

Frequently Asked Questions About Mail-in Ballots

1. What is the difference between an absentee and a mail-in ballot in PA?

Absentee ballots have existed in Pennsylvania for decades. Absentee ballots require a voter to be out of their municipality or unable to go to the polls because of illness or physical disability. Mail-in ballots were created by Act 77 of 2019. Any registered voter is eligible to request a mail-in ballot. Absentees and mail-in ballots both require the voter to apply and are processed exactly the same way by the Election Office.

2. Why did I get an email saying my mail-in ballot application was denied as a duplicate?

Voters who are listed on the permanent mail-in list or who have already applied for a mail-in ballot will receive a duplicate error if they try to reapply.

3. When I look my ballot up [HERE](#), why does it say “pending”?

Application status is pending until the ballot is available and prepared for mailing.

4. I am temporarily living at a different address. May I have my mail-in ballot sent to the address of my current residence?

Yes. The mail-in application includes the option for an alternate address.

5. Why have I not received a ballot yet? When can I expect to receive a ballot?

Ballots will be mailed out about 30 days prior to the election, in late September or early October. It is advisable to send it back as soon as possible after receiving. Voters should not expect to come in personally for a mail-in ballot until October 5th.

6. Someone I know received a mail-in ballot. I applied for mine and have not yet received it. Why is that?

No mail-in ballots have been sent out at this time. The individual in question likely received a mail-in application, which have been sent out through third-party organizations. You are permitted to apply for the mail-in ballot using one of these applications.

7. Will my Party affiliation be listed on the outside of the mail in envelope?

Not in November. This only applies in the Primary.

8. What happens if I forget to use the secrecy envelope provided with my absentee or mail-in ballot?

On September 17, 2020, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in 133 MD 2020 that an absentee or mail-in ballot that is not enclosed in the secrecy envelope will be disqualified.

9. If I get a mail-in or absentee ballot, what are my options for returning it outside of the U.S. mail?

You may bring your own ballot to the Municipal Building, 400 S 8th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042 during county business hours of 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. There will be a lock box at the back of the building.

10. May I return anyone's ballot other than my own?

No. Per Pennsylvania election law, voters must bring in or mail their individual ballot. .

11. I applied for a mail-in ballot in the primary and no longer wish to vote this way. May I change my request?

Yes. Simply fill out the Request to Cancel My Ballot form and then mail it or bring it in to the Election Office.

12. May I vote at the polls if I applied for a mail-in ballot?

Yes, if the Election Office has not received the voted ballot. You may bring your ballot with the return envelope to the polling location to surrender to the Judge of Election and vote a regular ballot. If you do not have your ballot, you may vote provisionally. Provisional ballots will then be scanned by the Lebanon County Board of Elections to ensure that a completed ballot was not previously received.

13. Will polls be open on November 3rd for in person voting?

Yes, but poll locations in Lebanon 7th Ward and Jackson East will change. Voters will be notified of any location changes via press release and the Lebanon County website. Signs will be posted at the normal locations letting voters know where to go on Election Day.