



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Secretary of the Commonwealth Reminds Voters of Oct. 27 Deadline to Apply for a Mail Ballot for the November General Election

To date, more than one million mail ballot applications have been approved ahead of the Nov. 3 election

Harrisburg, PA – Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt today reminded registered Pennsylvania voters who want to [vote by mail](#) that they have until Oct. 27 to apply for their ballot for the Nov. 3 general election.

“Voting by mail is a convenient, safe, and secure option for eligible Pennsylvanians,” **Sec. Schmidt** said. “Those who prefer to vote by mail should apply today to ensure they have time to receive, mark, and return their ballot by Election Day.”

[Mail ballot applications](#) must be received by a voter’s county elections board by 5 p.m. Oct. 27.

Upon receiving their mail ballot, voters should:

- Carefully read all instructions enclosed with the ballot.
- Fill out the ballot by following the instructions on how to mark candidate selections, being sure to check the front and back of the ballot.
- Seal the ballot in the yellow secrecy envelope marked “official election ballot.”
- Seal the yellow secrecy envelope in the outer return envelope.
- Sign and date the outer return envelope.

Completed mail ballots must be **received** by a voter’s [county elections office](#) by 8 p.m. on Nov. 3, Election Day. Mail ballots received after that time cannot be counted. Some counties provide drop boxes or other [drop-off sites for mail ballots](#).

Pennsylvanians can also request their mail ballot, complete it, and return it [in one visit to their county elections office](#) until close of business on Oct. 27. Voters are encouraged to check their [county elections office’s hours](#) and [mail ballot availability](#) before making the trip.

Voters who received an absentee or mail-in ballot may vote in person on Election Day if they bring their mail ballot materials with them to be surrendered.

Voters who requested a mail ballot and did not receive it or do not have it to surrender may vote by provisional ballot at their polling place on Election Day.

“No matter how you choose to vote – by mail ballot or [in person at the polls](#) on Election Day – what matters is making your voice heard,” **Sec. Schmidt** said.

Sec. Schmidt also reminded Pennsylvanians that the Oct. 19 deadline to [register to vote](#) in the Nov. 3 election is in less than three weeks.

The Department’s voter information website, [vote.pa.gov](#), is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese and offers a [polling place locator](#) and contact information for [county elections offices](#). It also includes tips for [first-time voters](#), [mail-in and absentee voters](#), [elderly and disabled voters](#), and [members of the military](#).

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