

# Voting Myths and Facts

**Myth: Precinct Election Officials working inside of a polling place on Election Day are volunteers.**

Fact: Election workers receive payment for their services. They attend a paid training and work election day. To sign up to serve as an election worker in Trumbull County [click here](#).

**Myth: ID isn't required when voting, either in person or by mail.**

Fact: Valid identification is required for all forms of voting. The State of Ohio recognizes the following types of identification as valid:

- Unexpired Ohio driver's license;
- State of Ohio ID card;
- Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV;
- A US passport;
- A US passport card;
- US military ID card;
- Ohio National Guard ID card; or
- US Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

**Myth: Polling places are changed randomly**

Fact: Polling places in Ohio must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Some polling places are changed to meet these requirements. Some private facilities choose to no longer be polling places. If your polling place has changed, you will be mailed a notice from the BOE.

**Myth: Persons convicted of a felony cannot vote.**

Fact: If you have been convicted of a felony AND are currently incarcerated your voter registration will be cancelled. Once released from your incarceration, you are free to re-register to vote.

**Myth: The Board of Elections automatically sends out absentee ballots every election.**

Fact: A voter must request a ballot by submitting an application for EVERY election (exceptions exist for military and civilian overseas voters whose applications are good for all elections occurring in that year.) Additionally, under Ohio law, the board cannot mail unsolicited absentee ballot applications to any voter.

**Myth: Absentee ballots are only counted in close elections.**

Fact: All validly cast absentee ballots are counted, regardless of the closeness of a race. Absentee ballots are the first ballots that are counted on Election Night.

**Myth: Provisional ballots are only counted in close elections.**

Fact: All validly cast provisional ballots are counted in the official count.

**Myth: Election night results are the final count.**

Fact: The election night results are unofficial. It can take 2-3 weeks for an official count that includes all valid provisional ballots that were cast.

**Myth: Voters declare party affiliation when registering to vote.**

Fact: In Ohio, voters do not declare party affiliation when registering. Party affiliation is based on the type of ballot the voter chooses in a primary election (party specific or issues only).

**Myth: A voter who is registered in Ohio but did not update their new address before the deadline cannot vote in the upcoming election.**

Fact: An Ohio registered voter who moved within the state may cast a provisional ballot at the BOE Office or at their NEW polling location on Election Day.

**Myth: Election results are transmitted over the internet.**

Fact: In Ohio, it is not permitted to send vote totals over the internet from polling locations to the county Board of Elections. After the close of polls on election day, ballots are brought back to the Board of Elections for counting by a bi-partisan team.

**Myth: Mail-in voting is insecure and easy to manipulate.**

Fact: There are numerous safeguards to protect the integrity of voting by mail in Ohio. The process to vote from home is just as secure as voting in-person on Election Day. There are several safeguards in place to prevent voter fraud. These include:

- **Two\_step\_verification.process:** In Ohio, a voter must first **request** a Vote-by-Mail ballot be sent to them by completing an application. The application must contain identifying information such as name, date of birth, signature, and a form of identification, typically a driver license number or last four digits of their social security number. This information is cross-checked by board of elections employees against the current voter registration system to ensure the voter is who they say they are. If everything matches, only then is a ballot mailed to the voter.

When the voter returns their completed ballot through the mail, the second step of the verification process takes place. A voter must seal the completed ballot inside what is called an ID envelope, which **must** contain the voter's name, date of birth, signature, and a form of identification. This information is again verified by a board of elections employees to ensure accuracy. Only at this point will a ballot be accepted for counting.

- **One.vote?one.ballot:** Regardless of how many applications for a Vote-by-Mail ballot a voter submits, only one ballot will be mailed. The same voter registration system that verifies the identifying information of each voter also keeps track of all ballots that are mailed, preventing a voter from being sent more than one ballot. The same holds true when ballots are returned.
- **A.ballot.must.be.requested:** In Ohio, a ballot is only sent to a voter upon request. Ballots are not sent to voters automatically.
- **Voter.rolls.are.consistently.updated:** Boards of elections continually add and remove people from Ohio's voter rolls, using data from the national moving database, the Bureau of Motor vehicles, and death records. This ensures that only eligible voters receive ballots.
- **Ballot.harvesting.is.prohibited:** Ballot harvesting is the collecting and submitting of completed Vote-by-Mail ballots by third-party individuals, often political operatives, rather than submission by voters themselves, directly to ballot collection sites. This is prohibited in Ohio. Only the voter, or their immediate family, can submit ballots.