

Guide to Act 77 Changes

✓ No Straight Party Voting

- Voters will no longer have a shortcut option to vote straight party, but they may still individually select only candidates from one party.

✓ Voter Registration Deadline:

- The deadline to register to vote is now May 18th fifteen days before Election Day, rather than 30 days. Voter registration applications postmarked by the deadline are no longer considered timely. Paper registration applications must be in the Berks County Election Services Office by the 15-day deadline. Online registration is available!

✓ Absentee Balloting:

- Apply and vote absentee in person (over the counter) at the Berks County Elections Office located at the Courthouse. Call 610-478-6490 and make sure the ballot is ready before stopping in.
- Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is May 26, 2020. Online applications are available at <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin>
- Voted Absentee and Mail-In Ballots must be received by 8:00pm on Election Day June 2, 2020 in the Election Services Office. Ballots received after this time, will not be counted. You must apply for an Absentee and Mail-In Ballot by 5:00pm on the Tuesday before the election.
- If you apply for an absentee ballot, you may **NOT** vote at your polling place, except by provisional ballot, even if you did not vote or receive your absentee ballot. **POLLING LOCATIONS WILL NOT ACCEPT BALLOTS**
- If you applied on time, but were unable to mail your ballot, it may be brought to the Berks County Elections Office until 8pm on Election Day.
- There is now one emergency voting period for those who cannot vote at their polling place due to sudden illness or absence. The window is from 5pm on the Tuesday before the Election, to 8pm on Election Day. Multiple individuals may now designate the same individual to carry their ballot to the Election Services Office.

- Voters with a permanent disability may request placement on a permanent absentee voter list by completing Section C1 on the Absentee Ballot Application. You will be entitled to receive ballots in the mail for all elections taking place the remainder of the calendar year and for any special elections through the third week in February of the following year.

✓ **Early Voting by Mail-in Ballot:**

- Voters now have an option to vote by Mail-in Ballot. Different from absentee, Mail-in voters do not have to provide any reason or excuse. Deadline to apply is May 26, 2020.
- Voters can complete a Mail-in Ballot application, vote their mail-in ballot in person (over the counter) at the Berks County Elections Office located at the Courthouse. Call 610-478-6490 and make sure the ballot is ready before stopping in.
- Voters can also apply online at <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/MailInBallotApplication>
- Deadlines to apply for mail-in ballot is May 26, 2020, voted ballots must be received no later than 8:00pm on Election Day in the Election Services Office, ballots received after this time will not be counted.
- An individual who votes a timely received mail-in ballot may **NOT** vote at the polling place. However, if the voter requests but does not mail back their mail-in ballot in time, they may still deliver the mail-in ballot to the Election Services office until 8 p.m. on Election Day, if they cannot do so and go to their polling location, they can **ONLY** vote by provisional ballot. **POLLING LOCATIONS WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN BALLOTS**
- Voters may request to be placed on a permanent mail-in voter list. These individuals will have an application mailed to them by the first week in February each year, which, if completed and returned, entitles them to receive ballots in the mail for all elections taking place in the remainder of the calendar year and for any special elections through the third week in February of the following year.
- **NOTE: If you requested a Mail-In or Absentee Ballot and go to your polling location on Election Day and vote a Provisional Ballot, the Mail-In or Absentee Ballot would be counted unless it was not received by the deadline, in which case the Provisional Ballot would then be counted.**

Questions? 610-478-6490 or elections@countyofberks.com

THESE CHANGES ARE IN EFFECT FOR THE JUNE 2 PRIMARY ELECTION