

ELECTION PROTECTION **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

1-866-OUR-VOTE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – PENNSYLVANIA

QUESTIONS INVOLVING ACCESS TO THE BALLOT:

1. It is after 7:00 a.m. and the polling place is not open.

Immediately contact the County Elections Office to report the problem. You can find information on County Election Offices at <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/cwp/view.asp?a=1195&q=443432&votingNav=|&electionsNav=|>.

If the polling place is open at 6:00 a.m. but the voting machines have not arrived, call headquarters immediately. Voters should be permitted to vote by paper ballots (preferably) or by provisional ballots if there are no machines available.

2. It is 8:00 p.m. and my Precinct is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.

Immediately contact the County Elections Office to report the problem. You can find information on County Election Offices at <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/cwp/view.asp?a=1195&q=443432&votingNav=|&electionsNav=|>.

3. There are equipment problems at my Precinct and I cannot vote. What should I do?

Encourage the voter to ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot or by provisional ballot. If a caller reports problems with machines, immediately contact the Electronic Frontier Foundation representative at the call center to walk you through the appropriate steps to solve the machine problem.

IDENTIFICATION AND PROVISIONAL BALLOT:

1. I do not have any identification with me. Can I vote?

Voters, who have not previously voted in their election district, in the absence of photo identification, may present one of the following forms of identification with his or her name and address: a valid state or federal non-photo identification card, a firearm permit, a current utility bill, a current bank statement, a current paycheck, or a government check. Any person unable to produce identification or who claims to be properly registered and eligible to vote, but whose name does not appear on the general register must be permitted to cast a provisional ballot. If possible, a voter should be encouraged to go and get an ID and NOT cast a provisional ballot.

2. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my Precinct. Can I vote?

Confirm that the voter is qualified to vote (i.e., meets the age and citizen and residency durational requirements found on page seven of the manual) and that the voter registered in time to vote in this election (by October 10, 2006). Next, using the online poll locator tool, make sure the voter is at the correct polling place.

If the voter has registered on time, is eligible and is in the correct polling place, direct the voter to ask the poll worker to call the County Clerk and confirm their registration. If the voter still is not on the rolls, let them know that the voter can vote provisionally.

3. Poll workers are turning voters away if they do not have photo ID.

Contact a Commander immediately to report the problem. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. Encourage the voter to go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote by a REGULAR ballot (unless the voter is a first-time voter in that district without one of the acceptable non-photo ID alternatives set forth above, in which case they can vote by provisional ballot).

4. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Provisional ballots are a LAST resort. Prior to voting the provisional ballot, the voter will be required to sign an Affidavit with her/his name and address, and will then be allowed to cast the provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be placed in ballot envelopes, which s/he will be required to sign. The envelopes will remain sealed in their provisional ballot envelopes for return to the County Board of Elections.

Within three business days of the election, the County Board of Elections must examine each provisional ballot envelope to determine if the individual voting that ballot was entitled to vote at the election district in the election. If it is determined that the individual was registered and entitled to vote at the election district where the ballot was passed, the County Board of Elections will compare the signature on the provisional ballot envelope with the signature on the Voter's Registration Form, and if the signatures are determined to be genuine, count the ballot. If it is determined that the individual voting the provisional ballot was not registered, the

provisional ballot will not be counted, and the ballot will remain in the provisional ballot envelope and be marked “Rejected as Ineligible.” If it is determined that the individual voting the provisional ballot was eligible to vote, but not at the election district where the ballot was cast, the County Board of Elections will open the envelope and only count that portion of the ballot that the individual would have been eligible to vote in her/his proper election district and at the election district where the vote was cast.

WHERE TO VOTE:

1. Where do I vote (for voters who have not moved)?

You can look up polling locations at www.vote411.org. Pennsylvania also provides a polling place locator at www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/cwp/view.asp?a=1203&q=443075&votingNav=|
In addition, polling locations in Philadelphia County may be found at www.seventy.org/map.

2. I have moved within the same Precinct and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If the voter has moved within the same Precinct, the voter should go to the appropriate polling place for that Precinct. Notwithstanding the failure to notify the Commission prior to the date of an election, the voter must be permitted to vote in that polling place upon written affirmation by the voter of the change of address before an election official at that polling place.

3. I have moved to a different Precinct within the same County and I have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

The voter should go to the voter’s former polling place, where she/he will be permitted to correct the voting records and, upon written affirmation by the voter of the new address before an election official at the former polling place, will be permitted to vote.

4. I have moved from one County to another and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

The voter will be permitted to correct the voting records and vote at the voter’s former polling place upon written affirmation by the voter of the new address before an election official at the former polling place. Upon receipt of the written affirmation, the Commission must follow the procedures in this part for change of address to a new County and must update the information contained in its registration records.

ASSISTANCE AT THE POLLS:

1. I am physically disabled and need assistance; will my polling place be accessible?

Federal and Pennsylvania law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters, but many are not. If a voter reports that a polling place is not accessible to the handicap, contact a Commander so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately.

2. I am blind, physically disabled or cannot read English, and require assistance at the polls in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Any voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above, must have a declaration recorded upon her/his registration card that, by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write, s/he is unable to read the names on the ballot or on the voting machine labels, or that s/he has a physical disability that renders him/her unable to see or mark the ballot or operate the voting machine, or to enter the voting compartment or voting machine booth without assistance. The exact nature of such condition must be recorded on the registration card. Any such voter will only be allowed to receive assistance if the election officers are satisfied that she/he still suffers from the same condition.

Any voter who is entitled to receive assistance in voting under these provisions will be permitted by the judge of election to select a person of the voter's choice (except the judge of election, the voter's employer or an agent of the employer or an officer or agent of the voter's union) to enter the voting compartment or voting machine booth with him/her to assist him/her in voting. Such assistance is to be rendered inside the voting compartment or voting machine booth.

In jurisdictions in Pennsylvania where a single language minority exceeds 5% of the population, the secretary must print a bilingual application and conduct a public educational program among that language group alerting those organizations and individuals of that group of the availability of bilingual applications and encouraging individuals to register. If a poll worker refuses to comply with these provisions, contact a Commander.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES:

1. I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls.

All poll monitors, including Election Protection volunteers, must stay at least ten feet away from the entrance to the polling place; they can solicit you if they comply with this rule. If they are violating the ten foot requirement, contact a Commander to report the problem, let them know the extent of the problem and work with them to assess if calling an election official is necessary.

2. What if I requested an absentee ballot, but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter has NOT already submitted the absentee ballot, and is otherwise qualified, they should be allowed to vote in person by REGULAR ballot. The voter must void the absentee ballot and vote in the normal manner at the appropriate voting place.

3. There are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters.

Contact a Commander immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. If the voter agrees, put them on hold while you contact a Commander so they can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible.

4. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?

Yes. Pennsylvania law permits convicted felons to vote so long as they are not currently serving a felony sentence of incarceration. This includes those who are on probation, on parole or who have completed a felony sentence of incarceration in the past.

5. I am a college student; can I vote where I go to school?

Yes. Students must be held to the SAME eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student has been turned away at the polls, ascertain if they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements (age, and citizenship and residency durational requirements) and that they have registered on time for this election. If so, contact a Commander to dispatch an attorney to the location and/or contact the appropriate election official.