



# WASHINGTON VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTE-BY-MAIL INFORMATION

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline to Register	Deadline to Order Missing or Corrected Ballot	Deadline to Return Mail Ballot
<p><b>Online:</b> Oct. 26. Registrations by mail must be received by auditor eight days before election.</p> <p><b>In Person/Same Day:</b> Nov. 3.</p>	<p><b>Mail:</b> Oct. 26. New ballot requests by mail must be received by auditor eight days before election.</p> <p><b>In Person/Same Day:</b> 8 p.m. Nov. 3.</p>	<p><b>Mail and In Person:</b> 8 p.m. Nov. 3.</p> <p>Ballots must reach drop box by 8 p.m. or be postmarked by Nov. 3.</p>

Visit [WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org](https://WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org) to easily check your registration status, apply to vote by mail, and get all the information you need to vote safely, securely and on time.

This memo has been prepared by the AFL-CIO for our state, area and local central labor bodies, affiliated unions and constituency groups to use in planning voter registration and mail-in ballot programs in 2020. This memo is for informational purposes only and is current as of Oct. 2, 2020. It is essential that you check the links provided throughout this document for any changes and consult with your attorney about any specific questions you have.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

### Who can register to vote in Washington state?

To register to vote in Washington, a person must:

- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be a resident of Washington state and of the city/ township in which they register for at least 30 days prior to Election Day;
- Be at least 18 years old on the date of the general election;
- Not be disqualified from voting due to a court order, such as for declared mental incompetency; *and*
- Not be currently under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington state felony conviction.

Washington also allows 16- and 17-year-olds to register as future voters to be automatically registered on their 18th birthday. This is indicated on the regular voter registration form.

### Civil rights restoration:

- The right to vote is rescinded while a person is in Department of Corrections custody. This includes not just long-term incarceration, but any mandatory custody. However, those released or on parole and probation are entitled to vote.
- People released after conviction of a felony must reregister to vote, regardless of whether they were previously registered. There is no requirement of a certificate of discharge or any other documentation from the Department of Corrections.

You also can use the AFL-CIO's voter registration tool at [WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org](https://WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org), which will walk you through the process for your state.



## What options are there to register to vote in Washington state?

**Online:** Voters who have a current Washington driver's license, permit or ID card can [register to vote online](#).

**In person:** Voters may register in person when they obtain a license or ID card, as well as at their [county elections department](#).

**Mail:** Voters may register by mail using a voter registration form and mailing it to their [county elections department](#). Forms are [available in 23 languages](#) on the Washington secretary of state's website. Voters can also use the secretary of state's website to [request to have a form sent to them by mail](#).

## What is the deadline to register to vote for the November election?

New registrations and address changes must be received by a voter's [county elections department](#) by Oct. 26, in order for the voter to automatically receive a mail ballot in time for the election. However, it is also possible to register and vote in person during the 18 days before Election Day and until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Voters can find their county's in-person voting center by contacting their [county elections department](#).

## When do voters need to update their voter registration? How do they update it?

Voters can update their registration using any of the methods listed above.

- Voters should update their registration when they move to a new address. This is particularly important because ballots are mailed automatically to the voter's address on file.
  - > If a voter forgets, they can update registration and order a ballot by mail to their new location up to eight days before the election. Voters should **not** fill out the old ballot if they have ordered a new one.
- Voters whose names change must complete a new voter registration if their driver's license or state ID is issued with their new name.
- Voters whose ballots are returned undeliverable by the Postal Service are made "inactive" and must update their registration to become active again and receive a ballot. This is accomplished by the same process as a new registration.

## VOTING BY MAIL

All registered voters in Washington vote by mail as a default. Ballots are automatically mailed to all active registered voters at least 18 days before any election. (An "active" voter is someone whose mail ballot has not previously been returned as undeliverable.)

## What should I do if I do not receive my ballot in the mail?

You should contact your [county elections department](#) if you do not receive your ballot in the mail.

## My union is going to conduct a voter registration drive. What else do I need to know?

Washington does not require individuals or groups to register or complete training before holding a voter registration drive, but you should consult the [guide prepared by the secretary of state for helpful information](#) about voter registration drives.

You also can use the AFL-CIO's absentee ballot request tool at [WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org](https://www.workersfirstvoteunion.org), which will walk you through the process for your state.

### What should I do if I need my ballot sent to a different address?

You should contact your county elections department to have your ballot sent to a temporary address.

### How can I request a replacement mail ballot?

If you need a replacement ballot for any reason, you can contact your county elections department.

### How can I return my ballot?

You can return your ballot by mail, postmarked by Nov. 3, or by placing it in a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. Nov. 3. Drop box locations can be found on the secretary of state's website.

### What is the deadline to return my ballot?

Your ballot must be in a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day, or if sent by mail, it must be postmarked by Election Day (Nov. 3).

### Are there any restrictions on returning ballots on behalf of a voter?

As long as the voter completes and seals the ballot according to instructions on the ballot, they can entrust it to another person to be put in a drop box or mailed appropriately.

## OTHER VOTING INFORMATION

### Where can I find more information about voting rules in Washington state?

Generally the Washington secretary of state posts important information to this website: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/>

- You can find other election dates and deadlines updated annually here: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/dates-and-deadlines.aspx>
- Registered voters can check their ballot status online here: <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx#/login>

**If you need more information or have issues on Election Day, contact the nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline, sponsored by a coalition of civil rights groups and unions.**

#### ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES

Call in English	<b>866-OUR-VOTE</b> or <b>866-687-8683</b>
Call in Spanish/English	<b>888-VE-Y-VOTA</b> or <b>888-839-8682</b>
Call in Asian Languages/English	<b>888-API-VOTE</b> or <b>888-274-8683</b>
Call in Arabic/English	<b>844-YALLA-US</b> or <b>844-925-5287</b>
Or text	<b>OUR VOTE</b> to <b>97779</b>

As the coronavirus continues to impact Americans across the country, there has been a staggering decrease in the number of people who are able to work the polls—which could mean closed polling places and long delays during the November election. The AFL-CIO is proud to partner with **Power the Polls**, a first-of-its-kind initiative to recruit poll workers to ensure a safe, fair election for all voters. Will you help us address our nation's critical poll worker shortage? You can help make sure we have a safe, fair and efficient election for all voters, and potentially get paid to do it. Sign up to Power the Polls today.

[powerthepolls.org/aflcio](https://powerthepolls.org/aflcio)

[WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org](https://WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org)

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