



If you are concerned about getting to the polls for any reason, whether COVID-19 or personal convenience, a new law has created a no-excuse-needed, mail-in ballot option to casting your vote.

Act 77 of 2019, an historic new voting reform bill, makes our Pennsylvania voting process more modern, secure and accessible. The first election this affects is the June 2 Primary.

If you or others are not already registered voters or haven't yet requested a mail-in ballot, you can take advantage of these significant improvements. These steps can now be done later in the voting process, but don't wait as this is all very new, and the volume of applications is certain to be high.

These changes bring us revised deadlines in addition to new voting options. Apply to register or change parties by May 18. Registered voters must submit their ballot request before 5PM on May 26, and return ballots to their County elections offices by 8PM on Election Day.

You can determine which ballot option is right for you by visiting the PA Department of State website www.VotesPA.com. Begin the online registration process, print an application form or request your ballot be mailed to you from that site. You can also call 1-877-VOTESPA or the county election office for your home county for assistance. And the League website www.Vote411.org also provides these valuable links. Learn where candidates running for office in your community stand on the issues, print or email the information to use when you do vote. When visiting our website, be sure to also check out the useful information about what's on your individual ballot, find your polling place and much more.

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area will be publishing our Union County Voters Guide as an online (and printable) document for this election. We want to keep you and our volunteers safe throughout this election cycle. You can check this out at www.LWVLewisburgArea.org.

Please consider your voting options especially during this 100th anniversary year celebrating women getting the right to vote (ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution). Our democracy depends on everyone doing their part and it's never been easier or more secure for registered voters to cast a ballot in Pennsylvania.

Ideally, there will be a strong turnout for the 2020 elections, in part due to these provisions. Taking advantage of our rightful new options and casting a mail-in ballot is something especially important at a time when many of us have fears and concerns about being in public. Pennsylvania ranked 25th for voter participation with just 51 percent of the eligible population voting in the 2018 election. If we all do our part, we can rise higher this year.

Teri MacBride
President, League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area