



## **Your Responsibilities as a Voter**

### *Before Election Day, you should:*

- Register to vote in a responsible manner.
- Verify your registration record and update it.
- Learn about the issues and candidates.
- Take advantage of early voting if you will be unable to vote on Election Day.
- Understand the voting machine used in your county.

### *On Election Day, you should:*

- Know where your polling place is.
- Take the proper voter ID to the polling place.
- Provide the poll worker with your ID or SSN if voting provisionally.

### **Register to vote in a responsible manner.**

Be a responsible citizen and register to vote. Register again if you have moved or changed your name. The Secretary of State web site contains more information on determining your qualifying voting address.

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

### **Verify your registration record and update it.**

You can verify your voter registration record through the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/voterquery.aspx?page=361> or by contacting your local Board of Elections. The last day to correct voter registration records for the 2008 general election was October 6, 2008.

### **Learn about the issues and candidates.**

The League of Women Voters of Ohio's website

<http://www.lwvohio.org/pdf/FINAL%20VOTER%20GUIDE%202008%2010.7.08.pdf>

provides non-partisan statewide ballot issue explanations and pros and cons, as well as a Voters Guide to candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Attorney General and Ohio Board of Education. The Secretary of State's website

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/whatsontheballot.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/whatsontheballot.aspx) also contains statewide ballot issue explanations and ballot language, a list of candidates, and a 2008 Ohio Judicial Voters Guide. Local Leagues providing Voters Guides to local candidates and ballot issues can be accessed here <http://www.lwvohio.org/local.htm>.

**Take advantage of early voting if you will be unable to vote on Election Day.**

You can vote by absentee ballot by mail or early in person 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, November 3*. If you forget to mail your absentee ballot on or before November 3, on Election Day you can drop it off at your local Board of Elections (or their designated site) during voting hours. However, you cannot drop it at your polling place. The Secretary of State web site [www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/wheretovote.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/wheretovote.aspx) contains more information and a list of your county's early voting site.

**Understand the voting machine used in your county.**

A list of the type of voting machines used by each county is located here

**Know where your polling place is.**

You can verify your polling place on the Secretary of State's website. It is also on the notification sent to you by your Board of Elections. Polling place locations and precinct assignments change each year. Check yours!

**Take the proper voter ID to the polling place.**

State law requires that each voter provide proof of identification. Seven valid forms of identification are listed on the Secretary of State's web site [www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/bringid.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/bringid.aspx). You may use an Ohio driver's license or Ohio-issued photo identification card with an old address as long as you provide the poll worker with the last four digits of your driver's license or state ID card number. More information is on the Secretary of State's web site [www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/bringid.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/bringid.aspx).

**Provide the poll worker with your ID or SSN if you vote a provisional ballot.**

You will be asked to vote using a provisional ballot if any of the following occur:

- Your name does not appear in the Signature Poll Book or the Supplemental Voter List,
- Your name appears in the Signature Poll Book with a message stating you requested an absentee ballot or voted earlier,
- You do not provide a valid ID,
- Your signature does not match the signature in the Signature Poll Book,
- Your eligibility to cast a ballot has been challenged by a poll worker.

The poll worker will return your provisional ballot to the Board of Elections for review and verification after the polls close. If deemed valid, your provisional ballot will be counted. See the Secretary of State's web site

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

If you do not have one of the seven forms of valid ID

[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/bringid.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/bringid.aspx), the poll worker will ask for the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you cannot provide your

Social Security number, you must appear at your Board of Elections with the proper identification within ten days in order for your vote to be counted.

#### **Avoid Common Election Day Mistakes**

- Know your polling location and its hours of operation.
- Bring the proper identification to the polls.
- Make sure you are voting at the correct precinct table if your polling location has more than one precinct.
- Vote at your Board of Elections if you requested an absentee ballot and have not used it.
- Remove or Cover any clothing, buttons etc... promoting your candidate or issue before you enter the polling location

Most importantly, voting is a right, not a privilege you have to earn. These responsibilities are not mandatory for voting.