

**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. Can I vote at a polling place?**

You may only vote at a polling place if you live in Pierce or King County. All other counties in Washington are vote by mail only. If you are a registered voter and you did not receive a ballot, contact the County Auditor/Elections Department in your county. You can find contact information for your County Auditor/Elections Department by clicking on your county at <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx>.

**2. It is 8:00 PM and my precinct is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.**

Anyone who is at a polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote, no matter how long it takes them to get to the voting booth. If you are told that you cannot vote, immediately contact the County Auditor/Elections Department to report the problem. You can find contact information for your County Auditor/Elections Department at <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx>.

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

You should ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot. Your election officer should immediately contact the County Auditor/Elections Department.

**Identification and Provisional Ballots:**

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

Yes. If you do not have any form of acceptable identification, then you may vote by provisional ballot. Acceptable forms of identification include: driver's license; state ID card; school ID card; military ID card; tribal ID card; voter registration card; copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document. If possible, you should try to get an ID and come back to vote rather than cast a provisional ballot.

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

You should confirm that you are qualified to vote (i.e., meet the citizenship, age, non-criminal status, and durational residency requirements) and make sure that you registered in time to vote in this election. Next, have the poll worker confirm that you are at the correct polling place using the online poll locator tool.

If you have registered on time, are eligible to vote, and are at the correct polling place, you should ask the poll worker to call the County Auditor (or, if in King County, the Department of Records and Elections) and confirm your registration. If you still are not on the rolls, then you can vote by provisional ballot. This is a LAST resort, as provisional ballots will only be counted if the county canvassing board can later verify your registration status before the validation and counting of provisional ballots is completed.

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

Alert your County Auditor/Elections Department immediately. You DO NOT need to have photo ID to vote using a regular ballot. If you do not have any acceptable form of identification, then, as a last resort, you can vote by provisional ballot. (Also see answer to question 1).

## **Where to Vote:**

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

You can look up polling locations at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) or call Washington's election hotline at 1-800-448-4881. (Link for county contact information is [www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx)). However, only King and Pierce Counties have the option of voting at polls. If you do not live in Pierce or King County, then you will be mailed a ballot, and you can only vote by filling out the ballot sent to you and returning it to the county auditor in the return identification envelope. If mailed, a ballot must be postmarked not later than the date of the primary or election. Otherwise, the ballot must be deposited at the office of the county auditor or the designated place of deposit not later than 8:00 p.m. on the date of the primary or election.

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

You should go to the appropriate polling place for the precinct in which you are still currently registered and vote at that location. When you arrive at the polling place, you will need to change your address by completing a voter registration form or, if the change is within the same county, by writing your new address in the precinct list of registered voters. However, you still will be deemed to have voted in your previous precinct. Within sixty days, the auditor will mail you an acknowledgement notice showing your current precinct and polling place.

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

You should go to the appropriate polling place for the precinct in which you are still currently registered and vote in that location. When you arrive at the polling place, you will need to change your address by completing a voter registration form or, if the change is within the same county, by writing your new address in the precinct list of registered voters. However, you still will be deemed to have voted in your previous precinct. Within sixty days, the auditor will mail you an acknowledgement notice showing your current precinct and polling place. If you are unable to go to the appropriate polling place for the precinct in which you are still currently registered, then you may go to any polling place near your house, but you will only be able to vote by provisional ballot.

## **Assistance at the polls:**

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

Washington law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters, but some may not be accessible. If the county election official has determined that providing an accessible polling place is not feasible, upon advance request of a disabled or elderly voter, that voter must either be permitted to vote at an alternative accessible polling place not overly inconvenient to that voter or be provided with an alternative means of casting a ballot on the day of the election.

### **2. I am blind; physically disabled or can not read English and require assistance at the polls in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?**

If you tell an election officer that because of sensory or physical disability you are unable to register or record your vote, then you may designate a person of your choice to enter the voting machine booth with you and record your vote as you direct. Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants to sensory or physically disabled voters if you ask them to do so. Two election officers, each from a different major political party, can also assist you.

### **3. Can I bring any materials into the voting booth with me?**

Yes. You can bring any written or printed materials into the voting booth with you. However, you must take all of the materials with you when you leave the polling place.

## **Miscellaneous Issues:**

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

On election day, no person may, within a polling place, or in any public area within 300 feet of any entrance to such polling place, (a) suggest or persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade any voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure; (b) circulate cards or handbills of any kind; (c) solicit signatures for any kind of petition; or (d) engage in any practice that interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or that disrupts the administration of the polling place. Voters can be solicited so long as it is done in compliance with these rules.

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

If the poll book indicates that you requested an absentee ballot, but you wish to vote in person at the polling place, then you must be allowed to vote in person by PROVISIONAL ballot.

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

It depends. Washington law prohibits all convicted felons (including those who are on parole or in a county jail) from voting, unless the felon has met the conditions of the felon's sentence and had the felon's voting rights restored by the appropriate court or governmental authority or received a pardon from the Governor. For more information on how to restore your voting rights, please visit the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/faq.aspx>.