

What is In-Person Voting?

In-person voting is when voters physically travel to a polling location and cast their ballots in person. When you vote in person, you will either select your choices on a paper ballot or by using an electronic device.



When can I vote?

In-Person Early Voting



Some states allow voters to cast a ballot in-person before Election Day. The type of in-person voting that takes place before Election Day and the populations that may use this method of voting vary by jurisdiction.

Election Day Voting



The opening and closing times for polling locations vary by jurisdiction, but most polling locations are open from 7 am to 7 pm, with some states allowing voting as early as 6 am or as late as 9 pm.

Where do I vote?

Most jurisdictions assign voters a specific polling place for voting. Some jurisdictions use centers that allow voters to cast their ballot at any location in their jurisdiction.



At the time of registration, you may have received a voter card that identifies your precinct and polling place location. However, prior to voting you should check if your polling location has changed.

You may contact your local election office and they will inform you of the proper polling place. Additionally, most states and local election offices provide polling location information on their websites. Visit the EAC's website to find your state's polling location information: <https://www.eac.gov/voters/election-day-contact-information>



What should I expect when I vote?

When you arrive at the voting location, you will see election workers ready to assist you.



You will be asked for your name and you may need to provide your address, date of birth, or signature.



If you are in a state that requires ID to vote, or if you are a first-time voter, you may be asked to show your ID.



After verifying your registration, the poll worker will give you a ballot based on your address and political party affiliation (if voting in a primary election).



After voting, you will place your ballot in a ballot box or tabulator.

In most states, if the poll worker cannot verify your registration, you will be offered a provisional ballot. Several states also allow you to register or update your registration the same day. It is your right to vote privately and independently. You may seek assistance from workers at your polling place or bring someone of your choice to help you cast a ballot.

What happens after the polls close?



After the polls close on Election Day, ballots and voting materials are returned to election offices and

unofficial results are shared with the public. The time it takes to count ballots varies greatly across the country because each state has its own unique set of rules and procedures.

Variations in state processes may also mean ballots cast through different methods (e.g., early in-person voting, mail-in voting, and election day voting) are counted and unofficially reported in different orders. Once the canvass and any recounts have been completed, the election results are certified as official.



It is not uncommon for some states to be able to report 100% of their unofficial results within hours of the polls closing on Election Day while others take up to 30 days before final results are available. Check with your state or local election office to get the most detailed and up-to-date information on ballot counting procedures and reporting timelines, at <https://www.usa.gov/election-office>.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission helps election officials improve the administration of elections and helps Americans participate in the voting process.



United States Election Assistance Commission
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In-Person Voting 101

Election Information for New Voters

