

How to Register to Vote and Vote Absentee in Chester County

In time for the November 3, 2015, primary election

The deadline to register to vote in the **Tuesday November 3** general election is **Monday October 5** (postmark or in person). The ballot includes many important positions: 5 statewide judges, all 3 County Commissioners, 1 judge of the Chester County Court of Common Pleas, 5 of the other 9 countywide officials, half of municipal supervisors and Borough Council members, and half of all School Board directors.

No matter how you get a voter registration form, you must submit it on paper (use black or blue pen). All US citizens living in PA can vote in PA (except felons *still serving time*). Be sure to register with the **exact name** on your driver's license or other government-issued photo ID.

Also submit a new registration form within 30 days after moving within the County. Theoretically you can vote "one last time" at your old address after moving, but beyond 30 days you risk being given a provisional ballot or disqualified.

Enter N/A for any non-applicable questions. Some hints:

4a: put the address from which you will be voting (if on-campus housing, put room no. + dorm name + college + city + zip).

4c: your municipality may be different from the mailing address in 4a or 5 (e.g., 4c could be West Goshen and 4a or 5 West Chester).

8 and **12:** put former registration info if you know it, otherwise don't worry.

9 note that only registered D's and R's choose candidates in primary elections.

Stamp and mail the form to Voter Services, 601 Westtown Rd, Suite 150, PO Box 2747, West Chester PA 19380-0990, or go in person 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (just east of West Chester Borough, at the east end of E. Nields St., in the Government Services Center). Keep a photocopy. If you don't receive your Voter ID Card in the mail within 2 weeks, call Voter Services at (610) 344-6410 (same for all questions on voting). Your registration card will tell you where to vote.

The **first time** you vote after registering in a new precinct, you must bring currently valid identification (driver's license, student ID card, utility bill, bank statement, etc.) With a first-time voter absentee vote application, send a photocopy of one of those items. In both cases, photo ID works best. If you have voted before in your precinct, no ID needed.

Apply for an **Absentee Ballot** if you may be out of town on election day or prevented from voting in person because of health or some other reasons (age in itself is not a reason). The last day to apply for a civilian Absentee Ballot is **Tuesday October 27** (except emergencies like hospitalization). The last day for Voter Services to receive your voted absentee ballot is Friday October 30; but act as early as you can. You must still vote in person if it becomes possible.

At <http://chescodems.org/voting-information> you can follow links to:

- see if you are already registered and where to vote
- download a registration form and how to fill it out
- see (2-3 weeks before the election) what your ballot will look like
- find out which PA House and Senate and US Congress districts you are in
- download an Absentee voting form
- find further info on voting and registration

**For any questions, call Voter Services at (610) 344-6410
or the Chester County Democratic Committee at (610) 692-5811**