Philadelphia Election 2020 Fact Sheet

General Election: Tuesday, November 3

If you have any difficulty registering to vote or voting at the polls on Election Day, Contact Vote for Homes at 215-232-7272, x3042, the Committee of Seventy at 215-557-3600, or the Philadelphia Election Day Complaint Hotline at 215-686-1590.

Know Your Voting Rights in Pennsylvania:

- You can vote when you are homeless; just use the address of a place where you get mail.
- You can vote when released from jail or prison, even with a felony conviction from PA or another state.
- You can vote while in jail if you are awaiting trial or serving time for a misdemeanor.
- You can vote if you have a disability. You can bring someone into the booth to help you vote.
- You can vote if you don’t have ID. Even if it’s your first time voting, you can vote by provisional ballot.

- The deadline to register to vote is now 15 days before an election, rather than 30 days. The registration deadline for the General Election is Monday, October 19. You can register to vote online at projecthome.org/register. Paper voter registration forms are available at Project HOME located at 1515 Fairmount Avenue and at most government offices.

- All registered voters may vote for candidates and ballot questions in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3. You must vote at the polling place that corresponds to the address where you most recently registered. Call the City Commissioners’ Office at 215-686-1520 or 1523 or visit www.votespa.com/status to find the polling place designated for your address.

- You may now vote by mail-in ballot, unless you qualify as an absentee voter, in which case you must vote by absentee ballot. If you want to vote by mail, your application for a mail-in ballot must be received by the county board of elections by 5:00pm on Tuesday, October 27. You can apply for a mail-in ballot here: votespa.com/mailballot. You do not need to provide a reason or excuse if you want to use a mail-in ballot.

- You can return your voted mail-in ballot by mailing it to your county board of elections using the envelope provided, or you can drop it off in person at the board of election’s office. The County must receive your voted ballot by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day in order for it to be counted.

- You can vote when released from jail or prison even with a felony conviction from PA or another state. You can vote when you are on probation, parole, or house arrest. In Pennsylvania, all people convicted of felonies have the right to vote as long as they are not actually serving time for a felony conviction when they vote on Election Day. People on parole or probation and living in a halfway house or community corrections center cannot use the address of the halfway house as their registration address. They must use a previous or future address. They can vote with an absentee ballot or at their home district in person.

- Also, the five-year waiting period for felons has been eliminated. The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court restored the right to vote for people formerly incarcerated with a felony conviction in December 2000.

- You can vote if you are homeless by using the address where you receive mail. You can use the address of a shelter program if they will accept non-forwardable mail for you. To establish a temporary address for this purpose, visit: Broad Street Ministry (215-735-4847) at 315 S. Broad Street, 19107- Open Mail Hours: Mon-Fri 11:30am-2pm
• **If you are a victim of domestic violence, you can register to vote and still keep your address confidential and out of public records.** The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is a free program that provides a substitute address for people who have moved to a new location unknown to their abusive partner. Applications to the ACP program must be done through a local domestic violence, sexual assault, or victim service program. The applicant must have a residential address where the program can forward first-class mail, which can be anything except for a 30-day emergency shelter. The ACP substitute address can be used for voter registration, and that process is explained to participants once they enter the program. *For assistance or more information, contact 1-800-563-6399 or visit www.ova.pa.gov/Programs/AddressConfidentialityProgram*

• **You have the right to assistance with voting inside the voting machine.** You must fill out a Declaration of Assistance form at the polling place on Election Day. Then, anyone you select may enter the voting booth with you to help you cast your vote. The only people who may not assist with voting are your employer, your union leader, or the Judge of Elections at your polling place.

• **Voters do not need photo ID to vote,** and poll workers should not ask every voter for ID. In January 2014, the Commonwealth Court held that Pennsylvania’s strict photo ID law was unconstitutional. Only first-time voters or voters voting for the first time at a polling site, must show ID. First time voters can show photo or non-photo ID. Acceptable forms of ID include a voter registration card, valid PA driver’s or non-driver’s license, valid passport, federal government ID, current student ID, firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check. **Even if this is your first time voting at your polling place, you do not need to have identification with you to vote, BUT bringing any form of approved ID will mean that your vote will be counted that day rather than in the days following the election.** If you vote at the wrong polling place by provisional ballot, your vote will only count in the races for which you are eligible to vote, based on your registration address. *If you do not have identification and you have problems at the polls, call Vote for Homes at 215-232-7272, x3042.*

• **If you go to the wrong polling place on Election Day,** ask the election official to call the County Board of Elections to see if and where you are eligible to vote. *If the election official is unable or unwilling to call, you should find a telephone and call the County Board of Elections at 215-686-3469 or Project HOME at 215-232-7272.* If you cannot determine your polling place, you can vote at any polling place by a provisional ballot (see above for more information).

• **If you are unable to get to the polls on Election Day because your polling place is inaccessible, you have several voting options.** If you are disabled or over 65 years of age, you may vote by alternative ballot at City Hall. Contact the County Board of Elections at (215) 686-3469 for more information. If you will be absent from home on Election Day because of work responsibilities or other duties or if you are unable to go to the polls because of illness or physical disability, you may vote by absentee ballot. **Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the County Board of Elections by October 27, 2020 to vote in the General Election.** Please note that you must include a photocopy of your identification when you mail in your absentee ballot if you are a first-time voter in Philadelphia and you registered to vote by mail. If you have questions about accessibility issues at the polls, please contact the City Commissioner office at 215-686-3460 or the Committee of Seventy at 215-557-3600.

• **If you have a permanent disability, you may ask to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list.** If you are on this list, you will have an absentee ballot application mailed to you by the first Monday in February each year. If you complete and return the application, the county will send you ballots in the mail for all the elections that take place that year, as well as for any special election held through the third Monday in February of the next year. *For example, if you return your completed absentee application in February 2020, you will automatically receive a ballot for the November 3, 2020, General Election, as well as ballots for any special elections held on or before February 1, 2021.*

*These organizations can help you find your polling place and other helpful information:*

*Nonpartisan Voter Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)*

  **Committee of Seventy:** 215-557-3600 — [www.seventy.org](http://www.seventy.org)

  **Pennsylvania Department of State:** 800-552-VOTE — [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

  **City Commissioners:** 215-686-3460 — [www.philadelphiavotes.com](http://www.philadelphiavotes.com)

  To get involved or learn more about Vote For Homes, call Jennine Miller at 215-232-7272 or visit [www.voteforhomes.org](http://www.voteforhomes.org).