

Election Protection: Know Your Rights as a Voter

ELECTION PROTECTION BASICS

- Check your state's ID requirements before you leave the house to make sure you have what you need to vote. Confirm which forms of ID your state accepts here.
- Bring your phone when you vote so you can call the election protection hotline if you witness any illegal or suspicious activities.
- Keep your place in line. The lines may be long, but you're allowed to vote as long as you're in line when the polls close!
- Vote a regular ballot if you can. Cast a provisional ballot only if you have no other option. Be sure the poll worker gives you information on how to follow up to find out if your provisional ballot was counted.
- Try to fix any problem you have before leaving your polling site rather than going home in case the lines are longer when you come back (or in case you don't have a chance to come back at all).
- Always remember that poll workers are trying their best under often difficult circumstances. Most problems are not intentional but a result of poor communications; if you're nice to them, chances are they'll be nice to you.

Source: www.VOTE.org



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**IT'S ILLEGAL FOR ANYONE TO TRY TO STOP
YOU FROM VOTING. IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF
THE FOLLOWING, REPORT IT TO THE
ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE*
(866-687-8683) IMMEDIATELY**

- **Intimidation.** This includes physically blocking entrance to voting (including ballot drop boxes), cursing at people waiting to vote, looking over people's shoulders while they vote, questioning voters about their choices or citizenship status, or asking for identification unnecessarily.
- **Coercion.** This may include offering money to vote for a certain person, spreading false rumors about candidates or voting, displaying signs with false or misleading information, or impersonating poll workers.
- **Threats.** These may include comments such as "your family will be deported if you vote," "you will be fired from your job if you vote," or "your kid won't make the football team if you vote."
- **False information about voting requirements.**
- **People impersonating poll workers or election officials.**

**The Election Protection Hotline is a Vote.org partner and a separate entity.*

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE TOLD YOU'RE NOT ON THE VOTER ROLL

- **Confirm you're registered to vote at your current address.**
- **Confirm that you're at the right polling place.**
- If you're registered and at the right polling place, don't leave! Call the Election Protection Hotline* at 1-866-687-8683 and ask for help.
- Did you recently move? If so, you may still be registered where you used to live. Check with a poll worker to see if you can update your registration and vote a regular ballot where you are. Otherwise, you may need to vote at your old polling location or at a central polling place.

Source: www.VOTE.org

KNOW VOTER IDENTIFICATION LAWS FOR YOUR STATE

If you are being turned away from voting
for not having the proper ID:

- **Confirm which forms of ID your state accepts**
- Ask the poll worker if there is some other form of identification they might accept. Some states accept documents you may not think of as ID, like a paystub or utility bill with your address. If you need to go back home to get your ID, ask the poll worker if you can skip the line when you come back to vote. If you can't come back the same day, then as a last resort ask the poll worker if your state allows you to vote a provisional ballot come back and show your ID following Election Day and still have your vote counted.
- If you do not have any acceptable form of ID, ask the poll worker if your state allows you to vote without ID by signing a document under oath. This is an option in several states where ID is normally required (including CT, ID, IA, LA, MI, MT, NH, SD, TN).
- As a last resort, cast a provisional ballot. In some states that require ID, your provisional ballot will only be counted if your signature matches what is on file in the voter registry or if you come back and show your ID following Election Day.

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PROVISIONAL BALLOTS & WHEN TO USE THEM

- A provisional ballot is a type of ballot that some voters may need to cast if election officials can't confirm that the voter meets all the requirements to vote. The ballot is called "provisional" because it will only be counted if the election officials are able to verify later that the voter meets all requirements.
- If possible, try not to cast a provisional ballot; ask the poll worker if there is another option.
- If you encounter a problem on election day and are told you aren't allowed to vote, tell the election worker you would like to vote a provisional ballot:
 1. Ask for written instructions about what you must do to ensure the provisional ballot will be counted.
 2. Ask for a phone number you can call to confirm if your vote was counted.
- If you had to cast a provisional ballot, the poll worker should give you a piece of paper with instructions on how to make your ballot count. If you don't have those instructions, call your local election official and ask the following four questions:
 1. Why was I required to vote a provisional ballot?
 2. What steps do I need to take to make my vote count (this may include providing documentation such as a copy of your ID)?
 3. Where should I bring or send that documentation? Do you accept it by email? Can a friend or family member bring the document to you on my behalf?
 4. What is the deadline I need to be sure to provide my documentation before?

*Visit [ballot tracking page](#) for state specific resources. If you have additional questions after taking these steps, you can call 866-OUR-VOTE.**

Source: www.VOTE.org

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ERRORS ON A BALLOT & STEPS TO TAKE

- If you're voting absentee or by mail and make a mistake on your ballot return envelope (for example, you forget to sign the envelope, or the election official can't read your handwriting) the election official may require you to correct that mistake before they will count the ballot. This is called ballot "curing."
- In most cases, the election official will notify you promptly if there's a need to cure your ballot. The notification will tell you what information you need to provide to make the cure (such as signing a new ballot envelope or providing a copy of your ID) and the deadline for submitting that information.
- You have several options if you think you may need to cure your ballot, but you haven't received a notice from your election official.
 1. First, many states offer a website where you can check the status of your mail ballot to see if it has been counted or may need to be cured.
 2. You can also reach out directly to your local election official to ensure they received your ballot and will count it.

Be aware there can be strict ballot cure deadlines in some states (sometimes as early as Election Day or the day before).

Source: [VOTE.ORG](https://www.vote.org/election-protection/)
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