

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

**Q: How many elections are there this year?**

**A: There are 2 (two) elections EVERY year**

1. The Spring **Primary** election: Democrats and Republicans pick their party's nominees for the General election
2. The November **General** election: All voters pick the winners for each office (SOMETIMES there are additional special elections; for example, if an elected official can't finish serving their term)

**Q: When are the elections this year?**

**A: The Primary election is on Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

The **General** election is on **Tuesday, November 2, 2021**

**Q: How is the Primary election different than the General election?**

**A: In the Primary, ONLY Democrats and Republicans can vote for nominees. Each Party has its own ballot. But ALL voters can vote on constitutional amendments, ballot questions, and any special election contests. There are 3 ballot questions in this year's Primary.**

**Q: WHO can vote in Pennsylvania?**

**A: You can vote if you are:**

1. A citizen of the United States for at least 30 days before election day
2. A resident of Pennsylvania for at least 30 days before election day
3. At least 18 years old on or before election day (you can register when you're 17)
4. Convicted of a misdemeanor, or are a convicted felon who has completed your sentence
5. Registered to vote by the deadline for each election

**Q: What are the voter registration deadlines?**

**A: The DEADLINES to register for this year's elections are:**

- By May 3, 2021 for the Primary
- By October 18, 2021 for the General

**Q: How do I register to vote?**

**A: There are two ways to register:**

1. Online at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)
2. Call Chester County Voter Services 610-344-6410

**Q: How do I check to see if I'm registered?**

**A: Go to [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or call Chester County Voter Services 610-344-6410. Your registration may have been purged if you have not voted in the past 5 years. You can register again.**

- Q: Can I register and vote if I'm experiencing homelessness?**
- A: Yes!** Use a shelter address where you can get mail as your address. You may also list a street corner or a park instead of a traditional address. The voter registration form has a space for this. Call Voter Services if you need help 610-344-6410
- Q: Will I be called for Jury Duty if I register to vote?**
- A: No.** They're not related in PA.
- Q: I am a College student in PA. Where do I register and vote?**
- A: You can register using the address where you live while at school.** Or you can vote by mail from home (if your home State has mail-in voting). You can only register and vote in one place.
- Q: Will voting endanger undocumented people in my household?**
- A: No.** When you register, you are not asked about anyone in your household. When you vote in person you sign only your name in the poll book, and you are not asked about anyone in your household. When you vote by mail, you only sign your name on the envelope.
- Q: Does voting make any difference in my life?**
- A: YES!!!** Local elections for positions like School Board Director and local and County Judges, make decisions about everyday issues in your life like school safety, special education, free school lunch, suicide prevention, election integrity, protection from abuse, DUIs, child custody, traffic violations, landlord/tenant disputes, and more.
- Q: How do I find out WHO is running for each position, and what their views are on the issues I care about, and which Party they represent?**
- A: First call Chester County Voter Services to see who is running on your ballot** 610-344-6410 Your ADDRESS determines which local Candidates will be running for office in your town. Then Google each Candidate's name to find their website and Facebook page.
- Q: What is Cross Filing?**
- A: When candidates from one Party appear on the ballot of the opposing Party in the Primary.** School Board Director, Common Pleas Judge and District Judge candidates can appear on both Parties' ballots, without their Party indicated. The Primary is when each Party picks their candidates who will appear on the ballot in the General election. Voters are given a ballot with only candidates from their Party, except those who are cross filing.
- Q: Where can I get general information about voting?**
- A: Go to [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com),** the official PA government website. The official Chester County Voter Services website is [www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services](http://www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services). For information in Spanish or other languages go to [www.chesco.org/4735/Spanish](http://www.chesco.org/4735/Spanish)
- Q: HOW do I vote?**
- A: You have a choice:** In person on Election day at your local polling place, OR From home, by mail
- Q: Is it safer to vote by mail or in person?**
- A: Both ways are safe and secure.** If personal health is a concern for you during the pandemic, you can use the mail-in ballot and vote from home.