



## Your Rights as a Voter – Election 2010

*Before Election Day, you have the right to:*  
Avoid lines and vote early.

*On Election Day, you have the right to:*

- Vote a regular ballot if you are a valid registered voter.
- Request a replacement ballot.
- Ask for assistance.
- Vote a secret ballot.
- Use a paper ballot instead of a machine.
- Vote a provisional ballot if your name is not listed in the voting poll book.
- Vote a regular ballot if you moved within the same precinct.
- Vote a provisional ballot if you moved to a different precinct.
- Vote with a curbside ballot if you cannot enter the polling location.
- Request a list of write-in candidates.
- Vote if you are an ex-felon.
- Vote after the polls close if you are in line.
- Vote provisionally if you are challenged.

### **Avoid lines and vote early.**

You can vote early in person using an absentee ballot at your local Board of Elections (or their designated site). Or you can mail your absentee ballot, but it must be postmarked on or before Monday, May 3 for the Primary Election or Monday November 1 for the General Election. . If you forget to mail your absentee ballot by Election Day, you can drop it off at the Board of Elections (or their designated site) during voting hours on Election Day. However, you cannot drop it at your polling place. See the Secretary of State web site on where to vote.

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/wheretovote.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/wheretovote.aspx) for more information.

### **Vote a regular ballot if you are a valid registered voter.**

A valid registered voter means a United States citizen who is a resident of Ohio, who is at least 18 years of age and not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony, and who is registered to vote at his or her current residence address. See the Secretary of State web

site on voter eligibility.

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterEligibility.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterEligibility.aspx)

**Request a replacement ballot.**

If you tear, soil, deface or erroneously mark a ballot, you may return it to a poll worker. The poll worker must issue a second ballot. You may also request a third ballot for the same reasons, but no more than three ballots may be issued to one person.

**Ask for assistance.**

If you have a disability, physical limitations, trouble reading or writing or need language assistance, you may have the person of your choice (except a candidate, employer or union rep) assist you in voting. As an alternative, two poll workers from two different political parties may also assist you. You may also vote with a curbside ballot if you cannot physically enter the polling location. See the Secretary of State web site on voters needing assistance.

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterswithdisabilities.aspx>

**Vote a secret ballot.**

You have the right to cast a secret ballot free from intimidation. Representatives from the media and election observers are permitted inside the polling location, but they may not interfere with or compromise the secrecy of your ballot.

**Use a paper ballot instead of a machine.**

You can choose to use a paper ballot to vote instead of a machine, regardless of whether it is direct recording electronic or optical scan voting machines.

**Vote a provisional ballot if your name is not listed in the voting poll book.**

You can vote a provisional ballot on Election Day if your name and current address does not appear in the registration book in your precinct or if you do not have acceptable identification with you. See the Secretary of State web site on provisional ballots.

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx)

**Vote a regular ballot if you moved within the same precinct.**

If you moved within the same precinct but did not update your registration record, you can vote with a regular ballot – at your precinct polling place or the Board of Elections (or their designated site) - as long as you have been previously registered in Ohio.

**Vote a provisional ballot if you moved to a different precinct.**

If you have moved to a different precinct or county within Ohio without updating your registration record, you can vote a provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will count as long as you complete a change of address and affirmation. You may vote at either your new precinct polling place or at the Board of Elections (or their designated site). See the Secretary of State web site on provisional ballots.

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx)

**Request a list of write-in candidates**

You can request a list of names of candidates and offices that are officially eligible as write-in candidates.

**Vote if you are an ex-felon.**

If you have been convicted of a felony, you may vote if you are not in prison or on parole. See the Secretary of State web site on voter eligibility.

([www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterEligibility.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterEligibility.aspx))

**Vote after the polls close if you are in line.**

If you are in line when the polls close, you have the right to stay and vote a regular ballot. If time for voting is extended by court order and you arrive after the regular voting time, you may vote a provisional ballot.

**Vote provisionally if you are challenged.**

Only a poll worker can challenge your right to vote on Election Day. You may only be challenged for your age (must be 18) or your residency (must be a U.S. citizen and resident of the county). If challenged, you still have the right to vote a provisional ballot after swearing truthfully to the facts of your eligibility. See the Secretary of State web site on provisional ballots.

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx)

**Report violations of your rights to:**

**Election Protection Hotline: 1.866.OUR.VOTE (1.866.687.8683)**

**or**

**Secretary of State Hotline at 1.800.345.VOTE (1.800.345.8683)**