

How to Register to Vote and Vote Absentee in Chester County

In time for the April 26, 2016, primary election

The deadline to register to vote in the **Tuesday April 26** primary election is **Monday March 28** (postmark or in person). The ballot will include President (in the form of delegates to the National Democratic convention), US Senate (1 seat), US House (all seats), 3 statewide offices, PA Senate (odd-numbered districts), and PA House (all districts).

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

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

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

your **municipality** may be different from the **city or town** in your mailing address (e.g., municipality could be West Goshen and city or town West Chester).

put **former registration info** if you know it.

If you don't have a **PA drivers license** or **PennDOT** ID card, the state will mail you a signature card if you register online.

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

If you apply in print, use black or blue pen, then 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 is needed.

Apply for an **Absentee Ballot** if you may be out of town on election day or prevented from voting in person because of some reason like health (age in itself is not a reason). The last day to apply for a civilian Absentee Ballot is **Tuesday April 19** (except emergencies like hospitalization). The last day for Voter Services to receive your voted ballot is **Friday April 22**. To be safe, **start the process at least 2 weeks before the deadline**, because the US mail has become quite slow due to budget cuts. You must still vote in person if it becomes possible.

At <http://chescodems.org/> in the **REGISTER AND VOTE menu** at the top 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 request (the ballot will come with more info)
- find further info on voting and registration

For any questions, call Voter Services at (610) 344-6410 or CCDC at (610) 692-5811