

VOTE FROM HOME, BY MAIL

Q: Who is eligible to vote by mail or absentee ballot – and what is the difference?

A: Any registered voter may apply for an absentee ballot or mail-in ballot. The absentee ballot is just for those who aren't physically able to vote in person. In 2020, no excuse MAIL-IN voting became available. Most PA voters now can request a mail-in ballot. The website will direct you to the right ballot.

Q: How do I get a mail-in ballot?

A: First you fill out an application for one. You can do this online at www.votespa.com. Or call Chester County Voter Services to ask for a paper application (available in Spanish and English) 610-344-6410. After you complete your application, a ballot will be mailed to you.

- Deadline to **apply** for a mail-in ballot for the Primary is May 11, 2021
- Deadline to **apply** for a mail in ballot for the General is Oct 26, 2021

Q: Will ballots be available in Spanish?

A: Spanish language applications for a mail-in ballot and the actual mail-in ballot are available. Go to: <https://www.votespa.com/Resources/espanol/Pages/default.aspx>

NOTE: At this time, Chester County does not have Spanish language ballots at the polls.

Q: How do I fill out the mail-in ballot once I receive it?

A: Follow the directions that will be included with your ballot:

- Use a black pen to fill in the oval next to your choices. See sample ballot here: www.chesco.org/2428/Sample-Ballots
- Put your ballot into the plain security envelope and seal it
- Put the security envelope into the mailing envelope. Date and sign the envelope. Check to see if you need to add postage.
- MAIL IT BACK RIGHT AWAY. Your ballot must be received by 8:00 pm on election day or it won't be counted.
- OR You can also bring it to the Government Services Building at 601 Westtown Road, West Chester *by 8:00 pm on election day*

Q: Can I get a mail-in ballot if I'm registered as an Independent?

A: Yes. The May Primary mail-in ballot for registered Independents will contain only ballot questions. In the November General election, all registered voters will receive the same ballot listing candidates and ballot questions.

Q: If I make a mistake when marking up my ballot, what do I do?

A: If you accidentally filled in the wrong bubble, or forgot to sign or date the outer envelope, or put the wrong date on the envelope, contact Voter Services for instructions 610-344-6410

Q: Can I change my mind and vote in person?

A: Yes. BUT you must bring your mail-in ballot to your polling place along with both envelopes. You'll turn it in and get a new regular ballot to use. If you threw out your mail-in ballot, you'll get a Provisional ballot to use at the polls, so Voter Services can check if you already voted by mail.

Q: Who can I call if I have questions or need help with my mail-in ballot?

A: Call Chester County Voter Services 610-344-6410

Q: I voted by mail last year. Will I get a mail-in ballot automatically from now on?

A: You should get a letter telling you how to request your mail-in ballot for this year. If you didn't get it yet call Chester County Voter Services 610-344-6410

Q: What if my mail-in ballot doesn't come until very close to election day?

A: You can hand in your mail-in ballot until 8:00 pm on Election day to the Government Services Building, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester. You must hand in your own ballot. If you can't, call Chester County Voter Services for instructions 610-344-6410

Q: What if my mail-in ballot doesn't come at all?

A: Go to your polling place on election day and vote in person. You will use a Provisional ballot. Voter Services will check that you didn't already vote by mail before your Provisional ballot is counted.

Q: How do I know my vote counts?

A: You can track your mail-in ballot on <https://www.votespa.com/Resources/Pages/Ballot-Tracker.aspx> **In-person voters** get a numbered receipt. All votes are electronically recorded. If you want reassurance, you can call Voter Services and ask them to confirm your receipt number.