to another Ohio county, you may report the change and vote using one of the following procedures:
 - (a) During the 28 days immediately before the election, go to the board of elections office of the county in which you now reside, submit a proper change of address and provisional affirmation statement and vote a provisional ballot for your new voting address; or
 - (b) On Election Day, go to one of the following two places: the board of elections office in the county in which you now reside or a site designated by that board of elections; submit a proper change of address and provisional affirmation statement and vote a provisional ballot for your new voting address.

If I have recently changed my name but did not update my voter registration, can I vote a provisional ballot?

Yes. If you changed your name and did not submit your change of name to election officials by the 29th day before the election, you may report the change and vote using one of the following procedures:

- (a) During the 28 days immediately before the election, go to your county board of elections office or designated site, submit a proper change of name and provisional affirmation statement and vote a provisional ballot; or
- (b) On Election Day, go to one of the following three places: your polling place for your precinct, the board of elections office, or a site designated by that board of elections; submit a proper change of name and provisional affirmation statement and vote a provisional ballot.

On Election Day:

VOTING AT THE PRECINCT POLLING PLACE

Where do I vote on Election Day?

On Election Day, you cast your ballot at your precinct's designated polling place between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. If you do not know where your precinct polling place is located, please contact your county board of elections. If you have access to the Internet, you may also visit the Secretary of State's Web site, www.sos.state.oh.us, for the location of your polling place.

How do I cast my ballot?

Instructions for casting your ballot are posted in each polling place. If you have any questions about how to mark or cast your ballot, or if you have incorrectly marked a ballot, immediately contact a precinct election official (poll worker) for instructions before you continue.

May I receive assistance in voting?

A voter with a physical or mental disability or a voter who is unable to read or write may be assisted by anyone of the voter's choice, except a candidate whose candidacy is being voted on in that precinct, the voter's employer or the employer's agent, or an officer or agent of the voter's union. A voter may also be assisted by two poll workers (each of a different political party). No one who assists a voter may disclose any information about how that person voted.

In a primary election, how do I establish which political party's ballot I am entitled to vote?

You may vote the primary ballot of the political party with which you currently wish to be affiliated. If you wish to vote a party's ballot different from that of what you voted in 2006 or 2007, you must complete a statement at your polling place confirming the change in your political party affiliation.

May I vote on ballot issues at a primary election without declaring my party affiliation?

Yes. You may vote on the issues and questions, if any, that are on the ballot in your precinct absent from a party's ballot by requesting an "issues-only" ballot.

Will I need an ID to Vote?

Yes. All voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify their identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, military identification; or a copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notification mailed by the board of elections, that shows the voter's name and current address (including from a public college or university). Voters who do not provide one of these documents at the polling place will still be able to vote a provisional ballot as described earlier in this guide, and may provide such identification to the board of elections within the 10 days following Election Day. Voters who do not have any of the above forms of identification, including a Social Security number, will still be able to vote by signing an affirmation statement swearing to the voter's identity under penalty of election falsification and by casting a provisional ballot. (See *Voting by Provisional Ballot* on page 15 for more information.)

TTY Assistance

The secretary of state's office maintains a telephone line to provide information on registration and voting for hearing-impaired citizens: (614) 466-0562.

VOTING RIGHTS INSTITUTE (VRI)

The Ohio secretary of state's office seeks to promote civic participation and a stronger democracy by ensuring every Ohioan's right to vote in an election system that is free, fair, open and honest.

The **V**oting **R**ights **I**nstitute will:

- Work with communities, partner with organizations, and implement programs that will ensure a safe, reliable, and trustworthy process that fosters and enhances access to voting in Ohio by all of its eligible citizens;
- Act as a clearinghouse to address voter concerns; and
- Provide leadership on legislative and policy initiatives to accomplish this mission.

If you have a voting issue, concern or experience you would like to share, please visit the VRI's Web site at: www.sos.state.oh.us, and complete the "Share Your Voting Experience" survey.

For more information on the VRI, our advisory council, upcoming events, or to receive the quarterly newsletter, please contact:

Voting Rights Institute
Office of the Ohio Secretary of State
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 995-1619 (Main)
(614) 752-4360 (Fax)

www.myvoteohio.com

877-VOTE-VRI
vri@sos.state.oh.us

2008 Election Dates to Remember

February 4

Voter registration ends for March 4 elections

March 4

Primary Election:

Polls are open 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

July 7

Voter registration deadline for August 5 special elections

August 5

Special elections may be held

October 6

Voter registration ends for November 4 general election

November 4

General Election:

Polls are open 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

County Boards of Elections

Contact Information

ADAMS COUNTY

215 N. Cross St., Rm 103
West Union, OH 45693
Phone: (937) 544-2633

ALLEN COUNTY

204 N. Main St.
Lima, OH 45801
Phone: (419) 223-8530

ASHLAND COUNTY

110 Cottage St.
Ashland, OH 44805
Phone: (419) 282-4224

ASHTABULA COUNTY

8 West Walnut St.
Jefferson, OH 44047
Phone: (440) 576-6915

ATHENS COUNTY

15 S. Court St., Room 130
Athens, OH 45701
Phone: (740) 592-3201

AUGLAIZE COUNTY

209 S. Blackhoof, Rm. 205
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Phone: (419) 739-6720

BELMONT COUNTY

103 Plaza Dr., Ste. B
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
Phone: (740) 526-0188

BROWN COUNTY

800 Mt. Orab Pk., Suite 111
Georgetown, OH 45121
Phone: (937) 378-3008

BUTLER COUNTY

Princeton Road Campus
1802 Princeton Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45011-4742
Phone: (513) 887-3700

CARROLL COUNTY

119 S. Lisbon St., Suite 102
Carrollton, OH 44615-1489
Phone: (330) 627-2610

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

1512 S. U.S. 68, Ste. L100
Urbana, OH 43078-9288
Phone: (937) 484-1575

CLARK COUNTY

3130 E. Main St.
Springfield, OH 45505
Phone: (937) 521-2120

CLERMONT COUNTY

76 S. Riverside Dr.
Batavia, OH 45103
Phone: (513) 732-7275

CLINTON COUNTY

46 S. South St., 1st fl.
Wilmington, OH 45177
Phone: (937) 382-3537

COLUMBIANA COUNTY

41 N. Park Ave.
Lisbon, OH 44432
Phone: (330) 424-1448 Ext:1652

COSHOCTON COUNTY

724 S. Seventh St., Rm 100
Coshocton, OH 43812
Phone: (740) 622-1117

County Boards of Elections

Contact Information

CRAWFORD COUNTY

130 N. Walnut St., Suite A
Bucyrus, OH 44820-2383
Phone: (419) 562-8721

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

2925 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115-2497
Phone: (216) 443-3200

DARKE COUNTY

300 Garst Ave.
Greenville, OH 45331
Phone: (937) 548-1835

DEFIANCE COUNTY

1300 E Second St., Suite 103
Defiance, OH 43512
Phone: (419) 782-8543

DELAWARE COUNTY

140 N. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015
Phone: (740) 833-2080

ERIE COUNTY

2900 Columbus Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870
Phone: (419) 627-7601

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

951 Liberty Drive
Lancaster, OH 43130
Phone: (740) 687-7000

FAYETTE COUNTY

133 S. Main St., Suite 404
Washington C.H., OH 43160
Phone: (740) 335-1190

FRANKLIN COUNTY

280 E. Broad St., 1st floor
Columbus, OH 43215-4572
Phone: (614) 462-3100

FULTON COUNTY

525 N. Shoop Ave.
Wauseon, OH 43567
Phone: (419) 335-6841

GALLIA COUNTY

18 Locust St., 2nd Floor
Gallipolis, OH 45631-1292
Phone: (740) 446-1600

GEAUGA COUNTY

470 Center St. - Building 6A
Chardon, OH 44024-1238
Phone: (440) 279-2030

GREENE COUNTY

651 Dayton-Xenia Rd.
Xenia, OH 45385
Phone: (937) 562-7478

GUERNSEY COUNTY

627 Wheeling Ave., Ste. 101
Cambridge, OH 43725
Phone: (740) 432-2680

HAMILTON COUNTY

824 Broadway
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (513) 632-7000

HANCOCK COUNTY

201 E. Lincoln St., Rear
Findlay, OH 45840
Phone: (419) 422-3245

County Boards of Elections

Contact Information

HARDIN COUNTY

1 Court House Sq., Ste 170
Kenton, OH 43326
Phone: (419) 674-2211

HARRISON COUNTY

100 W. Market St.
Cadiz, OH 43907
Phone: (740) 942-8866

HENRY COUNTY

1813 Oakwood Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545
Phone: (419) 592-7956

HIGHLAND COUNTY

1575 N. High St., Suite 200
Hillsboro, OH 45133
Phone: (937) 393-9961

HOCKING COUNTY

1 E. Main St. PO Box 109
Logan, OH 43138
Phone: (740) 380-8683

HOLMES COUNTY

75 East Clinton St., Suite 108
Millersburg, OH 44654
Phone: (330) 674-5921

HURON COUNTY

180 Milan Ave.
Norwalk, OH 44857
Phone: (419) 668-8238

JACKSON COUNTY

275 Portsmouth St., Suite 2
Jackson, OH 45640
Phone: (740) 286-2905

JEFFERSON COUNTY

117 N. Third St.
Steubenville, OH 43952
Phone: (740) 283-8522

KNOX COUNTY

117 E. High St., Suite 210
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050
Phone: (740) 393-6716

LAKE COUNTY

105 Main St., PO Box 490
Painesville, OH 44077
Phone: (440) 350-2700

LAWRENCE COUNTY

111 S. Fourth St.
Ironton, OH 45638
Phone: (740) 532-0444

LICKING COUNTY

20 S. Second St.
Newark, OH 43055
Phone: (740) 670-5080

LOGAN COUNTY

225 S. Main St.
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
Phone: (937) 599-7255

LORAIN COUNTY

1985 North Ridge Rd. East
Lorain, OH 44055
Phone: (440) 326-5900

LUCAS COUNTY

1 Government Ctr. Ste 300
Toledo, OH 43604-2250
Phone: (419) 213-4001

County Boards of Elections

Contact Information

MADISON COUNTY

117 W. High St., Suite 102
London, OH 43140
Phone: (740) 852-9424

MAHONING COUNTY

2801 Market St.
Youngstown, OH 44507
Phone: (330) 783-2474

MARION COUNTY

222 W. Center St.
Marion, OH 43302
Phone: (740) 223-4090

MEDINA COUNTY

4210 N. Jefferson, Box 506
Medina, OH 44256
Phone: (330) 722-9278

MEIGS COUNTY

117 E. Memorial Dr., Suite 1
Pomeroy, OH 45769-0688
Phone: (740) 992-2697

MERCER COUNTY

101 N. Main St., Rm 107
Celina, OH 45822
Phone: (419) 586-2215

MIAMI COUNTY

215 W. Main St.
Troy, OH 45373
Phone: (937) 440-3900

MONROE COUNTY

101 N. Main St., Rm 15
Woodsfield, OH 43793
Phone: (740) 472-0929

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

451 W. 3rd St. PO Box 8705
Dayton, OH 45481-8705
Phone: (937) 225-5656

MORGAN COUNTY

155 E. Main St., Rm. 157
McConnelsville, OH 43756
Phone: (740) 962-3116

MORROW COUNTY

619 W. Marion Rd.
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338
Phone: (419) 946-4026

MUSKINGUM COUNTY

205 N. Seventh St.
Zanesville, OH 43701
Phone: (740) 455-7120

NOBLE COUNTY

140 Court House
Caldwell, OH 43724
Phone: (740) 732-2057

OTTAWA COUNTY

8444 W. SR 163,
Suite 101
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
Phone: (419) 898-3071

PAULDING COUNTY

105 E. Perry St.
Paulding, OH 45879-1412
Phone: (419) 399-8230

PERRY COUNTY

121 W. Brown St. Box 187
New Lexington, OH 43764
Phone: (740) 342-2134

County Boards of Elections Contact Information

PICKAWAY COUNTY

141 West Main St., Suite 800
Circleville, OH 43113
Phone: (740) 474-1100

PIKE COUNTY

230 Waverly Plaza, Ste. 1100
Waverly, OH 45690
Phone: (740) 947-2039

PORTAGE COUNTY

449 S. Meridian St., Rm. 101
Ravenna, OH 44266
Phone: (330) 297-3511

PREBLE COUNTY

101 E. Main St.
Eaton, OH 45320-1758
Phone: (937) 456-8117

PUTNAM COUNTY

336 E Main St. , Suite A
Ottawa, OH 45875
Phone: (419) 523-3343

RICHLAND COUNTY

1495 W. Longview, Ste. 101
Mansfield, OH 44906
Phone: (419) 774-5530

ROSS COUNTY

475 Western, Suite D
PO Box 1663
Chillicothe, OH 45601
Phone: (740) 775-2350

SANDUSKY COUNTY

2020 Countryside Dr.
Fremont, OH 43420
Phone: (419) 334-6180

SCIOTO COUNTY

602 Seventh St., Rm 105
Portsmouth, OH 45662
Phone: (740) 353-4178

SENECA COUNTY

71 S. Washington, Ste. 1101
Tiffin, OH 44883-0667
Phone: (419) 447-4424

SHELBY COUNTY

129 E. Court St.
Sidney, OH 45365
Phone: (937) 498-7207

STARK COUNTY

201 Third St. NE
Canton, OH 44702-1296
Phone: (330) 451-8683

SUMMIT COUNTY

470 Grant St.
Akron, OH 44311-1157
Phone: (330) 643-5200

TRUMBULL COUNTY

2947 Youngstown Rd., SE
Warren, OH 44484
Phone: (330) 369-4050

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

101 E High Ave. PO Box 69
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
Phone: (330) 343-8819

UNION COUNTY

940 London Ave.,
Suite 1000
Marysville, OH 43040-1621
Phone: (937) 642-2836

County Boards of Elections Contact Information

VAN WERT COUNTY

120 E. Main St.
Van Wert, OH 45891-1428
Phone: (419) 238-4192

VINTON COUNTY

31935 SR 93, Unit 1
McArthur, OH 45651
Phone: (740) 596-5855

WARREN COUNTY

406 Justice Dr., Rm 323
Lebanon, OH 45036-2314
Phone: (513) 695-1358

WASHINGTON COUNTY

205 Putnam St.
Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: (740) 374-6828

WAYNE COUNTY

200 Vanover Street, Suite 1
Wooster, OH 44691-4849
Phone: (330) 287-5480

WILLIAMS COUNTY

228 S. Main Street
Bryan, OH 43506
Phone: (419) 636-1854

WOOD COUNTY

1 Court House Sq.
Bowling Green, OH 43402
Phone: (419) 354-9120

WYANDOT COUNTY

109 S. Sandusky Ave., Rm 12
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351
Phone: (419) 294-1226



**Make a difference!
Serve your community, Ohio and your country!
On Election Day - be a Poll Worker!**

To sign up to be a Poll Worker, please complete the form below and send it to your county board of elections office (see pages 23-28 for county board contact information).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone Number: _____

Party Affiliation: _____

Please mail this form directly to your county board of elections office. For more information, please contact an election official in your county.

Quick Facts about Poll Workers:

1. Poll workers are always needed;
2. Serving your county on Election Day is an important contribution to democracy;
3. You can earn extra money by working the polls;
4. Work hours are approximately 5:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.;
5. To be a poll worker, you must be at least 17 years of age and a registered voter; and
6. You will need to attend a paid training session(s) to work at the polls.

