5 Recommendations for PA Voters
October 2020

As an engaged citizen of Pennsylvania, you can help your friends, neighbors and family get #Readytovote in the November 3 general election. The Department of State recommends that voters follow the steps below to ensure that their voting experience is smooth and successful. You can help by making sure the Pennsylvania voters in your life follow these simple steps.

1. **Decide NOW how you will vote in the November 3 general election.**
   Did you know that in Pennsylvania you can now vote one of three ways?
   - You can vote by mail using a mail-in or absentee ballot. The deadline to apply for a ballot is 5:00 pm on October 27. [votesPA.com/mailballot](http://votesPA.com/mailballot)
   - You can vote early in-person by mail-in or absentee ballot at your county election office or another designated site. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot in person is 5:00 pm on October 27. Check your county election office’s hours. [votesPA.com/earlyvoting](http://votesPA.com/earlyvoting)
   - You can vote in person at your assigned polling place on election day. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. [votesPA.com/polls](http://votesPA.com/polls)

2. **Follow the steps for completing your mail ballot.**
   If you will vote by mail, to ensure that your ballot is counted, follow the instructions carefully.
   - You must use the TWO envelopes provided to return your ballot – both the white inner secrecy envelope and the pre-addressed outer return envelope.
   - Also be sure to complete, sign and date the voter’s declaration on the outer return envelope.

3. **Return your mail ballot as soon as possible.**
   Don’t wait until the last minute to return your mail-in or absentee ballot!
   - Deliver your ballot in person to your county election office or other designated site by the deadline of 8:00 pm on November 3. Find out [where to return your ballot](http://votesPA.com/polls).
   - If you return your ballot by mail, **put it in the mail as soon as possible.**
   - Keep in mind that you must return your own ballot, unless you are a voter with a disability and you have designated an agent in writing.
   - If you requested a mail ballot but decide to vote at your polling place, bring your mail-in or absentee ballot and envelopes with you. You will have to surrender them in order to vote a regular ballot. Otherwise, you will only be able to vote a provisional ballot.
4. **Stay safe at the polls.**
Polling places will be open for in-person voting on November 3. Here are some things to keep in mind if you’re going to the polls:

- Wear a mask to help protect your fellow voters and election workers.
- Follow social distancing guidelines.
- You can bring your own black pen to sign the poll book and mark your ballot (in counties that use hand-marked paper ballots)

5. **Look out for disinformation.**
You can be a leader in your community by only sharing election information from trusted, verified sources.

- Follow the Department of State on Facebook (@PADepartmentofState) or Twitter (@PAStateDept) for trusted information.
- You can find printable materials, sharable graphics, and sample social media posts in our [voter education toolkit](#). Feel free to use these materials to help inform members of your community about elections in Pennsylvania.