

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. It is after 10:00 AM and the polling place is not open.

Immediately contact [a Board of Civil Authority member present at the polling place or the County Clerk] to report the problem. You can find information on County Election Offices at http://vermont-elections.org/elections/town_clerks_guide.html

If the polling place is open at 7:00 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. Provisional ballots are a LAST resort.

2. It is almost 7:00 PM and my polling place is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.

Immediately contact [a Board of Civil Authority member present at the polling place or the County Clerk] to report the problem. You can find information on County Election Offices at http://vermont-elections.org/elections/town_clerks_guide.html

3. There are equipment problems at my polling place 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 Ballots:

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

Yes. If you are a first-time voter who registered by mail and have not previously provided identification, you may vote by provisional ballot. If possible, you are encouraged to go and get an ID and NOT cast a provisional ballot. If you are in the correct polling location and submitted your application before the deadline, you also

have the right to vote by provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the voter registration checklist and your eligibility to vote cannot be determined. In order to do so you will be required to complete the provisional voter's attestation printed on the provisional ballot envelope.

2. I am a registered voter who is not on the checklist at my polling place. Can I vote?

Yes. Ask that the election official confirm that you are qualified to vote and that you registered in time to vote in this election and are at the correct polling place.

If you have registered on time, are eligible and are in the correct polling place, ask the election official to call the town clerk and confirm your registration. If you are still not on the checklist, request a provisional ballot.

3. Poll workers are turning voters away if they don't have photo ID.

Contact a Commander¹ immediately. Go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote by a REGULAR ballot (unless you are first time voter who registered to vote by mail and has not previously provided a copy of your ID, in which case you can vote by provisional ballot).

Where to Vote:

1. Where do I vote (if I have not moved)?

You can look up polling locations at the website for Vermont's Secretary of State at:

http://vermont-elections.org/elections/locate_polling.html

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

If you have moved within the same town, you should go to the appropriate polling place for that town. If the voter registration checklist still lists your old address, you will be asked to update your registration. If the updated address is within the town, you must be permitted to vote.

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

If you have moved within 17 days prior to the election, you should go to the polling location that corresponds to your old address where you can vote a regular ballot. If

¹ Please confirm that "Commander" refers to the contact person at Election Protection assigned to be available for issues arising on election day with respect to that polling place.

you have moved 18 days or more before the election and have not re-registered to vote in your new town or county, you are not eligible to vote either by regular or provisional ballot.

Assistance at the Polls:

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

Vermont law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters, although it may not be. If your polling place is not accessible to the handicapped, contact a Commander.

You may also request that election officials bring your ballot to your car if it is next to the polling location if you are elderly or disabled.

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

Yes. If declare to the Presiding Officer that you need assistance at the polls to mark the ballot or register a vote on a voting machine machine, you can take a person of your choice into the voting booth (except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent to your union) or two election officials of different party affiliations will assist you in the marking or registering of the ballot. You should not have to reveal that you have a disability or why you may need assistance.

If you request such assistance and a poll worker refuses to allow you to bring a person of your choice into the voting booth, contact a Commander.

If you cannot read or write, you are entitled to assistance with voting. You may be required to notify the election official regarding your needs at a reasonable time before voting day so they can have assistance available. Every polling place also will have a telephone voting system available to enable you to vote privately and independently.

Miscellaneous Issues:

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

No candidate, election official or other person, including Election Protection volunteers, may solicit voters, distribute election materials or otherwise campaign within the building containing the polling place; however, they can solicit you on the walkways and driveways leading to the polling place so long as they do not physically interfere with your progress to and from the polling place. If they are violating these restrictions, alert a Commander.

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

As long as you have NOT already submitted the absentee ballot, and are otherwise qualified, you should be allowed to vote in person by REGULAR ballot. You must, however, bring the unmarked absentee ballot and envelope with you and give them to the presiding officer at the polling place prior to voting. If you have lost your Early Voter Absentee Ballot, you will be permitted to vote in person after filling out an affidavit stating that you do not have your Ballot to return.

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 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.

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

Yes, assuming you registered on time, are otherwise eligible and are in the correct polling place. A felony conviction does not disqualify you from voting in Vermont.

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

As a College student, you may register and vote where you go to school provided that you consider that location your voting residence. A voting residence is the residence you claim as your home; the residence which qualifies you 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 turned away at the polls, you should ascertain whether they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements and have properly registered on time for this election. If so, contact a Commander to contact the appropriate election official.