



**Voting Rights of  
Convicted Felons, Convicted  
Misdemeanants and  
Pretrial Detainees**

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of State**

[dos.pa.gov](http://dos.pa.gov)

## WHO CAN REGISTER AND VOTE?

You may register and vote if you hold citizenship in the United States for at least one month before the next election; are a Pennsylvania resident and resided in your election district for at least 30 days before the next election; and will be at least 18 years of age on the day of the next election. If you meet the above qualifications, you can register and vote if you:

- Are a **pretrial detainee** confined in a penal institution awaiting trial on charges of a felony or a misdemeanor;
- Are **convicted of a misdemeanor** and are confined in a penal institution;
- **Were released (or will be released by the date of the next election)** from a correctional facility or community confinement facility upon completion of your term of incarceration for conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony;
- Are on **probation** or **released on parole**;
- Are a **parolee living in a community confinement center** (except for state intermediate punishment (SIP) inmates);
- Are under **house arrest (home confinement)**, regardless of conviction status or the status of the conditions of confinement.

## WHO CANNOT REGISTER AND VOTE?

You are not eligible to register and vote if you:

- Are currently confined in a penal institution for conviction of a felony (even if you are also incarcerated for one or more misdemeanor offenses) and will not be released from confinement before the next election;
- Are in a community confinement facility or other alternative correctional facility for conviction of a felony and will not be released before the date of the next election;
- Were convicted of violating any provision of the Pennsylvania Election Code within the last four years.

## WHERE DO YOU REGISTER?

If you are in a penal institution, your residence for voter registration is:

- The last place you registered to vote before confinement in a penal institution; or
- Your last known address before confinement; or
- A new residence established while confined (for example, if your spouse establishes a new residence where you intend to reside upon your release from confinement).

A penal institution or community confinement facility **cannot** be your residence address for registering to vote; however, you may use those locations for your mailing address.

## HOW CAN YOU REGISTER TO VOTE?

If you are qualified to register to vote you may apply to register:

- **Online.** You may visit and submit online voter registration applications at [vote.pa.gov/register](http://vote.pa.gov/register);
- **Print.** Download and print the voter registration application from the Department of State's website at [vote.pa.gov/register](http://vote.pa.gov/register).
- **Mail.** You can obtain a voter registration application by contacting your county board of elections.
- **Phone.** You may also request a voter registration mail application over the phone by calling the Department of State at 1-887-VOTESPA (1-887-868-3772).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR REGISTRANTS WHO ARE CONFINED IN A PENAL INSTITUTION

If you are currently confined in a penal institution for the conviction of a misdemeanor **only** or if you are awaiting trial, you must register from your last known address before confinement or an address (other than the penal institution) that you have established as your permanent residence.

If you were registered to vote before being confined, your residence is the address where you were last registered before confinement; or the address (other than the penal institution) that you established as your residence address; or the address you established as your permanent address.

## **HOW CAN YOU VOTE?**

### ***IF YOU ARE CONFINED IN A PENAL INSTITUTION...***

- Contact your county board of elections to request an absentee ballot application or [download, complete and mail](#) the absentee ballot application to your county board of elections.
- Upon receiving your absentee ballot, you must complete the ballot in secret, enclose it in the envelope marked “Official Absentee Ballot” and then place it in the second envelope.
- Fill out, date and sign the declaration of the elector printed on the second envelope.
- Seal the envelope and mail it to your county board of elections.

### ***IF YOU ARE NOT CONFINED IN A PENAL INSTITUTION, COMMUNITY CONFINEMENT FACILITY OR UNDER HOUSE ARREST (HOME CONFINEMENT) ...***

- You may vote in person at your assigned precinct (polling place). The location of your polling place should be included on your voter identification card or can be found [online](#).
- If you will be absent from their municipality on the day of the election or unable to attend their polling place due to illness or disability (including incarceration or home confinement), you may vote by absentee ballot. Please refer to the procedures outlined above.

**QUESTIONS? NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION? CONTACT YOUR [COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS](#). THE SEARCH FEATURE PROVIDES COUNTY NAMES, PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES.**