



Voting in Oklahoma-Update for the November 3, 2020 Election

The November 3 election includes the Presidential election as well as Congressional offices, County offices, Judicial retentions, and State Question 805, prohibiting the use of former non-violent felony convictions to enhance sentences; and SQ814, which would allow the legislature rather than the TSET Board to decide how the money in the fund will be used. Currently 75% of the fund goes to TSET, 25% to the legislature for allocation.

The State Election Board encourages us to vote by Absentee or in-person absentee to avoid lines and possible COVID-19 transmission at polling places.

Mail-in Absentee voting: Oklahoma has “no excuse” absentee voting, but you do have to apply.

Absentee ballot application: You can go on-line to the state election board or fill out an absentee ballot application or call the Cleveland County election board (405-366-0210) and ask for one to be sent to you. The last day to apply for an Absentee ballot is October 27. DO NOT WAIT. Fill out the application and return it by mail. Your ballot will be mailed to you. Please, read the instructions that come with your absentee ballot and follow them carefully. Call the election board if you have questions.

Signature verification: In Oklahoma, anyone can apply for an absentee ballot, but you must sign the absentee affidavit included in the ballot material and your ballot must be verified (what the poll workers do when they ask to see your identification).

Read the instructions that accompany your absentee ballot. This year there are alternative ways to verify you absentee ballot.

1. send in a copy (front side only, black and white is fine) of a valid photo state, federal ID (drivers license or passport) or tribal ID; a valid photo military ID; or
2. a photocopy of your voter identification card (if you need a new one, you can get it by calling the county election board). TAPE or paper clip the copy to the affidavit envelope. The instructions say attach, but do not staple. This risks invalidating the ballot.

AFTER you've returned your absentee ballot you can track its status by going online to okvoterportal.okelections.us. Supply your name and date of birth; in the next screen click on absentee ballots and you will see the current status of your ballot – sent, received, counted.

In-person absentee voting: There will be one location at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds (tentatively Building E). Early voting days will be the Thursday and Friday (**8 AM to 6 PM**) and Saturday (**9 AM to 2 PM**) before the election.

In-Person voting:The Oklahoma State Election Board strongly recommends that both poll workers and voters wear masks or cloth face coverings at in-person voting sites and maintain social distancing (the floor should be marked). To the extent possible the exchange of voter ID and ballot should be touchless. The Election Board recommends that voters lay their ID on the table and pick up the ballot from the table (rather than having it handed to you). The poll workers will have masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. The Election board recommends that the voting booths, ballot machine, and tables be sanitized every hour.