

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE!

Don't Let COVID-19
+ Other Curveballs
Throw You Off Your Game

FALL 2020 ELECTION

Voting During COVID - Options

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, you need to plan ahead to safely exercise your civic responsibility to vote:

- There are **three ways to vote** in PA this year. No matter which you choose, **time is of the essence!**
 - 1) In-person voting,
 - 2) Use of Mail-In or Absentee ballot, or
 - 3) Early voting by returning your Mail-In/Absentee ballot in person to the Elections Office.
- There is an **additional variation** in which you apply now for a Mail-In/Absentee ballot and then wait to assess COVID conditions closer to Election Day. If conditions allow, go in person to the polls. If you bring your entire unused Mail-In ballot (including multiple envelopes) and turn it in to be shredded, you can vote normally.

Voting During COVID - Plan

Election season starts now! Make your plan to vote by visiting [VotesPA.com](https://www.VotesPA.com):

- To choose an option, first consider the **prevalence of COVID-19** in your area, then assess **your personal/household risk** to catch the virus such as age or preexisting health problems.
- Mail-In and Absentee ballots must be applied for in advance (by October 27, 2020 at the latest but **ideally far sooner**).
- If you opt for in-person voting, be prepared to wear a mask, socially distance, and be cautious of others' behavior.
- If you opt for Mail-In/Absentee, be very careful to **follow the instructions** and use both envelopes supplied as indicated. Don't vote "naked"!

Voting During COVID - Cautions

Election season starts now! Make your plan to vote by visiting VotesPA.com:

- All questions should be directed to your County Elections Office.
- Remember the situation is fluid. Some deadlines and rules are shifting and local virus transmission can vary.
- If you want to be safe, just apply, receive, complete, and return your Mail-In/Absentee ballot **RIGHT NOW!**
- If voting in person is very important to you, know the level of risk and **take precautions!** Maybe hedge your bets, but **DO NOT LOSE ANY PART OF YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT** otherwise you will have to vote by provisional ballot.

For more detail and links about COVID-19 risk, visit LewisburgNeighborhoods.org/voting-in-the-time-of-COVID

ARE YOU
READY
TO VOTE
IN 2020?



[VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com)



Register to Vote



Check Your
Registration
Status



Mail-in &
Absentee Ballots



Upcoming
Elections



Find Your
County Election
Office



New Voting
Systems



Election
Reforms (ACT
77)

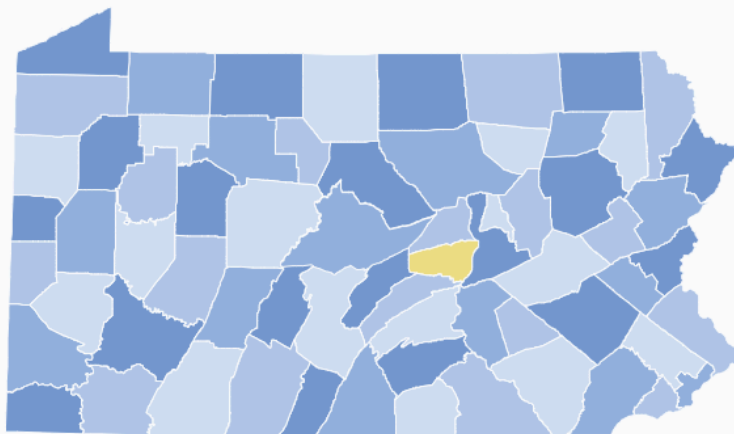
[VotesPA](#) > [Resources](#) > Contact Your Election Officials

Contact your Election Officials

Use this page to find the contact information for your County Election Officials.

Elections are run by the 67 County boards of elections in Pennsylvania.

For information about how to contact your county's election and voter registration officials, choose your county from the map or list below.



Pennsylvania Counties

Snyder County

Snyder County

Election:

Contact Elections for questions related to your polling place, when or where an election will be held and other election related information.

HOW IS 2020 DIFFERENT?

Let us count the ways...

- **New laws** – Act 77 (2019) + Act 12 (2020)
- **Post Office** complications
- **COVID-19** considerations
 - How much risk is there in your area?
 - What is your personal vulnerability level?
 - What precautions are being taken at polls?
 - Consider the possibility of poll consolidation
 - Plan on mitigation measures for yourself

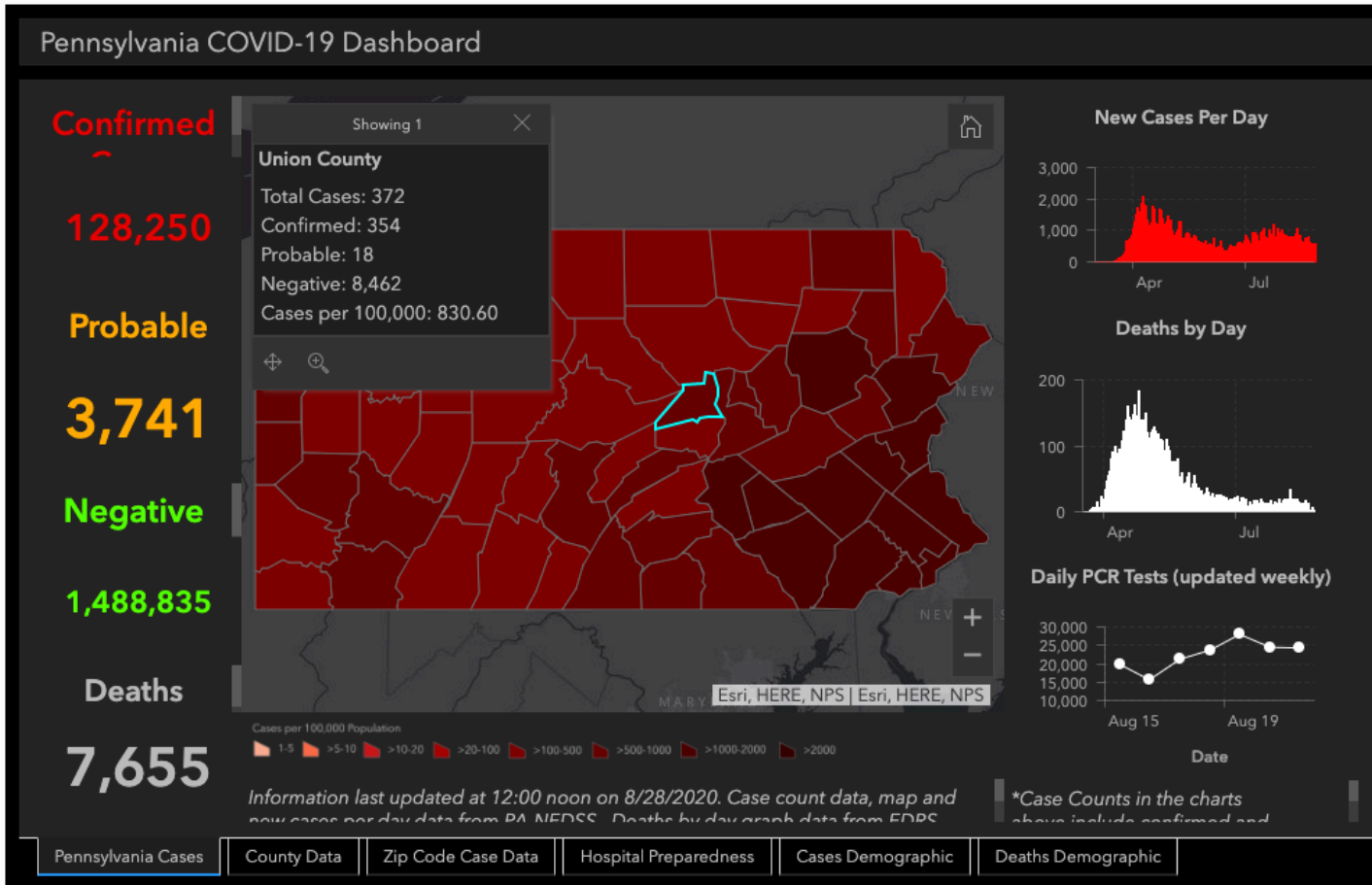
Assess Local Level of Risk

Check official resources from PA Departments of Health and Education

- Visit health.pa.gov for virus information
 - Focus on your county
 - Look at counts and data over time
 - Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard
- Visit education.pa.gov to put local stats in context
 - Is community transmission low, moderate, or substantial in your area? Let that inform your choice of how to vote.

Page last updated: 12:00 p.m. on 8/28/2020

The COVID-19 Data Dashboard does not load properly in Internet Explorer. It is recommended to use Chrome, Edge or Firefox to view the dashboard.



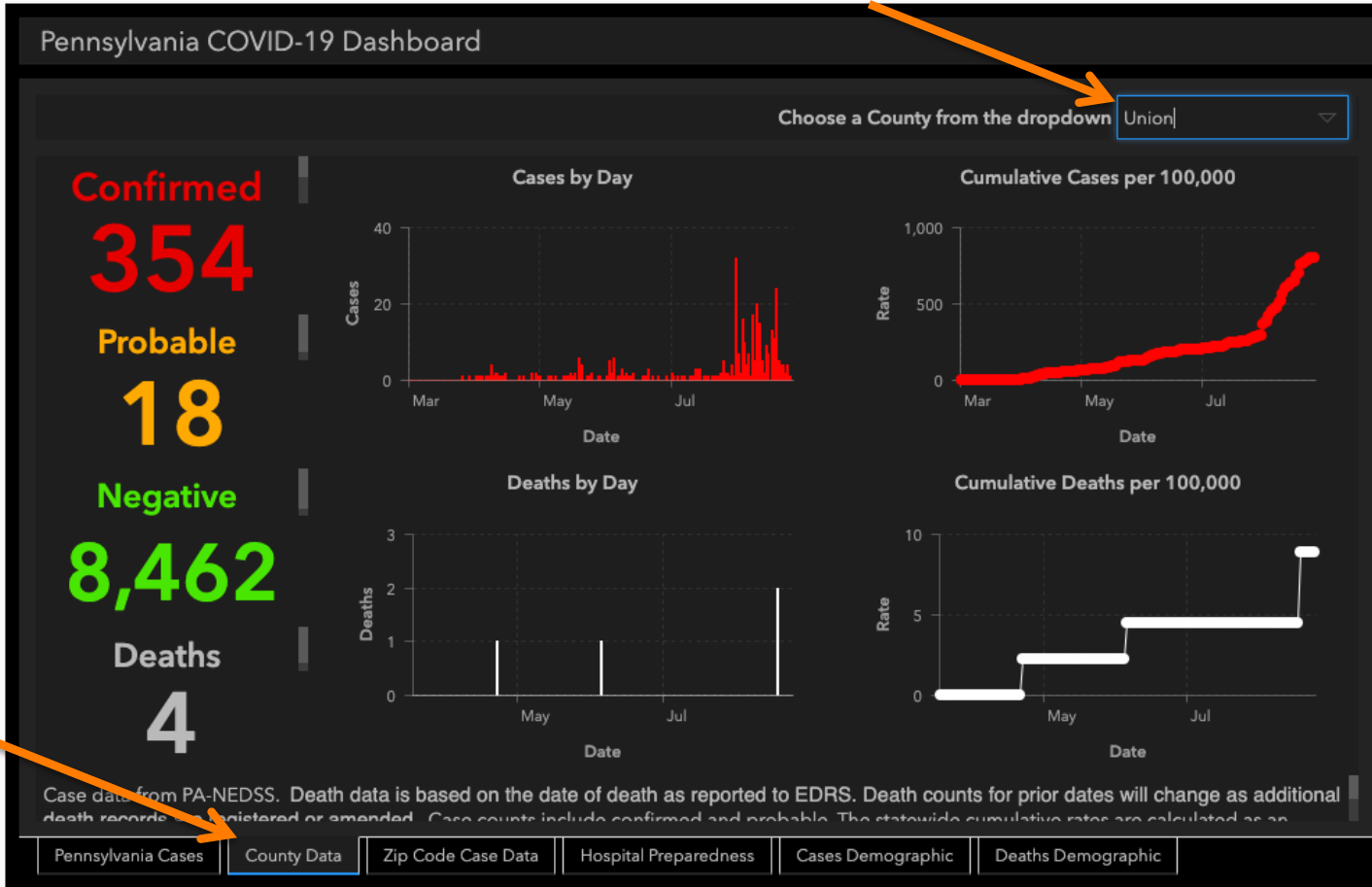
Having trouble viewing the dashboard? [View the full screen version](#)

View the [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#).

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx>

Page last updated: 12:00 p.m. on 8/28/2020

The COVID-19 Data Dashboard does not load properly in Internet Explorer. It is recommended to use Chrome, Edge or Firefox to view the dashboard.



Having trouble viewing the dashboard? [View the full screen version](#)

View the [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#).

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx>

COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard



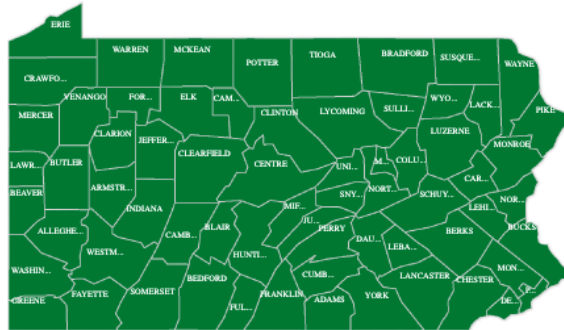
COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard

Updated on 8/28/2020

Select a county or multiple counties (CTRL+click) in the map to filter the table.

Page Navigation

All Counties



Pennsylvania	
-353 <small>Confirmed cases (diff)</small>	32.5 <small>Incidence rate per 100,000 (curr)</small>
3.2% <small>PCR percent positivity (curr)</small>	-21.6 <small>Avg daily hospitalizations (diff)</small>
-13.0 <small>Avg daily ventilators (diff)</small>	0.6% <small>Hosp. visits due to CLI (curr)</small>

diff. - difference between the most recent 7-day period and the previous 7-day period.
curr. - most recent 7-day period

Most recent 7-day period: August 21-August 27
Previous 7-day period: August 14-August 20

For detailed county progress hover over the metric.

County	Difference in confirmed cases (most recent 7 days vs previous 7 days)	Incidence rate (most recent 7 days) per 100,000 residents	PCR percent positivity (most recent 7 days)	Difference in the average daily number of COVID-19 hospitalizations**	Difference in the average daily number of COVID-19 patients on ventilators**	Percent of hospital emergency department visits in the most recent 7 days due to COVID-like-illness*
SNYDER	-2	29.6	2.3%			1.1%
SOMERSET	-1	10.8	1.3%	+0.2	0.0	0.6%
SULLIVAN	0	0.0	0.0%			0.0%
SUSQUEHANNA	-2	46.8	4.8%	+0.7	0.0	0.0%
TIOGA	+2	4.9	0.8%	0.0	0.0	0.4%
UNION	-41	60.3	3.7%	+0.6	0.0	0.0%

Assess Local Level of Risk

These thresholds were generated by the PA Departments of Health and Education to help guide school reopening decisions. They can also help you understand the local context for your plan to vote.

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)	Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Full in-person Model OR Blended Learning Model
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%	Blended Learning Model OR Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model

Depending on your level of risk, you may be more or less ready to venture to the polls in person at different levels of community transmission, just as schools weigh this in whether to reopen in person.

Assess Your Own Level of Risk

- **Are you in one of these risk categories?**
 - Over 70 (also over 60, but over 70 is higher risk)
 - Under 70 with an underlying condition
 - Pregnant
 - Person with complex health problems
- OR
- **Do you live in a household with someone in one of these risk categories?**
- If not, consider traditional in-person voting on Election Day – just be safe about it!
- If so, traditional in-person voting may not be the best choice for you, consider your Mail-In, Absentee, and In-person Absentee/Early In-Person options

Assess Your Own Level of Risk

Broadly, there are four risk groups:

- **Over-70s**, regardless of any medical conditions.
- **Under-70s who have an underlying health condition** - in other words, adults who are advised to have the **flu jab** every year on medical grounds. This group includes people who have:
 - Long-term respiratory or lung disease, like **asthma** or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (**COPD**).
 - Long-term heart disease, like **heart failure**.
 - Long-term **kidney disease**.
 - Long-term liver disease, like **hepatitis**.
 - **Diabetes**.
 - Long-term neurological conditions like **Parkinson's disease**, **motor neurone disease**, **multiple sclerosis** (MS), **cerebral palsy**, or a learning disability.
 - A weakened immune system, either as a result of a medical condition like **HIV or AIDS**, or as a result of medications like corticosteroids or **chemotherapy**.
 - A body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above (being severely **obese**).
- **Pregnant women**.

The fourth group are at the highest risk of severe illness from coronavirus and are likely to take even more extreme measures to protect themselves. They are now classed in the **'shielded' category**.

- **People with complex health problems:**
 - Have had an organ transplant and take medication to **suppress their immune system**.
 - Have **cancer** and are currently having active chemotherapy or **radiotherapy** treatment.
 - People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
 - Have blood or bone marrow cancer (like **leukaemia**, lymphoma and myeloma) and are at any stage of treatment.
 - Have severe respiratory/lung conditions like **cystic fibrosis** or severe asthma or COPD that requires admission to hospital or treatment with corticosteroids.
 - Have severe diseases of the body systems, like severe kidney disease that is managed with regular **dialysis**.
 - Women who are pregnant and who also significant heart disease,
 - People who have had a splenectomy.
 - People with sickle cell disease (rather than sickle cell trait).

<https://patient.info/news-and-features/covid-19-what-is-a-risk-group> (resource from the UK)

Mail-In Versus Absentee Ballots

- Mail-In and Absentee Ballots are largely similar/ parallel options, however, there are a few nuances.
- There are more options for ballot delivery with Absentee Ballots which can be mailed, delivered by the voter, or delivered by a designated representative of the voter (usually a family member or nursing facility staff). Mail-In can only be mailed or delivered by the voter.
- The VotesPA.com website will walk you through a series of questions to determine which one you should apply for, given your circumstances.
- The deadline to apply for either is October 27, but there are also Emergency Absentee Ballots that can be obtained during the final week should you be dealing with unexpected illness or disability.

Assess Safety at the Polls

- At the polls will they...?
 - Require masks of voters
 - Provide for distancing
 - Step up hygiene
 - Increase ventilation or air volume
 - Minimize time of exposure to others
- Also think this through in light of potential poll consolidations (combining multiple polling places into one) and likely presidential election levels of turnout; the situation at your polling place might not look like it has in other recent elections.
- **Contact your County Elections Office for details, visit [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com) to find them**

Plan Your Own Mitigation Measures

If voting in person on Election Day, you should...

- **Wear a mask** (properly)
- **Maintain distancing** – e.g. wait for a lull or any unmasked people to leave and the air to clear
- **Step up your hygiene** before, during, and after
 - Don't touch your face or your mask or your glasses without disinfecting your hands before and after
 - Cover sneezes and coughs
 - Wash hands and gear well upon leaving
- **Minimize time of exposure** to others
- **Screen yourself for symptoms** and don't go if you are or may be sick (Emergency Absentee Ballots are available for last minute problems)

Plan Your Own Mitigation Measures

In acute circumstances, i.e. if you must go in person in spite of local or personal high risk,

- Consider adding a **face shield or goggles** to your mitigation measures
- Wear an **N95 mask** if possible (only effective with proper hygiene and really should be reserved for front line workers)
- **Self-isolate afterwards** from vulnerable people in your household for 14 days and **consider getting tested**

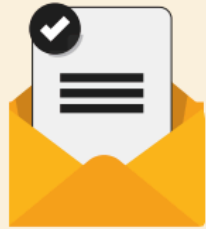
What Are the Options?

All PA voters now have three options:

- Traditional in-person voting on Election Day
- Voting early from home by Mail-In ballot
- Voting In-Person Absentee/Early In Person at the Elections Office

Early Voting in PA?

Early In-Person/
In Person Absentee
Voting Option



Vote by Mail-in Ballot

If you are a registered voter in Pennsylvania, you have a **new option to vote by mail-in ballot**. This is a great option for voters who prefer the safety and convenience of voting at home. You do not have to provide a reason for requesting a mail-in ballot. If you decide to vote by mail-in ballot, keep in mind:

- ✓ You must apply for a ballot by **5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the election**.
- ✓ You can apply using an **online application** at votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot, **by mailing** in a paper application, or by submitting a paper application **in person** at the county election office.

When you apply in person, you can ask for your ballot **immediately**. If the ballot is available, you can complete it in the office and return it to the county election staff.

✓ You can return your completed ballot by **mail or in person** at your county election office. Check with your county to see if they have additional drop-off locations.

Return Your Mail-in Ballot

The county must **receive** your completed ballot by **8:00 pm on election day** in order to count it. If your ballot arrives after the deadline, **it will not count**, even if it was postmarked before the deadline. It's important to know **your vote is final** once your county receives your voted mail-in ballot, and you are not allowed to go to the polling place to change your vote on election day. If you **do not return** your voted mail-in ballot by the deadline and you want to vote in person, you have two options:

- 1) Bring your ballot and the envelope with the voter's declaration to your polling place and turn it in so you can vote on your county's voting system.
- 2) If you don't have your ballot, you can vote by provisional ballot at your polling place.

What Will YOUR Plan Be?

- Traditional in-person voting on Election Day?
- Voting early from home by Mail-In ballot?
- Voting In-Person Absentee/Early In Person at Elections Office?

OR

- Hedging your bets in order to keep your options open?

Keeping Your Options Open

Consider a hybrid which keeps your options open

- Apply for your Mail-In ballot NOW.
- Assess local COVID conditions the week before the election.
- If COVID conditions allow, go ahead and go in person to the polls. If you bring your unused Mail-In ballot and turn it in to be shredded, you can vote normally. Just be safe about it!
- If COVID conditions are bad, instead hand deliver your completed Mail-In ballot to the County Elections Office (during office hours and ideally at least a few days before Election Day; avoid the last minute).
- If for some reason you haven't received your Mail-In ballot by Election Day, go ahead and vote in person by provisional ballot. (All the more reason to apply now!)

Election Season Starts Now!

At every stage, opt to act early!

- Voter Registration Deadline is October 19 – **register now!**
- Mail-In and Absentee Ballot application deadline is October 27 – **apply now!** (Fastest, online, valid PA Drivers' License required; next fastest, in person; slower, mail in hard copy of your application)
- Absentee and Mail-In Ballots must be postmarked no later than November 3, Election Day, and received (by mail) by November 6 – **send it ASAP!**
- Hand delivered Absentee and Mail-In Ballots must be received in the County Elections Office (or other certified drop off location, if provided) by 8pm on November 3, Election Day – **deliver yours ASAP!**
- (Do not deliver ballots for others; it's illegal.)

2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

OCT
19

**Last day to register to vote
for the general election.**

register.votesPA.com

OCT
27

**Last day to apply for a
mail-in or absentee ballot.**

votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot

NOV
3

**Voted mail-in and absentee ballots
must be received by the county by 8 PM.**

votesPA.com/County

NOV
3

**General election day.
Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM.**

votesPA.com/Polls

VotesPA.com 

Now that Mail-In ballots are ready, they can start to be sent out by the end of September.

Apply now!

2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

OCT
19

Last day to register to vote for the general election.

register.votesPA.com

DO IT NOW!

OCT
27

Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.

votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot

DON'T WAIT!

NOV
3

Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8 PM.

votesPA.com/County

ASAP!

NOV
3

General election day. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

votesPA.com/Polls

MAKE A PLAN!

After legal wrangling, this is the

deadline to hand deliver or postmark!

Mailed ballots have until Nov 6 to be received.

Better early than sorry!

Avoid doing it last minute

VotesPA.com 





Make a Plan to Vote!

- There are many challenges to voting this year, between changes to voting laws, complications with the postal service, and the pandemic.
- The best thing you can do in response to all of it is to make sure you vote. You have options!
- **Now is the time to make your plan to vote.**
- Tell your friends to make a plan now, too.
- If they live in other states, remember that election laws are different there.

This presentation, with links, is available online at
LewisburgNeighborhoods.org/voting-in-the-time-of-COVID

NEW VOTING OPTIONS IN PA

<https://sites.google.com/lwvpg.org/lwvpg-voter-resources/voter-and-election-information?authuser=0>

NEW VOTING OPTIONS in Pennsylvania	
Beginning in 2020, ALL Pennsylvania voters have 3 options.	
OPTION	WHEN and WHERE?
<p>1. TRADITIONAL IN-PERSON VOTING</p>  <p>This is a familiar option for Pennsylvanians, and until this year, was the only option available to voters without an approved reason to vote absentee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT YOUR POLLING PLACE* • ON ELECTION DAY • between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. <p>*Be aware that polling places may be changed or consolidated due to the pandemic. If this becomes necessary, the County Elections Office will inform voters by publishing the new information and sending postcards to voters' home addresses.</p>
<p>2. MAIL-IN and ABSENTEE VOTING</p>  <p>All registered voters are eligible to vote using a mail-in ballot. No reason is needed. Voters may choose this option because they will be away from home, are ill, or simply because it is their preference.</p> <p>Instructions on how to apply for and submit your mail-in or absentee ballot are available at votesPA.com. Mail-in and absentee ballots are essentially the same.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT YOUR HOME or temporary residence • Application Process is open NOW! • RETURN deadline -- Your ballot must be RECEIVED by the County Elections Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The postmark date does NOT count!  Be an early bird! Apply and return your ballot early to avoid missing deadlines!
<p>3. "IN-PERSON ABSENTEE" VOTING</p>  <p>The name is confusing, but the process is simple. You may appear in person at the County Elections Office to request, mark, and submit your ballot all in the same visit. It functions as a form of early, in-person voting. It's basically mail-in voting, minus the mail! You don't need a reason, but you should bring your PA driver's license, PennDOT ID, or other approved identification.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE • Any time during office hours • In the 3-4 weeks before the election, once ballots are available.  <p>Allegheny County Elections Office 542 Forbes Ave., Suite 609 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412-350-4500</p>
WHAT IF...	YOU MAY...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elections Office sent me a ballot, but it never arrived, or I lost it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote at your polling place on Election Day using a <u>provisional ballot</u>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I received my mail-in ballot, but it's too late to mail it back on time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver it to the County Elections Office in person, or use a drop-box, if available. • Return the ballot and barcoded envelope at your polling place on Election Day. You will be permitted to vote using a <u>regular ballot</u>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a medical emergency that will prevent me from going to the polls, but it is after the deadline to request an absentee ballot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request an Emergency Absentee Ballot, and authorize someone else to pick up and return your ballot.
Need details, forms, or more info? Visit votesPA.com !	
© 2020 League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh www.lwvpg.org	

This graphic was created by the League of Women Voters in Pittsburgh. Substitute your County Elections Office contact info here. Visit votespa.com to find it.

THE LIFE + TIMES OF A PA MAIL-IN BALLOT

<https://sites.google.com/lwvpg.org/lwvpg-voter-resources/voter-and-election-information?authuser=0>

