

**Disclaimer:**

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

**Questions Involving Access to the Ballot:**

**1. How do I register?**

To register to vote, you must fill out a voter registration card, and then submit the card by mail or in person to your County Elections Office, the Secretary of State's Office or any other designated place. You can also fill out a registration card online at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/votreg/vreg.htm>.

The deadline to register is October 14, 2008.

**2. What are the voter identification requirements to register?**

A valid driver's license or state identification number issued by the State of Oregon Division of Motor Vehicles. If you do not have either, then you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you do not have this, you must provide a copy of one of the following: (1) valid photo identification; (2) a paycheck stub; (3) a utility bill; (4) a bank statement; (5) a government document; or (6) proof of eligibility under the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) or the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEH).

If you do not provide valid identification, you will not be eligible to vote for Federal races. However, you will still be eligible to vote for state and local contests.

**3. How do I vote?**

Oregon is a vote by mail state. A ballot will be sent to you if you are a registered voter. Once you have filled in your ballot, you have three options for returning it.

You can drop it off at your County Elections Office. You can find a list of County Election Offices at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/clerk.htm>. Each County Elections Office is open from 7 AM to 8 PM on Election Day.

You can mail your ballot to the Elections Office. If you do this, your ballot must be received by Election Day – a postmark on November 4<sup>th</sup> is NOT sufficient.

There also are a number of designated drop sites open 24 hours a day in each county and until 8 PM on Election Day. Contact your County Election Office to find the nearest drop site locations.

**4. Where do I vote if I want to vote in person?**

While Oregon is a vote by mail state, each County Elections Office also has voting booths. The booths accommodate any voter who would prefer to vote at a polling place, as well as voters with special needs.<sup>1</sup>

**5. Is postage required to return the ballot?**

If the ballot is mailed back, postage is required. Postage is not required if the ballot is deposited in one of the official ballot drop sites.

**6. What if I have registered but the ballot has been destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received?**

Call the appropriate county elections office immediately. A ballot replacement form must be requested, completed, and signed. The form can be requested by contacting any county election office. A county elections official will verify registration and ensure that no vote for the same person has already been cast. Upon verification, a replacement ballot will be sent by mail if there are more than 5 days before the date of the election. If there are less than 5 days, the replacement ballot can be picked up at the appropriate county elections office.

**7. I will be out of town when ballots are mailed. How do I get a ballot?**

Out of state voters that are not long-term absentee voters can have their ballots mailed to them no sooner than 29 days before the election. Long term and military absentee ballots are mailed 45 days before the election.

You may request an early absentee ballot from an election office either in person, by mail, or by fax. You will need to include your name, residence address and, if different, your mailing address.

**8. What if I have moved and have not updated my registration?**

Go to the election office in your new county to get a ballot. The post office will not forward or hold a ballot.

**9. Can I change my vote?**

You can change your vote as long as you have not turned in your ballot. Contact your County Elections Office to request a replacement ballot. You cannot change your vote once you have mailed or dropped off your ballot.

**10. It is after 7:00 AM PST and the County Election Office is not open.**

Note that there are a number of drop sites open 24 hours a day in each county and until 8 PM on Election Day. Contact your County Election Office to find the nearest drop site locations.

Immediately contact the County Elections Office to report the problem. You can find information on County Election Offices at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/clerk.htm>.

**11. It is 8:00 PM PST and my County Election Office is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/HAVA/elect\\_q\\_a/wheretovote/where.html](http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/HAVA/elect_q_a/wheretovote/where.html)

Immediately contact the County Elections Office to report the problem. You can find information on County Election Offices at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/clerk.htm>.

## **Identification and Provisional Ballots:**

### **1. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?**

Provisional ballots are a LAST resort.

Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)<sup>2</sup> requires election officials to provide individuals who are not listed on the voter rolls but believe themselves to be both properly registered and eligible to vote an opportunity to vote by provisional ballot. Voters casting provisional ballots must complete an attestation that they are registered to vote in the given jurisdiction and that they are eligible to vote in the federal election. If election officials later determine that a provisional voter is eligible to vote under state law, then that provisional ballot will be counted.

The Secretary of State designates form SEL 113, Provisional Ballot Request Form, as the form an individual whose eligibility as a voter is in question may use to request a ballot. The provisional ballot will not be counted until the individual's eligibility is determined.

In order to obtain a provisional ballot, you need to fill out a Provisional Ballot Request Form at the County Elections Office.

## **Assistance at the polls:**

### **1. I am physically disabled. Can I get assistance?**

Voters with disabilities can request assistance to vote their ballot by calling the local County Elections Office. Assistance can be provided in the voter's home or place of their choice.

### **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?**

A voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above can take a person of their choice into the voting booth (except employer, an agent of employer, an officer or agent to their union) or the assistance of two persons of different parties provided by the clerk. Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants to disabled or language minority voters if asked to do so by the voter. If a poll worker refuses to allow a disabled or language minority voter to bring a person of their choice into the voting booth, alert a Commander so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately.

## **Miscellaneous Issues:**

### **1. I have been approached by candidates or others at a county election office.**

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.eac.gov/election/docs/help-america-vote-act-of-2002.pdf/attachment\\_download/file](http://www.eac.gov/election/docs/help-america-vote-act-of-2002.pdf/attachment_download/file)

All poll monitors not authorized to be present by Election Officials and all individuals working or volunteering on behalf of any candidate must stay at least 100 feet from the entrance to the polling place (drop sites are not polling places); they can solicit you if they comply with this rule. If they are violating the 100-foot requirement, alert a Commander so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately.

**2. There are people at the election office 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 call the Commander so they can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible. Also, alert the call center manager.

**3. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?**

Yes. Oregon 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.

**4. I am a college student, can I vote where I go to school?**

College students may register and vote where they go to school provided that they consider that location their voting residence. A voting residence is the residence the student claims as their home; the residence which qualifies them to vote on a particular ballot. Students must be held to the SAME eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student has been refused a ballot, ascertain if they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements (age, criminal status, durational residency requirements) and that they have registered on time for this election.

If a properly registered student is refused a ballot, contact a Commander to dispatch an attorney to the location and contact the appropriate election official.

**5. How do I know if my ballot is received?**

You can always call your Election Office and ask if they have received your ballot. A record is kept showing each voter whose ballot has been returned.