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2014 General Election:

What Voters Need to Know

Absentee Voting

- Absentee voting begins the day after the close of voter registration – October 7th.
- All Ohioans who choose to vote early in-person will have the same opportunity to vote under a uniform schedule proposed by Ohio's bipartisan elections officials, including two Saturdays.
- All registered voters with a current address on file will receive an absentee ballot application in the mail, which will be sent out statewide just after Labor Day.
- Voters do not have to wait for the statewide mailing to request an absentee ballot. They can download and complete an absentee ballot application at www.MyOhioVote.com. It must be submitted to the board of elections no later than noon the Saturday before Election Day.
- Absentee ballots requested by mail will go out once early voting begins 28 days before the November election, giving voters four weeks to complete their ballots.
- Completed absentee ballots can either be returned by mail, so long as they are postmarked by the day before Election Day, or dropped off at the county board of elections up until the close of the polls on Election Day. Absentee ballots cannot be returned to neighborhood polling locations.

Election Day Voting

- Polls will be open on November 4th from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM – 13 hours.
- Voters should check their voter registrations to ensure they are current via the Secretary of State's online search tool at www.MyOhioVote.com. Here, they can also update their address and find their polling place and precinct.
- Voters need to bring proper identification with them to the polls, which includes:
 - An unexpired Ohio driver's license or state identification card with present or former address so long as the voter's present residential address is printed in the pollbook;
 - A military identification;
 - A photo identification that was issued by the United States government or the State of Ohio, that contains the voter's name and current address and that has an expiration date that has not passed;
 - An original or copy of a current utility bill with the voter's name and present address;
 - An original or copy of a current bank statement with the voter's name and present address;
 - An original or copy of a current government check with the voter's name and present address;
 - An original or copy of a current paycheck with the voter's name and present address; or
 - An original or copy of a current other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and present address.

For utility bills, bank statements, government checks, paychecks, and other government documents, “current” is defined as within the last 12 months. “Utility bill” includes a cell phone bill. “Other government document” includes license renewal and other notices, fishing and marine equipment operator’s license, court papers, or grade reports or transcripts. “Government office” includes any local (including county, city, township, school district and village), state or federal (United States) government office, branch, agency, commission, public college or university or public community college, whether or not in Ohio.

- Voters who have changed their name can now cast a regular ballot on Election Day, provided they have not moved precincts and present proof of a legal name change – such as a marriage license or a court order that includes the elector’s current and prior names.

Provisional Voting

- Provisional ballots are second chance ballots, not second class ballots. They allow voters whose eligibility may be in question to vote “provisionally” giving election officials time to verify and validate their ballots.
- Some common reasons a voter may have to cast a provisional ballot include:
 - Voter is not listed in the pollbook;
 - The voter did not provide a valid form of identification (as outlined previously);
 - The voter has already requested an absentee ballot;
 - A notification of registration has been returned as undeliverable;
 - The voter’s eligibility has been successfully challenged or a challenge hearing has been postponed until after the day of the election; or
 - The voter’s signature does not match the signature on file.
- The most common reason for casting a provisional ballot is that the voter has not updated his/her voter registration prior to the voter registration deadline, which is 30 days before the election – in 2014, October 6th. Voters should use the [Secretary of State’s Online Change of Address system](#) to ensure their registrations are current.
- Voters casting a provisional ballot must complete the form on the provisional ballot envelope, which requires:
 - Full name, printed;
 - Date of birth;
 - Current address;
 - Form of identification (an Ohio driver’s license or state identification card number or the last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number, or a copy of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter’s name and current address; and
 - Signature.
- Voters who are unable to provide proper identification will have until the seventh day after the election to return to the board of elections with identification in order to have their ballot counted.