

Understanding MAIL-IN VOTING in Pennsylvania

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Confused by the Mail-in Voting process?

Just walk-through this **TUTORIAL** to find all you need to know to become an active, informed voter!

But don't stop there! You may also “**tutor**” **someone else** to help spread the understanding of elections and voting to all citizens.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh is a nonprofit 501 (C)(3) organization and is nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties.

DEADLINES for Mail-in Voting

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MAIL-IN and ABSENTEE Voting Dates and Deadlines

See the [Mail-in Voting](#) web page for
these deadlines :

- to APPLY for a Mail-in or Absentee Ballot when the Application Process OPENS
- to COMPLETE and RETURN the Mail-in or Absentee Ballot you receive in the mail

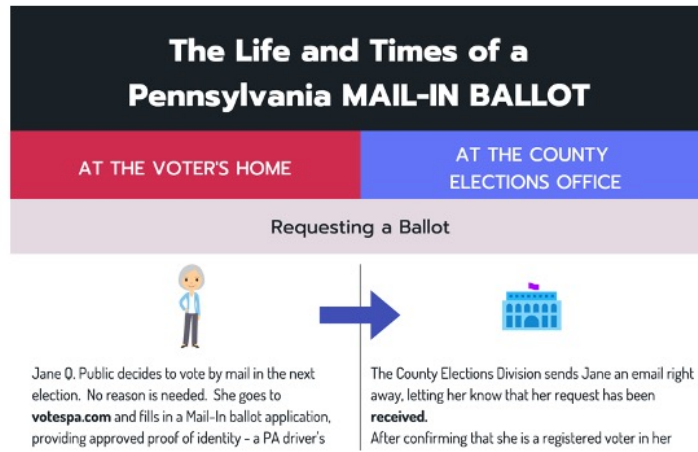
For IMPORTANT Mail-In and Absentee Voting DATES and DEADLINES see the [Mail-in Voting](#) web page.

*The Mail-in Ballot and Absentee Ballot are the same. “No-excuse” Mail-in voting in Pennsylvania does **not require a reason** for voting by mail. Anyone may apply for a “No-excuse” Mail-in Ballot. Absentee voting **does require** specific, approved reasons for absence from a polling place and voting with a Mail-in Ballot.*

Another way to see when the Mail In Ballot application process opens, go to www.vote.pa.gov. You may apply online, or on paper.

- Your completed **Mail-in Ballot APPLICATION** must be RECEIVED by your [County Election Office](#) by 5pm on the deadline.
- **ALLEGHENY COUNTY Elections Division, 542 Forbes Avenue, Suite 609, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. 412-350-4500.**
- **If your application is on time and accepted, your Mail-in BALLOT** will be sent to you once candidates and ballot initiatives are finalized and ballots are printed, usually one month before Election Day.
- Your completed **Mail-in BALLOT** must be RETURNED and RECEIVED by your [County Election Office](#) by **Election Day at 8pm.** (The postmark is not enough.)

UNDERSTANDING the MAIL-IN Ballot Process



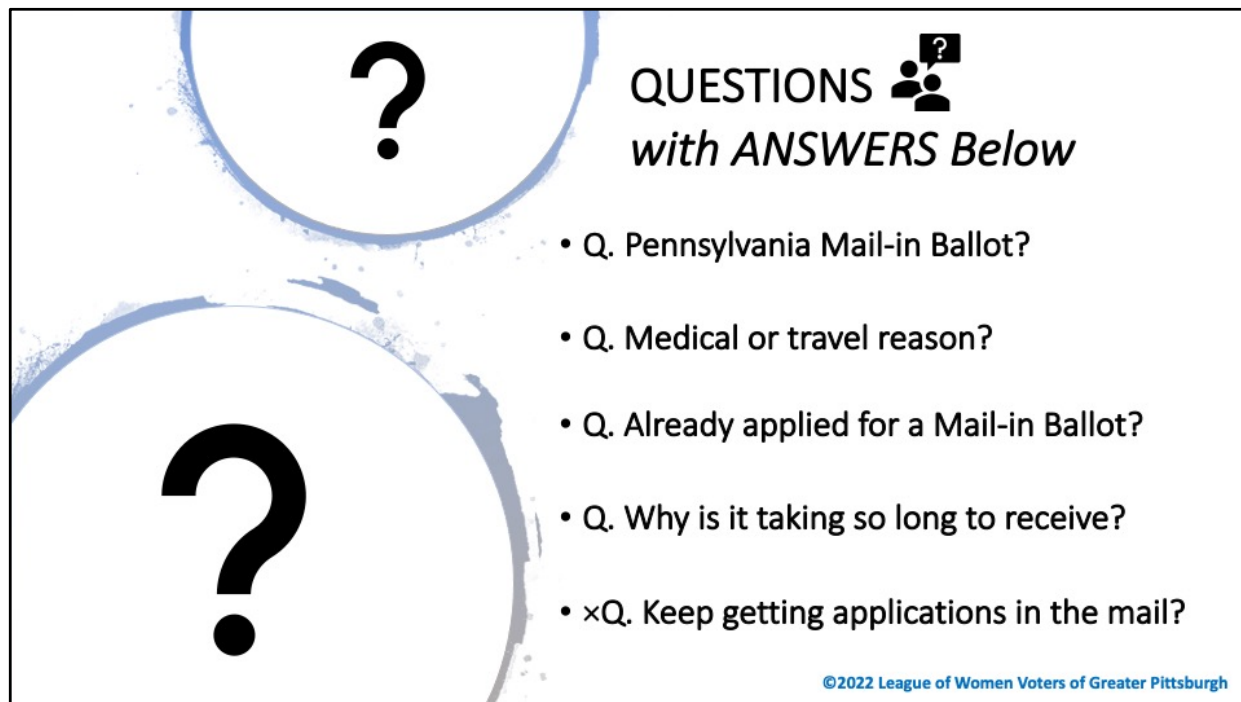
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NOTE for this TUTORIAL: To open files, hover over URLs until you see a text box which opens. Then follow the directions in the text box to click open the link. (You will see a pointing finger.)

Want to understand the Mail-in Ballot process from beginning to end?
See this “Life and Times” graphic for more.

[VIEW or DOWNLOAD](#)

- Please copy this link to share: www.lwvpgh.org/docs.ashx?id=711973



Q. Who can apply for a Pennsylvania Mail-in Ballot?

A. Anyone who is registered to vote in Pennsylvania may apply for a Mail-in Ballot.

Q. Do I need a medical or travel reason to use a Mail-in Ballot?

A. No. **No excuse is needed.** You may vote using a Mail-in Ballot simply because you prefer to.

Q. Why does the online application ask me about my reason for requesting a Mail-in Ballot if I don't need a reason?

A. The Pennsylvania Constitution requires that an absentee ballot be provided in case of illness or absence from the district. Until the PA Constitution is amended, the separate absentee category and its qualifying questions have to remain. In the meantime, **just answer "no" to the qualifying questions, and you will continue to the mail-in application.**

Q. I can't remember if I already applied for a Mail-in Ballot. What happens if I apply more than once?

A. If you apply for a Mail-in Ballot twice, your second application will be denied because it is a duplicate. **There is no penalty for applying twice.**

Q. My Ballot request was approved weeks ago, but I still haven't received my Ballot. Why is it taking so long?

A. Ballots are not printed until about a month before Election Day. This is because candidates have to qualify for the ballot by filing official paperwork and petitions. After deadlines and legal challenges are resolved, the County Elections Office can finalize candidates--then Ballots will be printed and mailed.

Q. I already applied for a Ballot, but I keep getting applications in the mail. Does this mean that my first application was rejected?

A. **No. Many outside groups send Mail-in Ballot applications to voters.** These groups include political candidates and parties and other groups. The County Elections Office does not send or control this mail, and these outside groups do not know whether or not you have already applied. **If you do not want the application, just throw it out.**

APPLYING for "No-Excuse" MAIL-IN Ballot Online OR Printed

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"No-Excuse" Mail-in Ballot APPLICATION Online or with a Paper Form

"No Excuse"
ONLINE
APPLICATION
for a Mail-in Ballot

CURRENT Absentee and Mail-in Ballot APPLICATION DEADLINES can be found at lwvpg.org/mail-in

MAIL-IN BALLOT: PA Act 77 2019 allowed any registered voter to apply for a Mail-in Ballot. Voters may simply request this ballot WITHOUT A REASON.

DEADLINE: When it opens, the process to APPLY ONLINE for a MAIL-IN BALLOT will be published at www.vote.pa.gov. Apply early! Ballots will be mailed to voters about one month before the election date.

GO to www.vote.pa.gov: Choose "Mail-in and Absentee Ballots". Scroll down and click on **OPTION 1: "Apply for a Mail-in Ballot ONLINE"**.

Answer "NO" to the three questions and you will proceed with the ONLINE Mail-in Option. ONLINE ID: PA Driver's License or a PennDOT ID, or the last 4 digits of SSN with uploaded signature.

Carefully FOLLOW the DIRECTIONS to complete your ONLINE Application.

When you apply online, you may choose the option **ANNUAL Mail-in/Absentee Voter List**. For a complete explanation, including the request form to cancel this option, [click here](http://www.vote.pa.gov).

Provide your **EMAIL ADDRESS** and you can **TRACK** your Mail-in Ballot. You will receive a confirming email after you **SEND** your ONLINE Application.

www.vote.pa.gov

"No Excuse"
PAPER
APPLICATION
for a Mail-in Ballot

ABSENTEE BALLOT: Before PA Act 77 2019, "Absentee" was the only way to vote if you were going to be absent from your polling place on Election Day for an approved reason.

DEADLINE: When it opens, the process to APPLY for a PAPER MAIL-IN BALLOT will be published at www.vote.pa.gov. Apply early! Ballots will be mailed to voters about one month before the election date.

GO to www.vote.pa.gov: Choose "Mail-in and Absentee Ballots". Scroll down and click on **OPTION 2: "Apply for a Mail-in Ballot BY MAIL"**.

Can't download/print an application? Request a MAIL-IN form or application to be MAILED to you or CALL 414-398-4996. PAPER Form ID: PA Driver's License, PennDOT ID, or last 4 digits of SSN.

FOLLOW the DIRECTIONS to complete your PAPER Application. MAIL or TAKE your PAPER Application for Allegheny County Elections Division, 545 Forbes Avenue, Suite 600, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

To use a **PRINTED** application to apply for the **ANNUAL** option, you can download/print a Mail-in or Absentee Ballot application, apply ONLINE for an application to be MAILED to you, or CALL 414-398-4996. For more, [click here](http://www.vote.pa.gov).

If you do not live in Allegheny County, find your County Election Office here:
To check your voter registration status and much more, [click here](http://www.vote.pa.gov).

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All you need to correctly APPLY for a "No-Excuse" Mail-in Ballot either ONLINE or with a PAPER Application:

"No-Excuse" Mail-in Ballot APPLICATION graphic:

VIEW or DOWNLOAD

- Please Copy this Link to Share: www.lwvpg.org/docs.ashx?id=750976

To TRACK your Mail-in Application and Mail-in Ballot, [click here](http://www.vote.pa.gov).

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The "ANNUAL BALLOT REQUEST" and the "PERMANENT LIST"

- How to make an "Annual Voting Request"
- What does it mean to be a "Permanent Voter"?
- How to remove your name from the Permanent List and cancel your Annual Ballot Request
- *Annual List??? Permanent List??? We try to sort it out in this graphic.*

[here](#)

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An *OPTION* when you register to vote or any time at: [Annual Ballot Request](#)

The "ANNUAL BALLOT REQUEST" and the "PERMANENT LIST"

When you apply for a Pennsylvania Mail-In Ballot, you can choose to make an "Annual Voting Request."

If you *OPT IN*, you will receive:

- **BALLOTS for each election in the coming year:** The May Primary, November General Election, and any Special Elections that may occur. You will not need to apply again *until next year*.
- **an APPLICATION in the mail every year in February**, so that you can apply for your annual ballots again. You will receive an application every February until you remove yourself from the Permanent list.

Are you on the Permanent List? [Find out here.](#)

- Do you want to **remove your name** from the Permanent List and cancel your Annual Ballot Request? **Cancel [here](#).**

Annual List??? Permanent List??? We try to sort it out in this graphic:

[VIEW](#) or [DOWNLOAD](#)

- **Please Copy this link into your browser to share: www.lwvpgh.org/docs.ashx?id=751137 .**

COMPLETE and RETURN the MAIL-IN BALLOT

alleghenycounty.us

Complete and Return the Mail-in BALLOT



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- **In Pennsylvania, it is very important to complete and return your Mail-in Ballot correctly and on time, OR IT MAY NOT BE COUNTED!**
- ***YOU MAY RETURN ONLY YOUR OWN BALLOT . See alleghenycounty.us for the most up-to-date BALLOT RETURN information.***

View this graphic for all you need to know to correctly COMPLETE and RETURN the Mail-in BALLOT:

[VIEW or DOWNLOAD](#)

- **Please copy this link into your browser to share: www.lwvpgh.org/docs.ashx?id=787764**
- **If you didn't receive your Mail-in Ballot** or if it is lost, damaged or destroyed, or if you think your returned ballot was not RECEIVED at the County Elections Office by 8 pm on Election Day, you may go to your polling place on Election Day and ask for a **PROVISIONAL BALLOT**. Don't leave without voting!
- **If you applied for and received a Mail-in Ballot for a 2022 Primary or General Election, but decide you want to vote IN-PERSON at your polling place, instead—here's how!**

Act 12 Voter Spoiling of Mail-in or Absentee Requests: A voter may set aside their Mail-in Ballot if they choose to VOTE IN-PERSON. Both the unused Ballot and the Official Declaration Envelope must be returned to the polling place. After signing a declaration, the voter will be allowed to vote a REGULAR BALLOT.

View the **"Make a Plan to Vote at Your Polling Place"** graphic:

[VIEW or DOWNLOAD](#)

- **Please copy this link to share: www.lwvpgh.org/docs.ashx?id=725767**

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For More Information about Mail-in Voting, see lwvpgh.org/mail-in .

- Visit our new website at www.lwvpgh.org for the most current, nonpartisan election, voting, and government information.
- Find other [Modules](#) and **unique graphics** in the [Voter Resource Library](#).

Still have questions? Please contact us at: civic.education@lwvpgh.org .

BECOME A SUPER-VOTER AND VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION
“Democracy is NOT a spectator sport!”