

Absentee and Early Voting Frequently Asked Questions:



Sandusky County Board of Elections
2020 Countryside Dr.
Fremont, OH 43420
419-334-6180

When does early voting start?

Early voting begins at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Our office will have additional hours during the early voting period:

- **Tuesday, April 7 – Friday, April 10 (8 am – 5 pm)**
- **Monday, April 13 – Friday, April 17 (8 am – 5 pm)**
- **Monday, April 20 – Friday, April 24 (8 am – 5 pm)**
- **Monday, April 27 - (7:30 am – 7:30 pm)**
- **Tuesday, April 28 - (7:30 am – 8:30 pm)**
- **Wednesday, April 29 – Friday, May 1 (7:30 am – 7:30 pm)**
- **Saturday, May 2 (8 am – 4 pm)**
- **Sunday, May 3 (1 pm – 5 pm) - ***Last day for early, in-person voting**
- **Monday, May 4 – NO IN-OFFICE VOTING. Voters must visit their polling location on Election Day**

Do you count absentee ballots?

YES! All absentee ballots that have been received by the deadline **and** contain the required information are counted. If your returned absentee ballot identification envelope is lacking vital information, our office will mail you a supplemental form to complete before the early voting deadline is completed. It is the **voter's responsibility** to complete the supplemental form and return it in a timely manner to ensure that your ballot gets counted.

What Election is this?

The upcoming Election will be a **Primary Gubernatorial Election**

What is the Election Date?

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Polling locations are open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm

***YOU **MUST** VOTE IN YOUR REGULAR POLLING LOCATION ON ELECTION DAY AND YOU **MUST PROVIDE A VALID OHIO PHOTO ID**. ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED AS VALID IDENTIFICATION ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE. **NO** VOTING TAKES PLACE AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE AFTER **THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD ENDS AT 5 PM ON SUNDAY, MAY 3**.

When is the last day to request an absentee ballot by mail?

You may request your ballot up until **April 28 by 8:30 pm**. If your absentee application/request is received by the deadline, your ballot will be mailed (typically) on the same day. If your absentee application/request is received after the deadline, our office will attempt to contact you by phone if you have provided a contact number on your absentee application/request.

*****Please note – the earlier you submit your application, the sooner you will receive your ballot, however applications can only be submitted within the year of the election. You can submit requests on January 1 for elections being held in the same year. We cannot guarantee when USPS will deliver your ballot. We recommend that you submit your application as early as possible.**

How do I know what will be on the ballot?

Sample ballots are available. See instructions below:

Follow this link: <https://sandusky.oh-vote.org/VoterView/Home.do>

Click on ‘Registration Information’ at the top of the page

Enter ONLY your last name and date of birth, then click ‘Search’

When your record opens, click on ‘Sample Ballot’

Your sample ballot may be viewed and/or printed

If you would like to receive a hard copy via USPS:

You may call the board office at 419-334-6180 to request that we mail you a copy of your sample ballot or you can come to the board office and obtain a copy to take with you.

Do I need to provide an ID if voting early/in-person?

Yes. Valid photo identification is required to vote early, in-person.

How do I change my party affiliation?

During a Primary Election. Primary Elections are held only when there is more than one candidate seeking a partisan seat (Democrat, Libertarian or Republican). Primary Elections are always held for Presidential Elections and Gubernatorial Elections, and sometimes Municipal Elections. When you ask for a particular ballot style (ie: Democrat, Libertarian or Republican), you will be voting only for candidates in that party. If you choose to be non-affiliated with a political party, you have the option to vote an 'Issues Only' ballot (if there are issues in your precinct for that election). By voting an 'Issues Only' ballot, you will not have any candidates listed on your ballot.

Per the Ohio Secretary of State:

DETERMINING PARTY AFFILIATION An elector is considered to be a member of a political party if they voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years, or if they did not vote in any other party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years. Each board of elections must enter voting history and update party affiliation following each primary election.

During a General Election (November), everyone votes for all candidates / parties that are listed on the ballot, as well as any issues to be voted on. Essentially everyone residing in a particular district will be voting the same ballot.

Where do I get the form to request an absentee ballot?

If you have internet access and a printer, you may visit the website below and print your application to submit to the board office.

Go to voteohio.gov, print, complete the form and either drop off or mail to our office at:

Sandusky County Board of Elections
2020 Countryside Dr.
Fremont, OH 43420

If you do not have a printer, feel free to contact our office at 419-334-6180 and we will mail the application to you. *Please note that we cannot control the length of time for the USPS to deliver your request, so please be sure to call early and allow additional time for mailing/returning your request and ballot materials.*

When does my voted absentee ballot have to be returned? And, how do I return it?

****ATTENTION: Changes to Ohio election law, through SB 293, has changed the deadline to receive voted ballots by mail:

Your ballot must be received at the board office by 7:30 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

If returning in person: Your voted ballot must be received in our office by 7:30 pm on Election Day.

Can I return my voted absentee ballot to my polling location on Election Day?

No. Absentee ballots being mailed must be received by the board office on Election Day, by 7:30 pm., OR **in person** to the Board of Elections office by 7:30 pm on Election Day.

Can I vote on Election Day at the Board of Elections office?

No. Once early voting has ended; voters must go to their regular polling locations on Election Day to cast their ballot. ***In-person voting ends at 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 3.***

Can I vote in any precinct in the county?

No, you must vote in the precinct in which you reside.

How do I know where my polling location is and what precinct I am in?

Please follow this link: <https://sandusky.oh-vote.org/VoterView/Home.do>

Enter ONLY your last name and date of birth, then click 'Search'

Your polling place, precinct name, etc. will be listed here

OR

Please contact our office at 419-334-6180 and we will be happy to assist you.



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