



# **This Way to the Voting Booth 2018**

## **A Citizen's Guide to Registration and Voting**

**State Primary Election - September 6    2018 General Election - November 6, 2018**

Compiled by the League of Women Voters of Delaware



### **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 the 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 residence requirement, but you must register no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday before a primary or general election. When registering you must show proof of identity and permanent residence in Delaware (driver's license, 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. A constitutional change in 2013 restores the right to some felons after completion of the sentence. Payment of restitution is not required. More information is at <https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/votereg.shtml>.

#### **WHERE DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?**

- Online at the State of Delaware Voter Portal - <https://ivote.de.gov>
- At any Department of Elections during regular office hours (See directory on back page).
- At any motor vehicle office when applying for or changing information on your driver's license or State ID card.
- At any Division of Social Services facility when receiving services.
- At the 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.
- At a voter registration drive being conducted by an approved group.

## YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER BY MAIL

Phone or write the Department of Elections 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.

If you vote by mail, you must submit with the ballot a copy of your current identification as listed above.

**Registration deadlines:**      **State Primary - August 11, 2018    General Election - October 13, 2018**

**Elections 2018:**      **State Primary Election – September 6, 2018    General Election – November 6, 2018**

### **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, even after the registration deadline. You can submit a change of information using the State of Delaware Voter Portal at <https://ivote.de.gov>.

You can be dropped from the voter rolls if the Department of Elections is unable to contact you via mail. Failure to respond to a mailing when requested or the return of department mailing as undeliverable will result in your being placed in an inactive status.

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 Board of Elections may remove you from the voting rolls. Once in inactive status, but prior to being removed, you are eligible to vote.

## PARTY AFFILIATION

If you wish to affiliate with a party, you must do so 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 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.**

**Deadlines:**      **May 25, 2018 is the last day to change your Party Affiliation before the 2018 State Primary.**

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 selected by 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 information, contact municipal officials. You may check each county's election website (listed on back) for election dates and voting hours.

## WHERE DO I 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. A list of polling places is also published in major newspapers prior to each election. If you need information regarding your election district and the place where you vote, call the Department of Elections office for your county, the League of Women Voters, or visit <https://ivote.de.gov>. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. for Federal and State elections.

## WHAT WILL I DO AT THE POLLING PLACE?

### Electronic Voting

Upon entering the polling place you will approach the election officer's 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 the Poll List and given a "Permission to Vote" 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, red lights will blink to indicate the offices for which you can vote. To vote for a candidate, touch the "X" in the box to the right containing his or her name. The blinking light will go out and a steady light will appear at your selection.

If you make a mistake or change your mind, simply touch the "X" again. This will cause the steady red light to the right of the candidate's name to go out and the blinking red light to reappear. You may then select a different candidate.

Be sure you check your ballot before pushing the green button. After you have completed your ballot, push the green "VOTE" button in the lower right corner of the machine. This records your vote. Your vote is final and cannot be changed.

### Write-In Votes

If you wish to cast a write-in vote, touch the block labeled "WRITE-IN" in the Office block. Then press the blinking red light on the upper right next to the black slot cover, which will then open. Write the name and pull down the slot cover. Write-in votes are not permitted in primary 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

Visually impaired or physically handicapped voters 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 child 16 years of age or under may accompany a voter into the voting booth.

### Name and Address Update Table

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 at the name and address update table.

### 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 or if 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 both primary and general elections. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Department of Elections office for your county by close of polls in order to be counted.

To obtain an absentee ballot, 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 during scheduled hours before 12 noon on the day prior to the election. You may download an affidavit at <http://elections.delaware.gov/voter/absenteeballot.shtml>. You may also complete an affidavit at <https://ivote.de.gov>.

The Department of Elections will accept email and facsimile transmissions of affidavits for absentee ballots.. Ballots will not be faxed or emailed to voters, except that ballots may be emailed or faxed to persons with a disability, in the military or overseas voters upon request.

**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 SCHOOL DISTRICT 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 10:00 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 for 2018 are on May 18, 2018. Tax referenda may be held as scheduled by the respective school district's Board of Education. For election date and polling places, check the newspaper, contact the school district office or the Department of Elections office for your county. You can also find the information on the Department of Elections websites.

Absentee voting is permitted for all school district elections. To obtain an absentee ballot, phone or write your Department of Elections in adequate time before the election. You may also vote prior to the election at the Department of Elections office for your county during normal business hours 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 the polls close.

## DIRECTORY

### Sussex Department of Elections

119 N Race St, PO Box 857, Georgetown DE 19947 302-856-5367

Email: [votesc@state.de.us](mailto:votesc@state.de.us)

Website: <http://electionssc.delaware.gov>

### Office of the State Election Commissioner

905 S. Governor's Ave Suite 170, Dover DE 19904 302-739-4277

Email: [coe\\_vote@state.de.us](mailto:coe_vote@state.de.us)

Website: [www.elections.delaware.gov](http://www.elections.delaware.gov)

### League of Women Voters Sussex County

P.O. Box 163

Lewes, DE 19958

Website: [www.sussexlwv.org](http://www.sussexlwv.org)