

This Way to the Voting Booth 2025-2026 A Citizen's Guide to Registration and Voting

State Primary Election – Tuesday, September 15, 2026
General Election – Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Compiled by the League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc.
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ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Visit www.vote411.org prior to each statewide election to see the races that will be on your ballot and compare the candidates' statements.

Register to Vote Today!

You must register in order to vote.

Your name will be put on the record of people who are eligible to vote.

The record is used at Early Voting Sites and your assigned polling place on Election Day.

WHAT DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

- Age - You must be 18 years old by the date of the next General Election.
- Citizenship - You must be a U.S. citizen.
- Residency - There is no durational residency requirement, but you must register no later than the 4th Saturday before a primary or general election. When registering you must show proof of identity and permanent residence in Delaware (driver's license, state ID, rent receipt, utility bill, etc.). State and federal laws enable some members of the military, their dependents, and certain other citizens who reside outside the state to register and vote in Delaware.
- You may not register if adjudged mentally incompetent.
- You may not register if you were convicted of a felony and have not completed your sentence or were convicted of a disqualifying felony and have not been pardoned.
- You may register to vote if you have been convicted of a non-disqualifying felony and have completed your sentence. You must complete and submit an application to register to vote, even if you were previously registered to vote prior to your felony conviction. More information about eligibility is available at <https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/votereg.shtml> or by calling the Office of the State Election Commissioner at (302) 739-4277.

WHERE DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- Pursuant to Delaware law (15 Del. C. § 2050A), every person
 - (1) who completes an in-person or online application for the issuance or renewal of their Delaware Driver's License, Learner's Permit, or State Identification Card, or
 - (2) who completes an in-person or online application to change their name or address on these documents, and (3) who is not already registered to vote, is of sufficient age, and whose citizenship status has been confirmed by the Division of Motor Vehicles, is automatically registered to vote by the Department of Elections.

Other ways to register to vote:

- Online at the State of Delaware Voter Portal:



- Download, complete and submit to the Department of Elections a State of Delaware All-in-One Form to Register to Vote or Update Your Information form available at: <https://de.gov/vrapp>



- At any Department of Elections office during regular office hours (See directory on back page).
- At any Division of Social Services facility when receiving services.
- At the Department of Labor, Division of Training or Vocational Rehabilitation when receiving services.
- At a mobile registration unit. The locations of these units are often reported in the newspaper, the Department of Elections website and the Department's social media pages/feeds.
- At a voter registration drive being conducted by an approved group.

YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER BY MAIL

Phone or write the Department of Elections office for your county for information and to request that a voter registration application be mailed to you.

When registering by mail or online, include your driver's license number or send a copy of a current form of identification. (A current and valid photo ID that shows your full name; utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.)

If you vote in person and did not send a copy of your identification when you registered, you will be required to show a current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address the first time you vote. If you vote by absentee ballot, you must submit with the absentee ballot a copy of your current identification as listed above.

Registration is Permanent

Your voter registration is permanent, but it is your personal responsibility to keep the residence and mailing address on your voting record current and updated. To alleviate problems on Election Day, the Delaware Code allows changes of name and/or address, up to an including on Election Day. You can submit a change of information using the State of Delaware Voter Portal <https://ivote.de.gov>:



Your voter registration may be cancelled if the Department of Elections receives and confirms information that you have moved out of the State of Delaware, you have passed away or is unable to contact you via mail. You

may cancel your voter registration by submitting a cancellation form available online at <https://de.gov/cancelreg> or at <https://ivote.de.gov>.

Failure to respond to a mailing when requested or the return of an Elections mailing as undeliverable will result in your being placed in an inactive status, meaning that Elections believes you have an incorrect address on your voter registration record.

If you do not vote during the period covered by the next two general elections or if you fail to update your address with the Department of Elections after being placed in inactive status, the Department of Elections may remove you from the voting rolls. Once in inactive status, but prior to being removed, you are eligible to vote. If you contact the Department, update your voter registration record, or vote, your voter registration record will be returned to active status.

PARTY AFFILIATION

If you wish to affiliate with a party, mark your choice of party on your voter registration application when you register to vote. If you do not affiliate with any party, you will be registered as "unaffiliated" and will not be able to vote in a primary election. In order to change your official party affiliation, you must submit a new voter registration application showing your new party to the Department of Elections.

You must be a registered Democrat to vote in a Democratic Primary or a registered Republican to vote in a Republican Primary.

- AVR Voters may choose a political party through the day of the FIRST Primary Election following their automatic voter registration at DMV. Delaware is a Closed Primary State. Only voters registered with the Democratic or Republican Party may vote in their party's Primary Election.
- AVR Voters may complete and submit to the Department the Response to Automatic Voter Registration form included in the Notice mailing to change their party.
- AVR Voters may complete a change of party at <https://ivote.de.gov>:



In a primary election, voters registered as Democrats or Republicans select candidates who will represent their respective parties in the general election when two or more candidates from the same party file for the same office. Minor parties do not have primary elections; their candidates are nominated at their respective state party conventions.

Cities and/or municipalities, except for Wilmington, hold elections at times other than at the general election. In some cases a city/municipality registration is required. For municipal election information such as election dates and voting hours visit the Department of Elections Municipal Elections webpage:

<https://elections.delaware.gov/municipality/index.shtml> Links to municipalities websites are available there. Check municipal webpages or contact municipal officials for more information.

WHERE DO I VOTE?

In-person, early voting is available to Delaware voters in Primary, General, and Special Elections per Title 15, Chapter 54 of the Delaware Code. Early Voting Sites are open in Delaware for **a total of 10 days** before these elections, with the last two days being the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to Election Day. Voters may vote at any Early Voting Site in the County in which they live during the Early Voting period. At least 30 days before each election, Early Voting Site locations and voting hours will be announced by the State Election Commissioner. Early Voting Sites and hours are posted on the Department's website at <https://de.gov/votinglocations> and voters may enter their address to find an Early Voting Site in their County at <https://de.gov/voteplaces>:



If you choose to vote in person on Election Day, there are a few ways to find out where you vote. The Department of Elections sends you a polling place card when you register; after a change in name, address, or party affiliation; or when your polling place is changed. Enter your address at the Department's GIS-based polling place lookup tool <https://de.gov/voteplaces> to find your assigned Polling Place. A list of polling places is also published in major newspapers, on the Department of Elections website, and available at each Department office prior to each election. If you need information regarding your election district and the place where you vote, you can view your assigned districts and Polling Place at <https://gis.elections.delaware.gov> (no login required), by logging on to <https://ivote.de.gov> or you may choose to call the Department of Elections office for your county or the League of Women Voters for the information. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Election Day for Federal, State and Public School elections.

WHAT WILL I DO AT THE POLLING PLACE?

Voting In-Person on Delaware's ExpressVote XL Voting Machine

One of the best ways to find out what to expect when you go to vote is to watch the video published by the

Department showing the polling place process and how to use Delaware's voting machines at <https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/technology.shtml>. Upon entering the polling place, you will proceed to the Check-In table, where your registration will be checked. Some persons whose names do not appear on the registration rolls may be able to vote after updating their record with an address or name change or by provisional ballot.

After your registration is checked you will be instructed to sign on the electronic pollbook and given a voting machine activation card to present to the official at the voting booth. The official will announce your name and, at a primary, your party affiliation.

When you enter the booth, the voting machine shows where you'll find the slot to insert the activation card. Insert the voting machine activation card as shown. To vote for a candidate, touch the block containing his or her name. The block containing the candidate's name will turn green.

If you make a mistake or change your mind, simply touch the other candidate's name you wish to select or touch the name again to deselect it.

When done with your selections, press "Print Ballot". You will be prompted to confirm your voting selections. To return to your ballot and make changes press "Return to Ballot". Otherwise, press "Print" to print your ballot.

Your printed ballot will appear above the slot where you inserted the activation card. Review the printed ballot. After you have completed your review, push the green "VOTE" button on the screen. This records your vote. The ballot will drop into a secure ballot container. Your vote is final and cannot be changed.

Write-In Votes (Available in General or Special Elections, not Primary or School Board Elections)

If you wish to cast a write-in vote, touch the block labeled "WRITE-IN". Type the name on the screen then press "Accept". Write-in votes are not permitted in primary or public school elections. A list of declared write-in candidates will be posted in the polling place. These are the only write-in votes that will be counted.

Special Assistance

Voters with disabilities may request aid from a person of their choice or election officials. The machine can be lowered to accommodate persons who use a wheelchair or others, as needed. A hand-held device with a headset is available for voters with visual disabilities. A child 17 years of age or younger may accompany a voter into the voting booth.

Help Desk

If you are currently registered in Delaware and have moved within the state or changed your name, you will be permitted to vote at your new polling location by checking in and completing a voter registration update form at the Help Desk.

Provisional Voting

Poll workers/election officials will inform you that you are eligible to vote by provisional ballot if any of the following conditions exist:

- Your name does not appear on the poll list.
- An official in the Department of Elections for the county determines that you are not an eligible voter.
- A court order holds the polls open beyond the normal closing time.

Poll workers/election officials will give you a provisional ballot, written instructions, and a confidential voting place. You will be issued a tracking number after completing the provisional ballot to be used to access the status of ballot at the free access site.

The provisional ballot will only list candidates for federal offices.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is permitted in primary, general, and special elections. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Department of Elections office for your county by 8:00 p.m., the close of polls on Election Night in order to be counted.

To obtain an absentee ballot, you may request one by logging in to <https://ivote.de.gov>:



A video tutorial on requesting an absentee ballot and the absentee voting process is available to view at <https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/absentee/index.shtml>. You may choose to download an application at <https://de.gov/AbsenteeApp>.



If you would like to receive an absentee application in the mail to complete, phone or write the Department of Elections office for your county in adequate time before the election. Otherwise, you may vote at the Department of Elections office in the county in which you reside upon request before 12 noon on the day prior to the election.

The Department of Elections will accept email and faxed transmissions of applications for absentee ballots. Ballots are not delivered or returned electronically except for persons with a disability, in the military or overseas voters upon request who request this delivery method when completing their absentee ballot application.

Administrative Complaint Procedure

If a voter has a complaint about polling activity or any other issue, they can register their complaint at <http://elections.delaware.gov/voter/complaints.shtml>.

HOW DO I VOTE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ELECTIONS?

School district elections are nonpartisan and are held to elect members to local Boards of Education or to decide school tax referenda. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Requirements

No registration is necessary, but voters must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident of the school district

Voters must present proof of identity and residence. School Board elections are on **May 13, 2025**. Tax referenda may be held as scheduled by the respective school district's Board of Education.

For election date and polling places, visit the Department of Elections website, <https://elections.delaware.gov>, check the newspaper, or contact the school district office or the Department of Elections office for your county.

Absentee voting is permitted for all school district elections. To obtain an absentee ballot, you may request one by logging in to <https://ivote.de.gov>. You may choose to download an application at <https://de.gov/schabsapp>:



If you would like to receive an absentee application in the mail to complete, phone or write the Department of Elections office in your county in adequate time before the election. You may also vote prior to the election at the Department of Elections office for your county upon request no later than 12 noon the day before the election. Voted ballots must be returned to the Department of Elections in your county by the time polls close (8:00 p.m.) on Election Day.

Next page is the DIRECTORY.

DIRECTORY

State of Delaware Department of Elections

Website: <https://elections.delaware.gov>

Kent County Office

100 Enterprise PI Suite 5

Dover DE 19904

302-739-4498

Email: votekc@delaware.gov

New Castle County Office

820 N French St Suite 400

Wilmington DE 19801

Sussex County Office

119 N Race St, PO Box 857

Georgetown DE 19947

302-856-5367

Email: votesc@delaware.gov

Office of the State Election Commissioner

905 S. Governor's Ave Suite 170

Dover DE 19904

302-739-4277 Email: coe_vote@delaware.gov

302-577-3464

Email: votenc@delaware.gov

League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc.

P.O. Box 7224

Wilmington, DE 19803-9995

302-571-8948

Email: lwwde@comcast.net

Website: www.lwvdelaware.org



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(2/12/2025)