

PREPARE YOURSELF PENNSYLVANIA!

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I. WHEN I LEAVE MY HOME

SHOULD I TAKE ANY SPECIAL STEPS BEFORE I WALK OUT THE DOOR?

Yes. Before you leave the house, find out where your polling place is located. Many polling places have recently moved. You can find and/or confirm the location of your polling place by calling your local voter registration office. (To find the number to your local voter registration office, see the Appendix.)

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE WITH ME TO THE POLLING PLACE WHEN I LEAVE MY HOME?

If you can, take the following two things with you to the polls:

1. Your voter registration card, which is an acceptable form of I.D. if you need one to vote.
 - ▶ If you do not have a voter registration card, call your local voter registration office. See the Appendix for the number to your local office.
 - ▶ **Remember:** you can vote even if you do not have a voter registration card.
2. Another voter who is registered in your ward and division.
 - ▶ The community must prepare for Election Day challenges designed to block voters from the ballot box.
 - ▶ In Pennsylvania, a challenge alone is not enough to keep you from voting. A three-step process can help you get beyond the challenge. One of these steps requires a qualified voter of your ward and division to verify who you are. (See *Section III, page 19* for details on this process.)

IF I HAVE NOT VOTED IN MANY YEARS OR IF I AM A FIRST TIME VOTER, SHOULD I TAKE SOMETHING EXTRA WITH ME TO THE POLLS?

Yes. In either instance, take an acceptable form of I.D. with you to the polls. But remember, acceptable I.D. is not limited to a photo I.D.!

If you have not voted in many years, the words "affirmation and I.D. required" might appear next to your name in the poll book.

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- If these words appear next to your name you must sign the *Affirmation of Elector* form and show **one** form of acceptable I.D. before you can vote using the machines.

Additionally, if you are voting in your division or in Pennsylvania for the first time, you will have to show I.D. before you can cast your ballot.

WHAT IS AN “ACCEPTABLE” FORM OF I.D.?

In Pennsylvania, “acceptable” forms of I.D. fall into two categories: photo I.D. and non-photo I.D.

- Your photo I.D. cannot be expired and it must have your name and picture on it. But the address on your photo I.D. does **not** have to match the address on your voter registration. Acceptable forms of photo I.D. include:
 - ▶ Your Pennsylvania driver’s license or Pennsylvania State I.D.
 - ▶ Your passport
 - ▶ Your student I.D.
 - ▶ Your employee I.D.
 - ▶ Your U.S. armed forces I.D.
 - ▶ An I.D. issued to you by the U.S. government
 - ▶ A picture I.D. given to you by any state agency
- Your non-photo I.D. must have your name and your current address on it. Acceptable forms of non-photo I.D. include:
 - ▶ Your voter I.D. card
 - ▶ A recent utility bill with your current address
 - ▶ A copy of a bank statement with your current address
 - ▶ A copy of a recent paycheck with your current address
 - ▶ A copy of a government check with your current address
 - ▶ Your firearm permit

If you are required to show an I.D. but do not have one, ask for a provisional ballot. (See *Section III: Inside the Polling Place* for more information on the connection between I.D.’s and provisional ballots.)

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How to Prepare Yourself for Election Day

II. OUTSIDE AND NEAR THE POLLING PLACE

I USUALLY SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE STANDING OUTSIDE OF THE POLLING PLACE. DO I HAVE TO TALK TO THEM?

No. Usually, the people outside of the polling place are handing out information for a candidate or political party. You do not have to talk to them or accept their handouts, but you can if you want to do so.

Sometimes the people outside of the polling place are volunteers giving voters information about their voting rights or people observing the Election Day process. These volunteers do not represent a candidate or political party and will often be wearing something like a t-shirt, hat, or pin to identify their organization.

All of the people outside of the polling place have to be at least ten feet from the polling place. If people are crowding the door to the polling place, call your local voter registration office to report the problem. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.) Also, tell the Judge of Elections about the problem when you get inside the polling place.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE “ELECTION OFFICIALS” OR “GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS” APPROACH VOTERS WHO ARE IN LINE OR NEAR THE POLLING PLACE DEMANDING TO SEE I.D. DO I HAVE TO SHOW IT TO THEM?

No. You do not have to show anyone your I.D. while you are standing in line or approaching the polling place.

If someone asks you to show I.D. before you get inside your polling place, ignore them or tell them you will wait until you are inside to talk about it with the Judge of Elections.

You **cannot** be prevented from entering the polling place just because you refused to show your I.D. to someone outside of the polling place.

When you get inside, tell the Judge of Elections what happened and ask her/him to look into it. Also, call your local voter registration office to report the problem. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.)

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WHAT IF THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE DEMAND TO KNOW MY NAME AND/OR ADDRESS AND SAY I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE IF THEY CANNOT VERIFY MY INFORMATION ON THEIR "LIST?"

Ignore them or tell them you will confirm your address with the poll workers **inside** the polling place, if necessary.

You **cannot** be prevented from entering the polling place just because you refused to verify your name and address with someone outside of the polling place.

When you get inside, report the incident to the Judge of Elections or your local voter registration office. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.)

WHAT IF THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE SAY I HAVE TO GIVE THEM INFORMATION BECAUSE THEY ARE "CHALLENGING" MY RIGHT TO VOTE?

Ignore them. Your right to vote cannot be challenged outside of the polling place (See *Section III, page 18* for more information on challenges).

When you get inside, report the incident to the Judge of Elections or your local voter registration office. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.)

WHAT IF PEOPLE OUTSIDE ARE SAYING THAT PEOPLE WITH A FELONY CONVICTION ON THEIR RECORD CANNOT VOTE?

This is not true. In Pennsylvania, people with a felony on their record can voter once they are released from jail. Therefore, if a person with a felony conviction on her/his record is a registered voter, s/he may vote.

This is also true for people who were convicted in another state and now live in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, a registered voter with a felony on her/his record does not have to wait five years before s/he can vote. This used to be the rule in Pennsylvania but it changed in the year 2000.

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IS IT TRUE I SHOULD NOT OR CANNOT VOTE IF I AM BEHIND ON PAYING MY BILLS, IF I HAVE UNPAID PARKING OR TRAFFIC TICKETS, OR IF I OWE CHILD SUPPORT?

No. This is a common myth designed to keep low-income individuals, the working poor, and other voters from voting.

WHY ARE PEOPLE TRYING TO BLOCK ME FROM THE BALLOT BOX?

Because your vote makes a difference!

If voting were not important, people would not put so much effort into trying to confuse you about the Election Day process, they would not try to intimidate you outside of the polling place, and they would not try to mislead you or your community by creating myths and sharing misinformation. **VOTE!**

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III. INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE

WHEN I GET INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WANDERING AROUND. WHO HAS PERMISSION TO BE INSIDE OF THE POLLING PLACE?

- **“Poll workers.”** Some “poll workers” are elected and others are appointed by the City Commissioners. “Poll workers” include the following six people: the Judge of Elections (elected); the Majority Inspector (elected); the Minority Inspector (elected); Clerk (appointed); Machine Inspector (appointed); and Bilingual Interpreter (not in every polling place).
- **“Poll watchers.”** Every “poll watcher” represents a particular candidate or a political party. They are in the polling place to **watch** the election process on behalf of their candidate or party.
 - ▶ While poll watchers may look like and behave like an ordinary person who is available to assist you, they are there on behalf of a particular candidate or political party and likely have an interest in seeing you vote for their candidate or political party.
 - ▶ Each candidate and political party is only entitled to have one poll watcher inside the polling place at a time.
 - ▶ Poll watchers cannot stand directly in front of, next to, or behind the voting machines.

If a poll watcher sees what s/he believes to be a problem or irregularity, s/he is **not** permitted to interfere with the election process. Rather, s/he should report the concern to her candidate or political party.

- **Voters.** People in the process of voting are entitled to be inside the polling place. A registered voter who is not actually voting should not linger inside the polling place.
- **Persons providing assistance.** Because voters who need help voting can chose who will help them, the person they select can go into the polling place with them. (See the next question for more information on receiving help in the polling place.)

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- **“Overseers.”** The Court of Common Pleas can also appoint people known as “overseers.” These people are in the polling place as a precaution to secure fairness in the election. They observe everything that happens in the polling place and report their findings back to the Court.
- **Police officers.** Police officers can be inside the polling place if the Judge of Elections has called them to help resolve a problem or if they are in the process of voting. Otherwise, no police officer (whether in uniform or plain clothes) can be within 100 feet of the polling place.

IF I NEED HELP VOTING, DO I HAVE TO ACCEPT HELP FROM ONE OF THE PEOPLE WORKING INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE?

No. A voter **does not have to** accept help from one of the people working inside the polling place—this includes the poll watchers.

- Every voter who needs help voting has the right to select the person who will help her/him—this means you can bring someone with you.
- The only people who **cannot** help you are the Judge of Elections, your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union.

If you think you will need help on Election Day, bring someone you trust to the polls with you, if you can.

- The advantage of bringing someone you know and trust is that you can be sure the person helping you will respect **your** voting choices.
- **REMEMBER:** Every poll **watcher** inside the polling place is there on behalf of a particular candidate or political party and likely has an interest in seeing you vote for their candidate or party.

WHAT TYPE OF HELP AM I ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AT MY POLLING PLACE?

Under the law, you are entitled to receive help for a number of reasons. Below are some common examples:

- The voter has difficulty reading the materials or the voting machine screen because of limited vision, blindness, and/or a limited or inability to read.
- The voter has difficulty understanding instructions or the voting process due to limited or impaired hearing.

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- The voter has difficulty understanding instructions or the voting process due to language barriers and wants help with translation or sign language.
- The voter has difficulties working the voting machine due to age, disability, blindness, or a movement-limiting injury.

IF I BRING SOMEONE WITH ME TO THE POLLS OR ASK SOMEONE I KNOW AT THE POLLS TO HELP ME VOTE, WHAT WILL THAT PERSON HAVE TO DO?

The person who helps you vote will have to include her name and address on the *Assistance Declaration* form. S/he may also be asked to sign. The poll workers will have the necessary form in their supplies.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I NEED HELP VOTING BUT THE POLL WORKERS TELL ME I CANNOT HAVE IT?

Remind them that you have the right to receive assistance **even if the poll book does not already indicate that you need it.**

- If the poll book does not indicate you need help, the poll worker should give you an *Assistance Declaration* form from their supply box. The person helping you vote should fill it out.

If you do not feel comfortable reminding the poll workers of your right to receive assistance, call your local voter registration office right away. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.). You may be asked to stay at the polling place until someone arrives to help you resolve the problem.

PEOPLE APPROACH ME INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE OFFERING TO HELP ME, BUT I DID NOT ASK FOR HELP AND I FEEL LIKE THEY ARE PRESSURING ME. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

First, tell the person(s) you do not want their help.

- You have the right to refuse help if you feel you do not need it.
- Additionally, if you **do** need help, you have the right to pick the person who will help you.

Then, let the Judge of Elections know you are feeling pressured and point out the person(s) involved.

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Finally, when you have finished voting and have left the polling place report the problem by calling your local voter registration office. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.) It is important to create a record of the problems that occur on Election Day so they can be avoided in the future.

WHAT IF THE JUDGE OF ELECTIONS IS PRESSURING ME?

You have options. If you have not yet signed the poll book, you can step out of the polling place in order to call someone and report the problem.

- If you choose this option, you will have to get back in line in order to vote.
- Also, if you choose this option and only if it's possible for you to do so safely and easily, try to get the Judge's name before you leave. Then,
- Call your local voter registration office to report the problem. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.) You may be asked to remain at the polls until someone can arrive to help you.

On the other hand, if you have already checked in to vote (your name was located in the poll book and you signed in), **do not** leave. Instead, tell the Judge you do not need her/his help.

- But, if you **do** need someone's help in order to vote, tell the Judge you will choose the person that will help you – you have the right to choose.
- Or, if you have brought someone with you to the polls, point that person out to the Judge then ask that person to help you.
- Finally, after you have voted, call your local voter registration office right away to report the problem. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.)

IF I THINK I CAN VOTE ON MY OWN, BUT REALIZE I NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING HOW TO WORK THE MACHINE ONCE I AM INSIDE THE VOTING BOOTH, WHAT CAN I DO?

Do not walk away from the voting booth! Stay very near to the booth and ask one of the **poll workers** to explain the process to you.

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- The Judge of Elections can explain what you should do to operate the machine correctly, but the Judge may not enter the voting booth with you to help you cast your ballot.
- If you realize you need help beyond instructions on how to operate the machine and someone went with you to the polling place, ask that person to help you. S/he will have to complete the *Assistance Declaration*.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE VOTED IN MY POLLING PLACE FOR MANY YEARS BUT WHEN I SHOW UP THEY TELL ME MY NAME IS NOT IN THE POLL BOOK?

Your name might not be in the book due to a printing error.

- **First**, if you use two last names, ask the poll workers to look for your name under each of the last names separately.
 - ▶ For example, if your last name is Hernández González, ask them to look for your name under Hernández and if it is not there, ask them to look under González.
- **Second**, if the poll workers are still unable to find your name in the poll book, ask them to check any supplemental lists they may have.
 - ▶ Supplemental lists include names which did not make it into the poll book for one reason or another. People on the supplemental list are entitled to vote.
- **Third**, if your name is not on the supplemental list, ask the poll workers to call your local voter registration office to make sure you are in the right polling place. Your polling place may have changed this year.
- **Finally**, if your name still cannot be found ask for a Provisional Ballot. (See the question below for more information on Provisional Ballots.)

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE POLL WORKERS TELL ME I HAVE TO SHOW I.D. BUT I DON'T HAVE ONE WITH ME?

First, be sure the poll worker is correct in demanding I.D. from you because most voters **do not** have to show I.D.

- Only those who are voting for the first time in Pennsylvania or in their division, have to show I.D.

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- If you are **not** a first-time voter and you have voted regularly in the past, you should not have to show I.D.
- On the other hand, if you have not voted for several years, you may have been put on the inactive list and the poll book will say “Affirmation and I.D. Required” by your name.

If it turns out that you are in the category of voters who must show I.D., you can go home to get an I.D. if you choose, but you are not required to do so. You have the option of casting a provisional ballot.

WHAT IS A PROVISIONAL BALLOT?

- A provisional ballot is a paper ballot.
- You do not have to show an I.D. to get this ballot because it is commonly used for voters (including first-time voters and those whose name is marked “Affirmation and I.D. Required”) who must show an I.D. but cannot.
- The poll workers should give you everything you need to fill out the Provisional Ballot, including something to write with and a secrecy envelope for your ballot once you are done filling it out.
- They must also provide you with a space, inside the polling place, where you can fill your ballot out privately.
- Finally, before you leave the polling place, the poll workers must give you something in writing that explains when and where you can call to find out if your provisional ballot was counted. This is commonly known as a “provisional ballot receipt.”

If you have any problems casting a provisional ballot—for example, the poll workers tell you that you cannot have one or that they have run out of them—call your local voter registration office **right away**. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.) You may be asked to stay at the polling place until someone can arrive to help you. If you are given a provisional ballot but do not have a private place inside the polling place in which to fill it out, do your best to fill the ballot anyway **but do not leave the polling place with your provisional ballot**. Once you have finished filling the ballot out and have returned it to one of the poll workers, call your

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local voter registration office right away to report the problem. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.)

WHAT IF I ALREADY VOTED BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IN THIS ELECTION AND IT LATER TURNS OUT THAT I CAN VOTE IN PERSON?

Under Pennsylvania election law, if you voted by absentee ballot because you thought you could not go to the polls in person but it turns out you can, you must vote in person.

- Go to your polling place and tell them you voted by absentee ballot.
- The poll workers will have a list of everybody in your division who voted by absentee ballot. They will look for your name on this list and “void” your absentee ballot by marking your name.
- Once they “void” your absentee ballot, you are entitled to vote on the machines.

If you have problems getting your absentee ballot voided or if the poll workers tell you that you will have to vote by provisional ballot if you void your absentee ballot, call your local voter registration office right away. (See the *Appendix* for a list of local voter registration offices.)

IS THERE A CHANCE MY RIGHT TO VOTE MIGHT BE CHALLENGED INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE?

Yes, but a challenge alone is not enough to prevent you from voting. Challenges or the threat of a challenge is often times used to intimidate voters.

- In Pennsylvania, you can only be challenged as to your *identity or residence*. For example, if your name is not in the poll book, a challenger might allege that you have never lived in the election district.
- On the other hand, if your name **is** in the poll book a challenger **cannot** properly challenge you by claiming that you have never lived in the district. If your name is in the poll book, you can vote in that division—even if you have moved.
 - ▶ If you have moved, tell the poll workers you would like to update your address. You should be given an *Affirmation of Elector* form.

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- ▶ Once you have completed it, you have the right to vote in that polling place one last time. Additionally, you have the right to vote on the machines.

If you have problems getting the poll worker to give you an *Affirmation of Elector* form, call your local voter registration office right away.

For details on what to do if you are *properly* challenged, see the next question.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE CORRECTLY CHALLENGES MY RIGHT TO VOTE INSIDE OF THE POLLING PLACE?

Do not leave.

- If your identity is being challenged or if the challenger alleges you have never lived in the election district, tell the poll worker you still want to vote. Then ask her/him to explain the challenge procedures to you. Challenge procedures include:
 - ▶ **Placing the voter under oath.** The Judge of Elections must place you under oath and in so doing, you promise to tell the truth as to your eligibility to vote.
 - ▶ **Signing the *Challenge Affidavit*.** After you are placed under oath, you will be asked to sign a blue *Challenge Affidavit*. This affidavit asks for your name, date of birth, address, the reason for the challenge, and your signature. It also asks for the name of the person challenging you and their address.
 - ▶ **The *Witness Affidavit*.** The bottom half of the *Challenge Affidavit* is called the *Witness Affidavit*. To finish the challenge process, a qualified voter of your division must confirm your information. This person will also be asked to sign the affidavit.

Once you have completed these three easy steps, you have the right to vote **on the machines.**

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2019-2020 Election Cycle

PENNSYLVANIA VOTER PROTECTION QUIZ Prepared by Vote for Homes and Advancement Project

Voter Registration

True or False: You can be prevented from voting if you are homeless.

FALSE: You cannot be prevented from voting if you are homeless. Just register to vote with the address of a shelter or program that will let you receive mail.

True or False: You can only register to vote if you are 18.

FALSE: You can register to vote before your 18th birthday as long as you turn 18 on or before the very next election.

True or False: You can vote while you are in prison if you are serving time for a misdemeanor only.

TRUE: You can vote from a penal institution by absentee ballot if you are convicted of a misdemeanor. To get an absentee ballot, you must fill out an absentee ballot request form/application and return it by the appropriate deadline.

True or False: You cannot vote if you have a prior felony conviction.

FALSE: In Pennsylvania, people with felony convictions on their record can vote as long as they are not actually *serving time* for a felony conviction when they vote or on Election Day. The law requiring people with felony convictions to wait five years after release before voting was eliminated in 2000. Now, all people convicted of felonies can register as soon as they are released, so long as they are not in a halfway house on *pre-release* status.

True or False: You cannot vote if you're on probation, parole, or house arrest.

FALSE: People who are on probation, parole, or house arrest can vote. Also, people who are awaiting trial can vote, even if in prison. The only time a person convicted of a felony cannot vote is when s/he is serving her/his sentence *behind bars* or is on pre-release status.

True or False: Registering to vote signs you up for jury duty.

Not Necessarily. When you register to vote, you are put on the list of people who may be asked to serve jury duty. However, you are also put on the list when you apply for a driver's license.

True or False: You cannot vote in Pennsylvania if you were convicted of a felony in another state and that state did not restore your voting eligibility.

FALSE: Even if you were convicted of a felony in one of the few states that permanently takes away voting eligibility, because Pennsylvania *does not* do that, if you are a resident of Pennsylvania and you meet all of the other requirements for becoming a voter, you can register.

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True or False: College students are always considered residents of the city and state where their parents live—especially if their parents claim them as dependents on their federal income tax form.

FALSE: A student has choices. S/he can be a registered voter in the city and state where s/he attends college or in her/his former city and state of residence. If you choose to remain registered in the state where you used to live, you can vote in that state by absentee ballot.

When deciding what state to register in, consider what registration will say about your residence because your official place of residence may affect other aspects of your life, such as your car insurance premiums and residency-based scholarships.

Election Day

True or False: People are not allowed to have help inside the voting booth.

FALSE: If you are unable to read the information on the machine or the ballot for any reason, or if you cannot operate the machine without help, you are entitled to assistance. Just fill out the *Declaration of Assistance* form available at your polling place on Election Day and then choose someone to help you.

True or False: Anyone you want can assist you inside the voting booth.

FALSE: While you have the right to choose the person who will help you, your employer, an agent of your employer, your union leader, an agent of your union or the Judge of Elections **CANNOT** be your assistance provider.

True or False: In Pennsylvania, you can only vote in English.

FALSE: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Federal law) requires Philadelphia County, the city of Reading in Berks County and some wards and divisions in Allentown, to provide ballots, poll workers, information, and other resources in Spanish and English.

True or False: You can see what is on the ballot before you vote.

TRUE: Election officials must post sample ballots in or around the polling place on Election Day. The sample ballot is often printed on colored paper so that it's easy to see.

True or False: You can bring your children into the polls with you.

TRUE: Bringing your kids with you on Election Day helps teach the next generation that voting is important; and while you can enter the polling place with more than one child/minor(s), only one of them can go into the voting booth with you.

True or False: You must have I.D. to vote.

TRUE and FALSE: If you are a first time voter *who registered by mail* (Pennsylvania considers voter registration applications submitted through voter registration drives to be delivered by mail) or if you are voting for the first time at a polling site, you must show I.D. If you forget your I.D. or if you don't have I.D., you can vote by a paper ballot called a provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will be counted if election officials can match the signature on your voter registration to the signature you add to the outside of the envelope in which you will place your provisional ballot.

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A Guide to the 2020 General Election

True or False: Your voter I.D. card can be used as I.D. when you vote.

TRUE: You can use your voter I.D. card as I.D. when you vote. If you don't receive your voter card 14 days after you registered, or if you've lost your voter I.D. card, call your local voter registration office to ask for a new card. Some other acceptable forms of I.D. include: Pennsylvania driver's license, any I.D. issued by PENNDOT, a passport, Armed Forces I.D., an employee I.D., a utility bill, a bank statement, or a paycheck—if these last three show your current address. Just remember, if you don't have I.D., you are still allowed to vote by provisional ballot!

True or False: You can take as much time as you need to cast your ballot.

Not Necessarily: Pennsylvania voters have the right to remain in the voting booth for up to three minutes and may be given more time by election officials if other voters are not waiting to vote.

True or False: You can vote if your name is not on the rolls.

TRUE: If your name is not on the rolls but you believe you are a registered voter, ask the poll workers to check the supplemental list. If your name is not on this list either, ask the poll workers to help you figure out if you are at the right polling place. They can compare your home address to its designated polling place. If it turns out you are in the right polling place, ask for a provisional ballot.

True or False: You can use your student I.D. to vote on Election Day if you are a first-time voter:

TRUE: Student I.D.s are valid forms of I.D. for first-time voters. However, the I.D. must be current and valid.

True or False: You should vote by absentee ballot even if you can make it to the polls on Election Day.

FALSE: If you receive and/or cast an absentee ballot but are able to vote in-person on Election Day, you must present yourself at your polling place. Take your absentee ballot with you (if you have not already sent it in), then tell the Judge of Elections you have the absentee ballot and would like to void it. You will be given an affidavit to sign, stating that you have voided your absentee ballot and will be voting by regular ballot (on the machine). If you have already sent in your absentee ballot, ask the poll workers to look for your name on the absentee ballot list and then ask the poll worker to mark your name/ballot as "void" so that you can vote on the machines.

Voter Intimidation and Suppression

True or False: A police officer can always be within 10 feet of the polling place during the election.

FALSE: A commissioned police officer, whether in uniform or in citizen's clothes, may not be within 100 feet of the polling place during the election unless the officer is voting, serving a warrant, or is called upon to preserve the peace.

True or False: You can be turned away from the polls if you are in line at 8:00 p.m.

FALSE: You are entitled to vote if you are in line, either inside or outside the polling place, at poll closing time (8:00 p.m.) even if you have not reached the voting machine.

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True or False: Your vote can be challenged based on your temporary mailing address if you are homeless.

FALSE: You are allowed to register to vote and cast a ballot using a temporary mailing address if you are homeless. Your vote cannot be successfully challenged for this reason alone.

True or False: Poll watchers can always come inside the voting booth with you to cast your ballot for you.

Not Necessarily. The only time someone can cast your ballot for you is if you are physically unable to do so yourself. If you need help reading, writing, or operating the machine, you can request assistance; the level of assistance you receive should be dependent on your needs. For example, if you only need instructions on how to operate the machine, the person giving you those instructions should not enter the booth with you. On the other hand, if you need help operating the machine or reading the ballot, a person of your choosing can enter the booth with you to help you read the information but they should not vote for you because you alone have the right to decide who to vote for.

True or False: You cannot vote in the General Election if you did not select a political party on your voter registration application.

FALSE: You do not have to pick a political party in order to vote in a General Election. You only have to pick a political party ahead of time if you want to vote in a PRIMARY election. If you did not select a party when you registered, you can amend your voter registration information to add one.

True or False: You cannot vote if you have unpaid parking tickets, owe child support, or any money to any city, state or federal agency.

FALSE: You cannot be prevented from *registering or voting* because you owe any city, state or federal agency some money. If anyone asks you about your personal debts at or near the polling place, tell the Judge of Elections when you get inside!

True or False: Poll workers and other election officials can require voters to show I.D. while they're standing in line—otherwise they will not be allowed into the polling place.

FALSE: There is no federal or state law requiring voters to show their I.D. to *anyone* while they are standing in line. If you are part of the category of voters who is required to show I.D. before voting, you are entitled to show your I.D. once you get inside the polling place. If someone approaches you demanding to see your I.D. while you're in line, tell them you will take care of it inside—then tell the Judge of Elections what happened when you get in!

True or False: If election officials anticipate a lot of voters will show up on Election Day, people can be asked to vote on two separate days in order to help alleviate the crowds.

FALSE: This is a common trick to try to get voters to stay home on Election Day. If you get a flyer or a phone call telling you that some voters are being asked to vote on any day other than Election Day, DO NOT believe it! If this happens to you, tell someone.

PREPARE YOURSELF PENNSYLVANIA!

True or False: People handing out information about who to vote for and members of the general public can stand as close to the entrance of the polling place as they want, as long as they are not blocking the door.

FALSE: Only voters, election officers, official poll watchers (they will have a special certificate), people providing assistance to voters in need, and police officers who are voting, serving a warrant or have been called upon to preserve the peace, can be *within 10 feet* of the polling place. If you see non-voters crowding near the polling place, let the Judge of Election know when you get inside.

True or False: “Voter intimidation” only involves physical threats that take place on Election Day.

FALSE: “Voter intimidation” comes in many forms, can take place in the days leading up to the election, and can involve anything designed to make you believe or feel like you should not or cannot vote on Election Day. Broadly speaking, it is often accompanied by efforts designed to impede or interfere with your right to vote, including phone calls telling you to vote on a different day, flyers telling you your polling place is closed, people videotaping your every move at or near the polling place, people with large dogs blocking sidewalks at or near the polling place, and much more. If you see or experience any form of voter intimidation, call your local voter registration office immediately.

True or False: New federal laws require some voters to show more than one kind of I.D. before they can vote.

FALSE: There is no federal law requiring voters to show more than one kind of I.D. in order to vote. Federal law and Pennsylvania state election law require certain voters to show **one kind** of I.D. before voting. The state has created a list of approved I.D.s that can be used for these purposes. Once you have shown a valid I.D. from this list, you do not have to show a second form of I.D.

True or False: If you register to vote, your Social Security Number or your Driver’s License Number becomes available to the public.

FALSE: While the new Pennsylvania voter registration application requires you to provide either the last four digits of your social security number or the number from your PennDOT I.D., the Board of Elections is not permitted to share this information with the general public. Any public list of voters will not include this information.

After the Election

True or False: You can check to see if your vote by provisional ballot was counted.

TRUE: In Pennsylvania, you can call 1-877-VOTES-PA three days after the election to determine if your provisional ballot was counted, partially counted or not counted at all. If it was not counted, you should be told why.

True or False: Your absentee ballot can be challenged.

TRUE: Your absentee ballot can be challenged if it turns out you were able to vote in-person on Election Day. In Pennsylvania the public is entitled to know who voted by absentee ballot. For this reason, the Board of Elections makes a list of absentee voters publicly available—and this is how someone can double check to see if you voted absentee when you could have voted in-person!