

# VOTING RIGHTS FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES



## CAN I VOTE IF I HAVE A DISABILITY?

- Yes, you can vote! If you're at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen, you have the right to vote.
  - If you have a guardian, you can still vote.
  - If you cannot read or write, you can still vote.
  - If you cannot leave a hospital, nursing home, or your house you can still vote.
- The only time you may not be able to vote is if a judge in probate court decided that you do not have the "capacity" to vote. "Capacity" refers to the ability to understand voting information.

## CAN I VOTE IF I HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME?

- Yes, you can still vote:
  - If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor.
  - If you have been arrested for a felony but not convicted.
  - If you are on parole or probation, live in a halfway house, or are on house arrest.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M REGISTERED TO VOTE?

- Go to [voteohio.gov](http://voteohio.gov), click [Check My Voter Registration] and type in your name and the county you live in.

## HOW DO I SIGN UP (REGISTER) TO VOTE?

- Complete a voter registration form. You can ask for help completing it.
  - OPTION 1: Go to [voteohio.gov](http://voteohio.gov) and click [Register To Vote]. You can either complete a form online or print the form and mail it in.
  - OPTION 2: Go in-person to the Board of Elections, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles office, a public high school, or library and ask for a voter registration form.
  - The deadline to register to vote is 30 days before Election Day.
- You need to complete a new voter registration form if you:
  - Have a new address, even if it's in the same city.
  - Have changed your legal name.

## DO I HAVE TO SHOW MY ID WHEN I VOTE?

- Yes, you must show an ID that has your name and address.
  - Your ID does not need to have your photo on it.
  - You can use for an ID: An Ohio driver's license; a state ID; a current utility bill; a cell phone bill; a bank statement; a government check or a government assistance letter that has your name and address.

## CAN I VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL?

- Yes, if you are registered to vote, you can vote by mail with an absentee ballot.
  - Voting absentee means you can vote from home and mail in your ballot.
- You can request an absentee ballot online at [voteohio.gov](https://voteohio.gov) or by calling your local Board of Elections. A family member, support staff or friend can pick up a form for you at the local Board of Elections.
  - For persons with accessibility concerns, sensory issues and communication challenges, this may be an easier option than going to the voting polls on Election Day.

## WILL MY POLLING PLACE BE ACCESSIBLE?

- Contact your local Board of Elections for questions about accessibility.
  - All voting places must be physically accessible unless an exemption is granted.
    - If an exemption is given, you may ask to vote curbside.
  - Each polling place must have one accessible voting machine for persons with disabilities, including those with vision disabilities.
    - When you arrive at your voting place, let a poll worker know if you would like to use the ADA-compliant voting machines.

## WHAT IF I NEED HELP AT THE POLLS?

- You can bring a family member, close friend or support staff into the voting booth if you need help to vote because of your disability.
  - You may not bring your employer, an agent of your employer or candidate whose name appears on the ballot.
  - You can also ask for help from the poll workers where you vote.

## FOR HELP OR MORE INFORMATION:

- Call the Ohio Secretary of State's office at 877-SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446) or go to [voteohio.gov](https://voteohio.gov). Email options are listed on the website.
- If you feel your right to vote has been denied, contact the ACLU of Ohio at 614-586-1959 or [contact@acluohio.org](mailto:contact@acluohio.org).
- If you feel that you have been discriminated against while trying to vote because of your disability, contact Disability Rights Ohio at 614-728-2553 or 800-858-3542 (TTY) or by emailing at <http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/contact>.

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2020