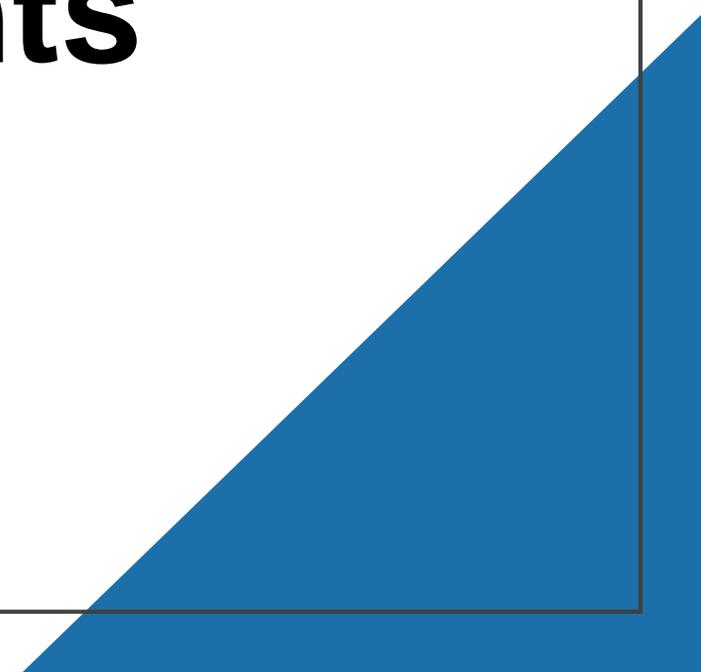




# Know Your Rights

## Disability Voting Rights webinar

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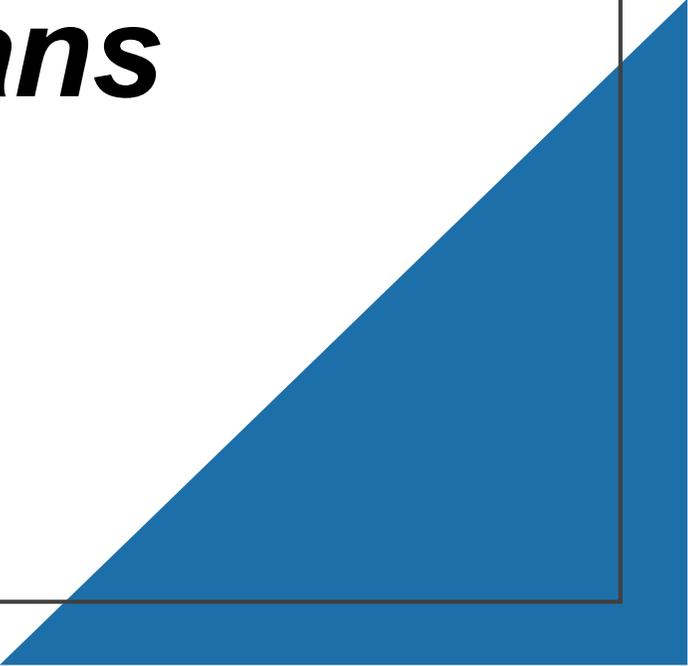


# When can I vote?



- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must be 18 years old on or before the next election
- Must be a resident of Pennsylvania for \*15 days prior to the election

*Federal and state laws  
protect the fundamental right  
to vote for **all Americans***



# Federal Laws

- The **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** of 2002 gives you the right to vote privately and independently. HAVA made the voting process more inclusive and accessible.
- The **National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)** of 1993 gives you the right to register to vote at any government agency that provides services to people with disabilities.

# Federal Laws cont.

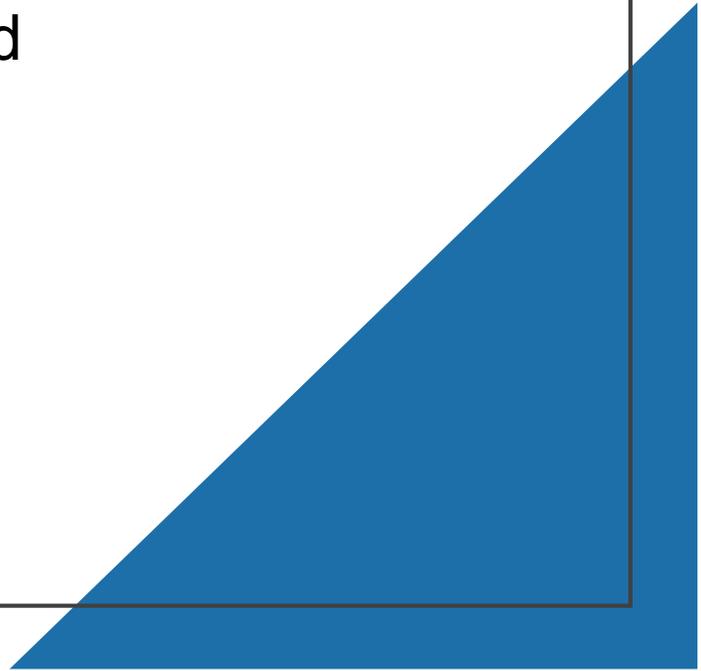
- The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** of 1990 makes it illegal for the government to discriminate against people with disabilities. Title II requires states and counties to provide reasonable accommodations and modifications to the voting process.
- The **Voting Accessibility for Elderly and Handicapped Act** of 1984 says that polling places must be accessible to senior citizens and people with disabilities. If they are not, you must be offered an alternative means of voting.

# Federal Laws cont.

- The **National Voting Rights Act** of 1965 (1982 amendment) says that you have the right to choose a person to support you with voting, but the person helping you cannot be your boss or someone from your labor union. The Act also says that states cannot make voters pass reading tests before letting them vote.

# State Laws

Election law is traditionally a state's responsibility and states have the power to regulate election issues in areas where Congress has not preempted the field.



# Pennsylvania Election Laws

Pennsylvania election laws are codified in the  
**PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION CODE**

On Oct. 31, 2019, Governor Tom Wolf enacted a new law  
– ***ACT 77 of 2019*** – that made some of the most  
significant updates to Pennsylvania election laws in more  
than 80 years.



# ACT 77 of 2019: Highlights

- Allows no-excuse mail-in voting
  - Sets a 50-day mail-in voting period
  - Extends voter registration time
  - Extends mail-in and absentee submission deadlines
  - Eliminates straight-party ticket voting
  - Authorizes a \$90 million bond for voting systems
  - Establishes a permanent mail-in and absentee ballot list
- 
- A blue triangular graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing upwards and to the left.

# Voter Registration or Change of Address

- Online at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)
- Social Service agencies/government agencies
- County Election Offices <http://www.votespa.com/en-us/voting-and-elections/be-prepared/Pages/County-Contact-Information.aspx>
- Department of Motor Vehicles

# Voter Registration or Change of Address cont.

- Check your registration status at <http://www.votespa.com/en-us/register-to-vote/Pages/Confirm-Your-Registration.aspx>
- Update your voter registration with your new address at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)
- Find your polling place  
<https://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>
- Find out if your polling place is accessible. You can find this out on the website of the county where you live. You can also find this information on the Department of State website  
<https://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>

# Mail Ballots in Pennsylvania

- One of the most significant changes is the addition of a vote-by-mail ballot
- Gives voters a more convenient way to participate
- Ensures voting for individuals with disabilities, senior citizens and rural voters who can't get to the polls
- You now have two options for mail ballots: you may either choose a **mail-in ballot** or an **absentee ballot** to request, complete, and return to your [county election office](#)

# Mail Ballots in Pennsylvania cont.

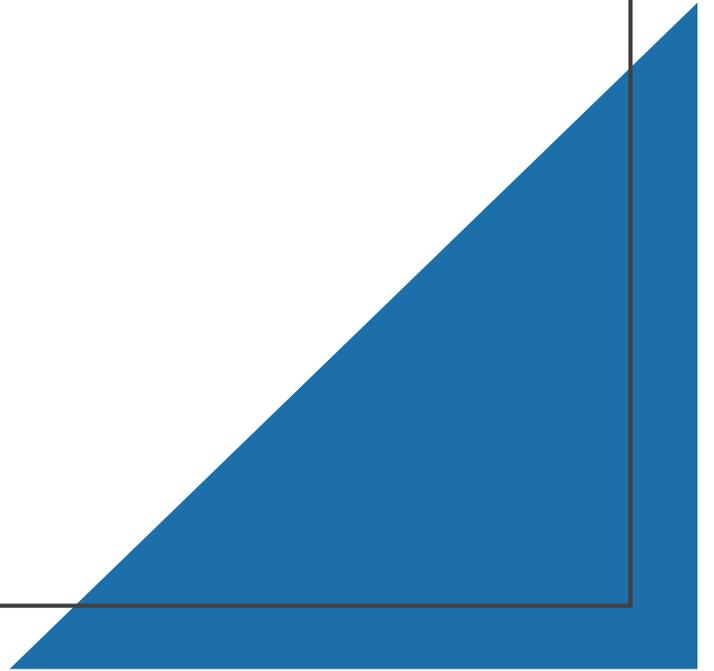
- **Absentee ballot** – If you plan to be out of the municipality on election day or if you have a disability or illness, you may request this ballot type, which still requires you to list a reason for your ballot.
- **Mail-in ballot** – Any qualified voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason.
- In order to request either ballot type, you must be registered to vote.
- Please visit [Check Your Registration Status](#) to review your registration information

# Mail Ballots in Pennsylvania cont.

- To request ballots online you must have a valid PA Driver's License or PennDOT ID number.
- If you do not have one of these ID numbers, a paper application can be downloaded and mailed the local County Board of Elections.
- If you are unable to download a paper application, visit your local county elections office.
- Completed application must be received in the county office by **5:00 PM on May 26, 2020.**
- The deadline to return voted absentee or mail-in ballot is **8:00 PM on June 2, 2020.**

# In Person Voting Rights

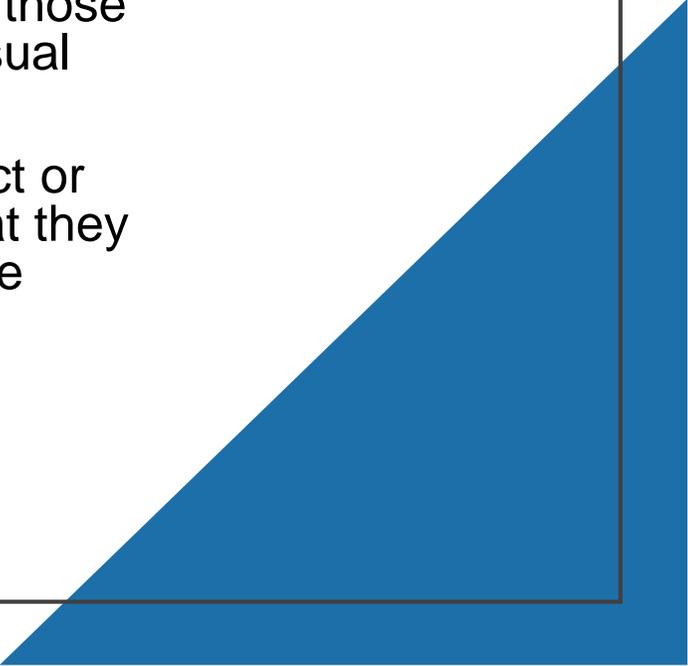
- To vote by myself and make my own choices.
- To get help from a person of my choice.
- To vote at a physically accessible polling place.
- To use an accessible voting machine.



# Physical Access

- You have a right to an accessible polling place.
- Voters who use wheelchairs or have other mobility disabilities should be able to enter the polling site, travel to the voting area, and utilize the voting area independently and easily.
- The United States Department of Justice has published comprehensive guidelines relating to polling place accessibility, which are available at <https://www.ada.gov/votingck.htm>.

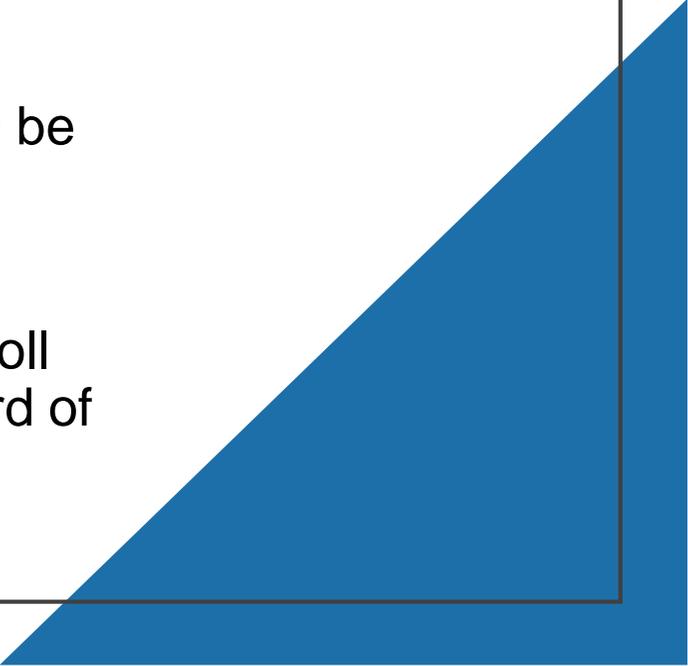
# Accessibility of Voting Systems

- You have a right to an Accessible voting system.
  - The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires that voting systems must be accessible for people with disabilities, including those with mobility disabilities and those who are blind or have other visual disabilities.
  - There must be at least one voting machine in each polling precinct or division that is accessible for people with disabilities to assure that they have the same opportunity to vote independently and privately like other voters.
  - Poll workers should be trained and knowledgeable in use of the accessibility features and should make sure that they are fully operational when the polls open.
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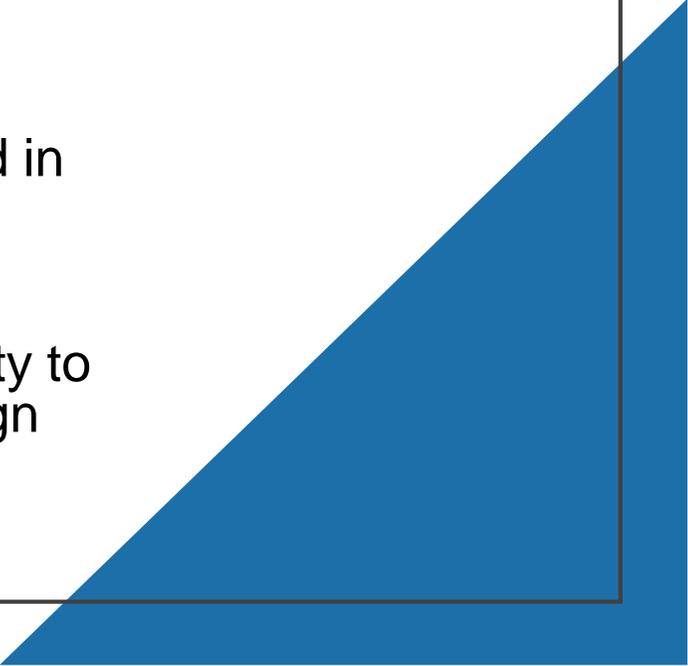
# Voting Competence

- Pennsylvania has no voting competence laws.
- An election official CANNOT bar a person from exercising their right to vote because they deem that person not competent to vote or understand the ballot.
- Election officials and poll workers cannot question the ability of a voter with an intellectual disability, mental illness, brain injury, dementia, or other cognitive limits and certainly may not bar them from exercising their right to vote.

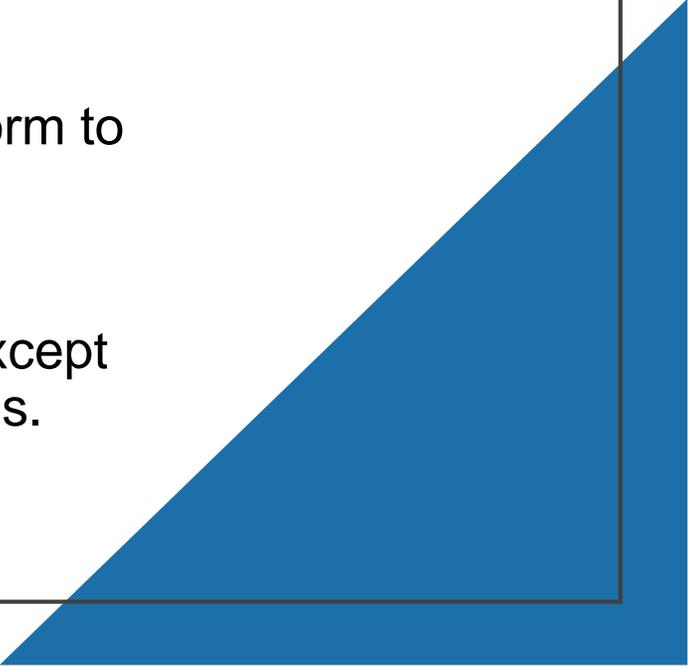
# Communication Access such as:

- Providing sample ballots in alternative format.
  - Providing instructions at the polling place in a manner that can be understood by those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
  - Having pen and paper available at the check-in table so that poll workers can communicate with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing about routine matters.
- 

# Accommodations such as:

- Assuring that voters with disabilities who use service animals are permitted to enter the polling place and voting machine.
  - Having chairs available for individuals who are unable to stand in line due to disabilities.
  - Allowing voters with disabilities impacting their manual dexterity to make a mark in lieu of signing their name or allow others to sign their name.
- 

# Assistance with Voting

- You have the right to have help from a person of your choice.
  - The voter has to sign a “Declaration of Need for Assistance” form to document that support was used at the polling place.
  - You are allowed to ask for support from anyone you choose except the Judge of Elections, your Union Representative or your boss.
- 

# ID at the Polls

- You only have to show Identification (ID) if you are voting for the very first time or if you have moved and are voting in a new polling place.
- **Acceptable ID:** An ID does not have to have your picture on it.
- **ID includes:**
  - ✓ PA Driver's License or PennDOT ID card
  - ✓ ID issued by any Commonwealth agency
  - ✓ US Government ID
  - ✓ Passport
  - ✓ Armed Forces ID
  - ✓ Student ID
  - ✓ Employee ID.
- **Non-photo ID:** includes a firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or government check that shows your current name and address.

# New Voting Systems in Pennsylvania

- In April 2018, the Department [informed counties they must select new voting systems](#) that provide a paper record and meet 21st-century standards of security, auditability and accessibility no later than December 31, 2019.
- Sixty-seven counties have taken official action toward selecting new voting systems.
- Forty-five counties used their new voting systems in the 2019 general election.

# New Voting Systems in Pennsylvania cont.

- To find out which voting system your county has chosen contact county election office.
- Find your county election office at <https://www.votespa.com/Resources/Pages/Contact-Your-Election-Officials.aspx>
- Get familiar with the voting system you'll be using at <https://www.votespa.com/About-Elections/Pages/New-Voting-Systems.aspx> where you can find instructions, testing documentation, videos and more.

# Election Complaints



The Pennsylvania Department of State oversees elections in Pennsylvania. It's their job to keep elections fair and honest. If you are aware of election fraud or irregularities, you can report it to them. You must be registered to vote in Pennsylvania to file a complaint using this online complaint form.

- **For HAVA violations go to:**  
[https://www.votespa.com/Resources/Documents/HAVA%20Violations\\_Title%20III%20Complaint%20Form\\_English.pdf](https://www.votespa.com/Resources/Documents/HAVA%20Violations_Title%20III%20Complaint%20Form_English.pdf)
- **For general problems or complaints go to:**  
<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/ReportElectionComplaints.aspx>
- If you have a more immediate need, you can call the voter hotline at **1-877-VOTESPA** (1-877-868-3772).

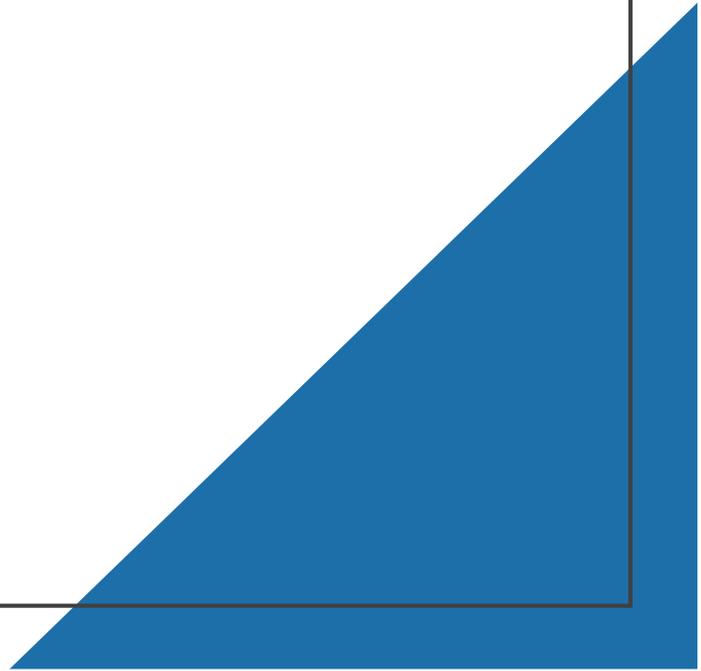
# Election Day Hotlines

Election Protection Hotline

- 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)

PA Department of State - VotesPA

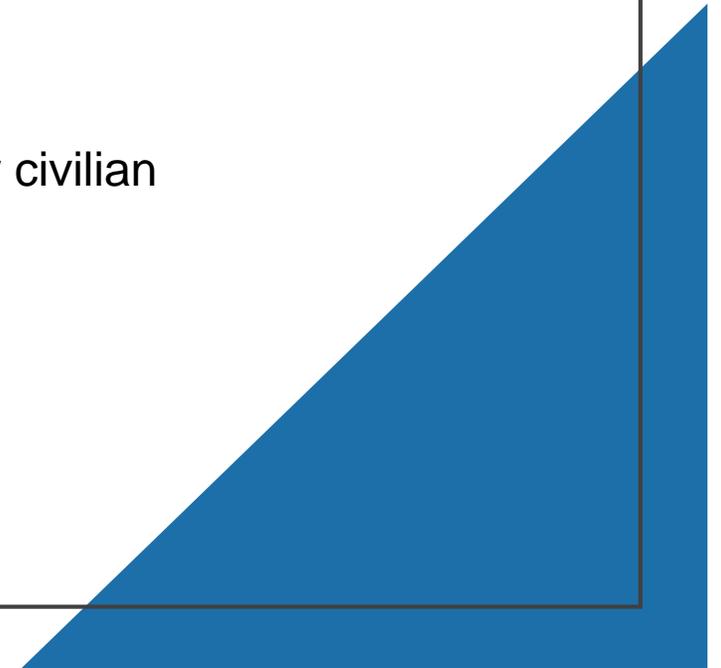
- 1-877-VOTES-PA (1-877-868-3772)



# Deadlines for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election



- Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm.
- Deadline to register to vote: **May 18, 2020**
- Deadline to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: **May 26, 2020**
- Deadline for the County Board of Elections to receive your mail-in or civilian absentee ballot: **8 PM on June 2, 2020**



***People with disabilities have the same right to mark, verify, and cast a private and independent ballot as their fellow Americans***

