FAQs ABOUT **VOTING IN PERSON** IN BUCKS COUNTY

Changing information

For updates, see the BOE Election Portal: www.buckscounty.org/2020Election

Consider becoming a Poll Worker

Duties include:

- Opening and closing the polls
- Setting up voting equipment
- Registering and signing in voters
- Assisting voters with questions

Poll workers are trained by the County and are paid for their service.
The salary is $195 for full day workers and $97.50 for a half-day; the judge of elections will be paid $200.

In general, the following are the requirements for becoming a poll worker

- You must be a registered voter in the county in which you wish to serve
- In most instances, government employees and officials are NOT allowed to serve
- If your name appears on the ballot, you are NOT allowed to serve
- In most cases, you must be able to work the full day from before the polls open at 7 a.m. until after the polls close at 8 p.m.

High School Students 17 years of age with parental and school permission are also allowed to serve.

What races are on the Ballot in Bucks County in 2020?

President and Vice President (Listed on the ballot as "Presidential Electors")
Representative in Congress (neither of Pennsylvania's US Senators are running this year)
Representative in the General Assembly (none of the Bucks County's State Senators are running this year)
Pennsylvania General Assembly
Pennsylvania State Treasurer
Pennsylvania Attorney General
Pennsylvania Auditor General

Can I vote early in person?

Yes! Starting on September 14th (or as soon as the ballots are available), you may vote in person at your county elections office or at one of the two County satellite locations in Quakertown and Levittown (addresses are listed below).

Up until the registration deadline, you can register to vote at the same time.

How can I find my polling place?

You can look up your polling place at www.Vote411.org or www.VotesPA.com by entering your address. Or you can call the Board of Elections at 215-348-6154.

What times do polls open and close?

Polls are open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

By PA law, anyone who is in line by 8:00 PM must be allowed to vote. If you are in line at 8:00 PM, stay in line until your ballot has been cast!

What health and safety measures will be taken at the polls?

During the Primary, the Health Department issued Safety Guidelines for Polling Places; it is EXPECTED that these Guidelines will be renewed for the General Election.

These mandated that polling places be equipped with plexi-glass barriers and that poll workers wear masks.
The public were required to wear masks and to respect social distancing.
Hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies were available to maintain a safe environment.

Restrooms with soap and water are available at every polling place.

Do I need to show identification to vote?

In Pennsylvania, you are NOT required to show identification UNLESS it's your first time voting at your current polling place.

All voters attending a polling place for the first time must show a valid form of identification. That means if you previously voted in PA, but have since moved to a new precinct, you are still required to show ID when you vote for the first time at your new polling location.
Acceptable I.D.s include a driver's license, your registration card, or any utility or tax bill with your name and current address. Other forms of acceptable ID are listed at VotesPA.com.

What will I need to do at the polling place?

After signing in, you will be given a paper ballot to fill in and scan into a reader. You will also be given a manilla secrecy folder and a ballpoint pen to mark the ballot. Note: you may

use your own pen as long as it is a blue or black ballpoint – no felt-tip or gel pens are allowed. (To see pictures and more details about what to expect at the polling place, go to the League of Women Voters or the Board of Elections websites.)

How do I fill out my ballot?

You will take your ballot, folder and pen to one of the tables with 3-sided screens where you can vote in privacy. To mark your ballot, you simply fill in the oval to the left of the name of the candidate of your choice.

If the font on the ballot is difficult to read, each polling place will have two magnifying sheets which are available for voters to use.

There will no longer be a shortcut straight-party option to vote for all candidates of one party. However, this does not prevent you from selecting only candidates from one party, one by one.

To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval next to "write-in" and write the name in the space allowed. No stickers can be used.
In filling out your ballot, be sure to completely fill out each oval. Before scanning, check both sides of the ballot over carefully to be sure you did not miss one or fill in too many.

How do I cast my ballot?

Once your ballot is complete, place it in the manilla secrecy folder and take it to one of the two scanners at the polling place. Insert the ballot, retaining the folder, and follow the instructions on the machine.

When you feed the ballot into the scanner, it will make a digital copy of it, and the votes will be tallied in the machine's memory.
The actual PAPER ballots will drop into a secure box attached to the scanner.

The vote tally, recorded on a thumb-drive, as well as all of the paper ballots will be delivered to the Board of Elections at the end of the day.
Your ballot, the one you actually marked with a pen on Election Day, will be retained for two years in the case of Presidential elections; (one year for all other elections) for use in any subsequent audits or recounts.

In the case of an election audit or recount, your original paper ballot will be used. In this way, we can be sure that each voter's ORIGINAL INTENT is counted.
Return the secrecy folder and pen as you leave the polling place.

What if there is a problem with the scanners?

Each polling place will have two scanners providing a backup if one breaks or malfunctions. If there is a power failure or other problem with the scanning equipment, each polling place will have a secure red Emergency Ballot bag. If required, voters can deposit their ballots in the emergency bag, and these ballots will be taken to the Board of Elections to be scanned at the close of the polls.

What if I have a problem completing the hand-marked paper ballot due to disability?

If you need help voting or if you cannot use the voting system because of a disability, ask the poll workers about accessible voting options. Each polling place will have a Ballot Marking Device which enables voters to mark their ballot on a touchscreen or with accessible input devices. The voted ballot is then printed and can be scanned just like the hand-marked ballots.

What if there are other problems at the polls?

Ask to speak with the Judge of Elections who may be able to resolve the issue with a call to the Board of Elections.

If your name is not in the voter roster, you may have the right to vote on a provisional ballot. Your vote will count if election officials determine that you are eligible to vote, and you will be notified if your ballot is rejected.

Similarly, if your signature does not match the signature in the Poll Book, you may vote using a Provisional Ballot, and your eligibility will be reviewed by the Board of Elections.

Why did Bucks County switch to hand-marked paper ballots?

In 2019, the State mandated that all unverifiable voting systems must be replaced, and the system used in Bucks County at that time was not verifiable.

Hand-Marked Paper Ballots are considered the safest way of ensuring that the voter's intent is recorded and counted accurately.
Electronic machines can be tampered with or can have mechanical problems which could result in an incorrect count. This is even true of the electronic scanners being used with paper ballots.

However, because the actual paper ballot is retained, an audit can detect the error and a recount can be taken if necessary. Our old machines did not have that capability. There was no way to know if a machine malfunctioned.

What if I didn't use my mail-in ballot or couldn't mail it in time?

You may bring your unused mail-in ballot to your polling place along with the secrecy envelope and the official outside envelope, turn it in to the Judge of Elections who will mark it SPOILED and return it to the Board of Elections

You may then sign the Poll Book and vote on the machine at the Polling Place.

What prevents someone from voting twice, both by mail and in person?

When a person applies for and is sent a mail-in ballot, it is recorded in the official poll book. No applications for mail-in ballots will be accepted after October 27, prior to the printing of the poll books which are used at the polling places.

On Election Day, no one who was sent a mail-in ballot will be given a regular ballot at the polling place.

However, if the voter claims he never received, or never returned his mail-in ballot, he will be allowed to vote using a provisional ballot.

All voted provisional ballots are placed in special envelopes and stored in a secure, specially marked provisional ballot box.

Provisional Ballots are counted after all other ballots have been processed, and each one is checked to ensure that no other ballot has been cast by that particular voter. This ensures that no one can cast more than one vote.

Some useful addresses:

Bucks County Board of Elections
55 E. Court St.
Doylestown, PA 18901
Board of Elections - 215-348-6154
elections@buckscounty.org

Some services are also available at the Government Services Centers during regular office hours, 8:00 – 4:30. (Register to vote, absentee ballot applications, early in-person voting, mail-in ballot drop off, etc.)

Lower Bucks County	**Upper Bucks County**
7321 New Falls Road	261 California Road
Levittown, PA 19055	Quakertown PA 18951
Phone: 267-580-3500	Phone: 215-529-7250

September 14, 2020