

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Q: How do I apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot? What is the deadline to apply?**

**A:** Registered voters can apply for a mail-in ballot online with a valid PA driver's license or photo I.D. at [votespa.com](http://votespa.com).

Or complete a paper mail-in ballot application by downloading and printing it or picking one up from Dauphin County's Elections Office.

In order to apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot, you must supply proof of identification.

This does not apply to individuals entitled to vote: under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting, or by alternative ballot under the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act.

The deadline to apply is October 27, 2020.

### **Q: How do I properly fill out my mail-in ballot?**

**A:** Mark your ballot and verify your selections carefully.

Pack and seal it:

1. Put your ballot in the "Official Election Ballot" envelope and seal it.
2. Put the "Official Election Ballot" envelope in the larger ballot-return envelope and seal it.

Sign and date it:

1. Fill in the Voter's Declaration on the back of the ballot-return envelope and be sure to sign and date it.

### **Q: What if I lose my mail-in ballot or make a mistake?**

**A:** Contact Dauphin County's Elections Office right away at 717-780-6360.

### **Q: How can I find out if I already applied for a mail-in or absentee ballot for the November 3 Presidential Election?**

**A:** To see if your application for a mail-in or absentee ballot has been received, visit [votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus](http://votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus) and enter your information. If your application has been received, your status will be listed as "pending" and the date will be filled in the block for "Application Received."

*NOTE: Remember to enter your first and last name exactly as you are registered to vote.*

### **Q: How can I find out if my application for a mail-in or absentee ballot for the November 3 Presidential Election has been processed?**

**A:** To see if your application for a mail-in or absentee ballot has been processed, visit [votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus](http://votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus) and enter your information. If your application has been processed, your

status will be listed in the block for “Application Processed.” *NOTE: Remember to enter your first and last name exactly as you are registered to vote.*

**Q: How can I find out if my mail-in or absentee ballot has been mailed to me for the November 3 Presidential Election?**

**A:** To see if your mail-in or absentee ballot has been mailed to you, visit [votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus](https://votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus) and enter your information. If your ballot has been mailed to you, your status will be listed in the block for “Ballot Mailed On.” *NOTE: Remember to enter your first and last name exactly as you are registered to vote.*

**Q: When does the county election office expect to begin mailing out mail-in and absentee ballots?**

**A:** Now that the county has received a certified list of candidates and all litigation challenging possible candidates’ names appearing on the ballot have been resolved, the Dauphin County Election Office has started mailing ballots to voters who requested them.

**Q: How can I find out if the county election office has received my voted mail-in or absentee ballot for the November 3 Presidential Election?**

**A:** To see if your voted mail-in or absentee ballot has been received in the county election office, visit [votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus](https://votesPA.com/MailBallotStatus) and enter your information. If your voted ballot has been received, your status will be listed as “Vote Recorded” and the date will be filled in the block for “Ballot Received.” *NOTE: Remember to enter your first and last name exactly as you are registered to vote.*

**Q: What happens if I voted by mail or absentee and want to vote in-person to change my ballot?**

**A:** Once you return your mail-in or absentee ballot to the Elections Bureau, the law stipulates that you cannot vote in person.

**Q: What happens if I requested a mail-in ballot and didn’t send it back?**

**A:** Voters should hand-deliver their mail-in ballots to Dauphin County’s elections office at 2 South 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Harrisburg, by 8 p.m. on November 3. Under Act 12 of 2020, if a voter did not return their absentee or mail-in ballot to the county election office, they may take the ballot and the return envelope provided by the County Election Office to their polling place and surrender it to the Judge of Election. The voter will then need to sign a declaration saying that they have not voted and they will be permitted to vote a regular ballot. If a voter who was issued a mail-in or absentee ballot that was returned to the election office goes to the polls without their ballot and return envelope, they will only be permitted to vote by a provisional ballot to ensure that they did not double vote.

**Q: How do I return my mail-in ballot?**

**A:** By mail—No postage necessary. Must be postmarked by Election Day, November 3 at 8pm.

Starting October 6, ballots can be dropped off in person at one of the following locations:

Dauphin County Administration Building

2 South 2nd Street (first floor), Harrisburg, PA

Hours: Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Phone: 717-780-6360

*\*Secure drop-box located in front of the building.*

Northern Dauphin Human Services Center

295 State Drive, Elizabethville, PA

Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8 am to 8 pm; Tuesday & Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm

Phone: 717-905-2700

*\*For picking up and dropping off voter registration and ballot applications and returning completed ballots.*

**Q: May I drop off a ballot for a family member?**

**A:** No, according to Pennsylvania law, you may only drop off your own ballot.

**Q: May I fill out my spouse or a family members ballot?**

**A:** No, you may only fill out and sign your own ballot.

**Q: What if I forget to fill out the declaration or sign my ballot? Will my ballot be counted?**

**A:** Ballots that are not signed will not be counted, as determined by the court.

**Q: Must I use the secrecy envelope? If I don't use the secrecy envelope, will my ballot be counted?**

**A:** Place your ballot in the secrecy envelope and then put the secrecy envelope into the official envelope. Be sure to sign the declaration, or your ballot may not count.

**Q: When are the polls open?**

**A:** The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. Anyone in line by 8 p.m. will have an opportunity to vote.

**Q: How can I learn more about Dauphin County's new voting system?**

**A:** Please go to [www.DauphinCounty.org](http://www.DauphinCounty.org) and click on the "What Voters Need to Know" icon, where you will find both printed instructions and videos showing how to use the Clear Ballot system.

**Q: What accommodations are available for voters with disabilities?**

**A:** Voters with disabilities can use the Clear Access System and cast their ballot using an electronic marking device or verbally using a headset, which will have sanitary headset covers. Additionally, voters can have an assistant of their choosing help them. Printed ballots still must be fed into scanner.

**Q: Do you expect delays at the polls?**

**A:** Because some voters will be using the system for the first time, and the additional time it takes to sanitize surfaces, there may be a longer wait than usual. Additionally, there is an extra step involved with the new system – once voters fill out their ballot, they insert the ballot into a scanner. With our previous machines, voters could simply make their selections on the screen and then hit a green “vote” button.

After Gov. Tom Wolf ordered counties to get new systems, the Commissioners selected the Clear Ballot system because it is easy to use and has ballot scanners. Our poll workers will do all they can to keep delays at a minimum.

**Q: How soon will we know the results? Where can we find the results of the election?**

**A:** Election results from votes cast in-person at precincts should be available within hours after the polls close. Each ballot scanner tallies the votes and stores them on chips and produces a paper printout.

However, because of the high number of mail-in ballots expected, the final count may not be available until several days or more following the election. As part of the Clear Ballot contract, the county purchased large high-speed scanners to process the mail-in ballots.

Election results can be found at [www.DauphinCounty.org](http://www.DauphinCounty.org) and by clicking on the icon on the homepage.

**Q: I understand some polling places have changed. Which polls are in new locations?**

**A:** All voters affected by the temporary polling place changes should have received mailed notification. Additionally, signage will be posted at the former polling places and the new, temporary locations on election day.

To check your polling place, visit [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov) and go to “Find Your Polling Place” under “Voter Services.”

**Q: How can senior citizens without transportation get to the polls on Election Day?**

**A:** Capital Area Transit (CAT) is offering free rides to the polls for any registered adult age 65 or over. This is for fixed routes only. Co-pays still apply for Shared Ride.