

# What do I need on Election Day?



Here's a resource of last-minute election questions for both the experienced and new voters

**SIDE EFFECTS**  
FROM WFYI PUBLIC MEDIA

## What do I need on Election Day?

Your photo identification must meet four criteria: it must display your photo, your name (though, it doesn't have to be a perfect match), an expiration date and either be current or have expired sometime after the date of the last General Election, and issued by the state of Indiana or the U.S. government.

An Indiana driver's license, a U.S. passport, Indiana State Identification Card, or military ID card all work. And student IDs at Indiana state colleges and universities may also work – as long as they follow the rest of the criteria. However, students at private institutions may not use student IDs for voting.

If you don't have one of these forms of identification on Election Day, you have before noon 10 days after the election to provide necessary documentation to your county election board.

On Election Day, you'll cast a provisional ballot – which will be kept separate from other ballots – until everything is verified. If your name doesn't appear on your county's voter rolls but you registered to vote, you can cast a provisional ballot and then work out what happened.

## Who is eligible to vote in Indiana?

There are a few qualifications to vote in Indiana. First and foremost, you must be both a U.S. citizen and a resident of Indiana. Additionally, you must be 18 years old on or before the general election in November – which means 17-year-olds can vote in the primary as long as they're 18 before Nov. 5, 2024.

People who are currently in prison after being convicted of a crime cannot vote in Indiana. But their voting rights are restored upon release. And you have to have lived in the precinct you're voting in for at least 30 days before the election.

## How do you register to vote?

The easiest way: go to [IndianaVoters.com](https://www.IndianaVoters.com). The Indiana Secretary of State runs the site, and allows you to register to vote, update address information, check your registration and find your polling place on this website.

The deadline to register to vote in the primary is April 8 and the general election is Oct. 7 in Indiana.

You can register to vote in-person or by mail by filling out a voter registration form. Indiana residents can register to vote without a driver's license or Indiana State Identification Card – but, because of Indiana's voter ID laws, you'll need to have it on you on Election Day.

Certain military and overseas voters have extended registration deadlines. All that information is available on the Indiana Secretary of State's website.

## Election Day checklist:

- ☐ **Valid form of identification**  
An Indiana driver's license, a U.S. passport, Indiana State Identification Card, or military ID card all work. And some public college student IDs will work too.
- ☐ **Polling place address**  
Some Indiana counties allow you to vote at any polling place in the county you're registered in. But other counties do not. Be sure to double check your polling place and your county's policy either by going to your county clerk's website or [IndianaVoters.com](https://www.IndianaVoters.com).
- ☐ **Know who you want to vote for**  
Need assistance researching your candidates? We've got a tip sheet for researching candidates at [bit.ly/BallotTipSheet](https://bit.ly/BallotTipSheet).
- ☐ **Get your "I Voted" Sticker**  
Congrats! You participated in American democracy by voting! And you got a sticker for the effort!

## Need assistance?

### Indiana Secretary of State

866-IN-1-VOTE (866-461-8683)

Staff on hand from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET

### Indiana Disability Rights

Voice: 317-722-5555

Toll Free: 800-622-4845

Text Telephone (TTY): 800-838-1131

### Indiana Election Division

Direct: 317-232-3939

Toll Free: 800-622-4941

### National Voter Hotline

866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683)

Spanish: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (839-8682)

## How do I find my polling place and hours?

On Election Day, polls are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time.

To find your polling place, go to [IndianaVoters.com](https://www.IndianaVoters.com) and search under your Voter Portal. At the very top of the page, it lists the locations you're able to vote on Election Day.

A few counties in Indiana have vote centers, where any county resident is able to vote at any polling place, no matter their address.

## What do I do when I go to my polling place?

Your polling place will have a bunch of signs directing you where to go. Mostly, you'll just be standing in line at your polling place.

Once you get to the voter check-in table, you'll present your ID to the poll workers to check. They'll confirm your information and give you directions from there. If you need assistance, they'll be able to provide it there.

After you get to your voting booth, you're legally allowed to have your phone on you in case you've written your selections electronically or if you want to take a selfie with your ballot (live your truth, fam).

Because voting machines vary slightly in Indiana – depending on your county – just follow the instructions of the poll workers at your polling place.

## Where can I find my ballot?

There are lots of places you can go – including candidate websites, local media outlets and even specialty voting guides on issues important to you.

Go to [IndianaVoters.com](https://www.IndianaVoters.com) and select "Check my registration." Once you log into your Voter Portal, scroll to "Who's on the Ballot."

## What rights do I have as a voter?

Voting places also must be accessible to Hoosiers with disabilities. For example, if you're unable to stand for long periods of time, you can request a chair. Or if you're visually impaired, you may request a magnifier.

Voters with disabilities may seek assistance from poll workers (one from each political party). You're also able to designate a friend or relative to assist you during voting – but they must complete an Affidavit of Voter Assistance at the Polls. That's available at the polling station, before entering the voting booth.

If you experience issues, reach out to Indiana Disability Rights (on the opposite side of this page).

Hoosiers who cannot read and/or write in English can also request assistance at a polling place.

## How do I vote absentee?

There are three ways to vote absentee in Indiana: by mail, in person (also known as early voting) and by travel board.

You don't need an excuse to vote absentee in person, but Indiana limits who can vote absentee by mail and travel board.

You must fall under one of the following excuses (all time constraints are for the entirety of when polls are open, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.):

- You have a specific, reasonable expectation that you will be absent from the county on Election Day.
- You have a disability.
- You are at least 65 years of age.
- You will have official election duties outside of your voting precinct.
- You are scheduled to work at your regular place of employment.
- You will be confined due to illness or injury or you will be caring for an individual confined due to illness or injury.
- You are prevented from voting because of a religious discipline or religious holiday.
- You are a participant in the state's address confidentiality program.
- You are a member of the military or a public safety officer.
- You are a "serious sex offender" as defined in Indiana Code 35-42-4-14(a).
- You are prevented from voting due to the unavailability of transportation to the polls.

After requesting your absentee-by-mail ballot, you must fill it out and mail it to the county election board's office.

Ballots are only valid if they are received by the election board before 6 p.m. on Nov. 5 – so leave plenty of time for mail to get to your county election board or drop it off.

The traveling board is available to people who expect to be confined, due to illness or injury, or caring for someone confined at a private residence on Election Day; people with disabilities and who believes their polling place is not accessible to them; and someone who is physically unable to complete the ballot and sign the affidavit on their own.

That includes folks who test positive for COVID-19 less than five days before the election.

Travel boards are available 19 days before Election Day. You can request a travel board through your county clerk or on [IndianaVoters.com](https://www.IndianaVoters.com).