

Pennsylvania Election-Frequently Asked Questions

The information provided below does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. It is intended for general informational purposes only. If you have any specific questions regarding your rights and responsibilities regarding election matters, you should discuss them with an attorney experienced in election matters. The Crawford County Board of Elections cannot give legal advice to candidates, potential candidates, officeholders, or citizens regarding election law.

Q. How do I register to vote?

A. You may apply online at: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov. Once you submit your online application, it will be forwarded to the appropriate County Voter Registration office for processing.

You can also submit a Voter Registration application form to the Crawford County Voter Services office, either in person or by mail, or you can stop in to the Voter Services Office to register.

Q. How do I check my Voter Registration status?

A. You can check your Voter Registration status online at: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov or you can call the Voter Services Office at: 814-333-7307.

Q. How do I update my Voter Registration with my new address, name or party affiliation?

A. You can update your address, name or political party affiliation online at: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov. Once you submit your online application, it will be forwarded to the appropriate County Voter Registration office for processing.

You can also submit a Voter Registration application form to the Crawford County Voter Services office, either in person or by mail, or you can stop in to the Voter Services Office to change your registration.

Q. When is the last day to Register to vote before the up-coming Election?

A. The last day to Register, or make any changes to your Voter Registration before the 2023 Primary Election is, Monday, May 1, 2023. After the Primary Election is certified, if you wish to register or make changes to your Voter Registration prior to the General Election, you have until October 23, 2023.

Q. How do I remove my name from the voter rolls?

A. You must complete a Voter Registration Cancellation Form and return it to the Crawford County Voter Services office by mail or in person. Call Voter Services at: 814-333-7307 to have the form mailed to you, or stop in to Voter Services to complete the form.

Q. Where do I vote?

A. In Pennsylvania, Voters are assigned to a polling location based on their residential address. This ensures that you receive the correct Ballot and are voting for the Candidates who represent you and your location.

Once you are registered, you will receive your Voter ID Card in the mail. Your Voter Registration and Polling Place Information is on this card.

You can also find out your Municipality, Precinct, Ward, and other information by checking your Voter Registration online, or by calling Crawford County Voter Services at: 814-333-7307.

Q. When will polls be open on Election Day?

A. Polling locations will be open on Election Day from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM for registered Voters to cast their vote in person. The 2023 Primary Election is Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The 2023 General Election is Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Q. How do I apply for a Mail-in or Absentee Ballot? What is the deadline for my application?

A. Crawford County, PA residents can apply to vote by mail three ways:

1. Online at: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov. You will need your drivers license or state issued photo ID card to complete the online application.
2. By requesting to have an application mailed to your home.
3. By stopping in to Crawford County Voter Services and completing your application in office.

No matter how you apply, if you wish to receive a Mail-in or Absentee Ballot for the Primary Election, the deadline for all applications is: May 9, 2023.

Q. What is the difference between an Absentee and Mail-In Ballot?

A. Absentee Ballots are for voters who will be out of their municipality on Election Day or for voters that have a health or medical condition that makes it difficult or impossible to go to the polling place. Mail-In Ballots are “No Excuse” and can be used by individuals who do not want to go to the polls.

Q. Why am I receiving Voter Registration applications and Absentee/Mail-In Ballot applications in the mail? Are they from the Crawford County Voter services Office?

A. Political parties and special interest groups are mailing out applications to individuals in Crawford County. We are unsure of where they get their information from but realize it is often outdated. The Crawford County Voter Services Office only mails Voter Registration Applications and Absentee/Mail-In Applications to individuals who request them.

Q. When will my Ballot be sent out?

A. Ballots will be sent to Voters after the State certifies the Ballot and they have been printed. That is typically 5 weeks prior to the Election.

Q. What are the methods for returning my Ballot?

A. You may return your voted Ballot by mail, or you can return your voted Ballot in person at the Voter Services Office. Ballots can only be returned in person by the Voter. We can only accept YOUR BALLOT.

Q. Can I drop off someone else’s ballot?

A. No, we cannot accept anyone else’s Ballot except your own.

Q. When do Ballots have to be returned?

A. Ballots must returned to the Courthouse by 8:00pm on Election Day.

During a Primary Election, the Crawford County Courthouse is open from 8:30am-4:30pm to drop off your Ballot in the Voter Services Office. From 7:00am-8:30am and 4:30pm – 8:00pm, you can return your Ballot by going behind the Courthouse, and ringing the doorbell. Someone from Voter Services will come out and collect your Ballot.

During a General Election, because the Crawford County Courthouse is closed, you can return your Ballot by going behind the Courthouse, and ringing the doorbell. Someone from Voter Services will come out and collect your Ballot.

Q. Will there be drop box for me to deposit my voted ballot before the Election?

A. No. Crawford County does not use drop boxes. You can either mail your Ballot to our office, or you can drop it off directly at our office.

Q. Can I go to the Voter Services Office and vote there in person?

A. Yes. You must first complete an application in the office before we will issue you a Ballot. Once you complete your application, we will process it, and once processed, you can vote an Absentee or Mail-In ballot in person.

Please note, the processing of an application typically takes 20-30 minutes. We cannot give you your Ballot until the application is processed!

Q. Is my Mail-In/Absentee Ballot going to be counted?

A. If all required information is completed, then yes. Ballots are opened in a public setting and scanned by the Crawford County Elections Board and Election Staff. That process will begin on Election Day. The time and place of this event will be advertised.

Q. When did the Mail-In Ballot option begin?

A. Act 77 was passed by the PA Legislature and signed into law in October, 2019. The Mail-in Ballot option is one of many Election Reforms that were part of the legislation and it was passed with support from the Republican and Democratic parties. The Mail-In Ballot option was not created because of Covid-19 but has allowed voters to have another option to voting in person.

Q. What is a “Universal Mail-In Ballot” and does Pennsylvania have it?

A. Universal Mail-In Balloting is when Mail-In Ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters in a County. In Pennsylvania, Mail-In and Absentee ballots are ONLY sent to eligible voters who request them.

Q. Does Pennsylvania have “Early Voting”?

A. Technically, no. While you may come in to the Voter Services Office, complete the appropriate application and vote in person prior to Election Day, this is not considered “Early Voting”.