



## Voter Protection FAQs

### **What is the Delaware Democratic Party's Voter Protection Hotline?**

1-833-DEL-DEMS (Available beginning Friday, Sept. 11 for the Sept. 15 Primary and then again beginning Oct. 3 for the Nov. 3 General Election.)

### **So what exactly is Vote by Mail and how does it differ from absentee voting?**

Delaware has long allowed certain voters to send ballots in by mail before Election Day (students, those travelling on business, those sick or living with a disability). Absentee voting remains an option for qualified voters, but for the Sept. 15 Primary and Nov. 3 General Election, every voter is eligible to vote by mail if they wish - the result of legislation passed in the General Assembly in June.

This means voters will be sent ballot request forms ahead of elections in which they are eligible to vote. Once completed and returned, mail ballots will be sent to voters, who can complete them before Election Day and then return to the Department of Elections by either mailing it (no later than the Friday before the election) or dropping it off at [one of these locations](#) before 8 p.m. on the day of the election.

### **How can a voter request a vote by mail ballot?**

Applications for mail ballots were sent to every registered Republican and Democratic voter ahead of the Sept. 15 Primary Election. Any unaffiliated voter, as well as any registered Republican or Democrat who did not request their ballots ahead of the Primary, will also receive a mail ballot application ahead of the Nov. 3 General Election. Voters can proactively request an absentee or vote by mail ballot [online here](#).

### **I haven't received my absentee ballot or vote by mail ballot. How can I check the status?**

You can [check that right here](#) or call the Department of Elections in your county.

New Castle County Department of Elections: (302) 577-3464

Kent County Department of Elections: (302) 739-4498  
Sussex County Department of Elections: (302) 856-5367

## **How can I return my ballot?**

You can either mail your ballot back to the Department of Elections in the blue envelope provided with it, or you can drop your ballot off at the Department of the Elections. You should make the choice that's best for you. Based on our analysis of USPS delivery times, we believe any ballots mailed by the Friday prior to the election will arrive on time and be recorded. If you prefer to deliver your ballot by hand, you can [find Department of Election locations here](#).

**Note: Ballots cannot be returned at individual polling places on Election Day.**

If for whatever reason you are unable to return your ballot, we will have volunteers available on Sept. 15 and Nov. 3 to pick up and deliver your ballots for you. For more information on this service, please call the Voter Protection hotline at 1-833-DEL-DEMS.

## **Will I be able to vote in person?**

Yes. All normal polling places will remain open. You [can find your polling place here](#). **Please note that you must vote at your assigned polling location.**

**As long as you haven't previously returned a ballot, you will be able to vote in person.**

## **Do I need to have my ID to vote in Delaware?**

IDs are not required by state law, but they are helpful to have to move the process along. If you do not have a valid ID, and your name appears in the poll book in the election district, you should simply be asked to complete an Affidavit of Voter Identity and then allowed to vote.

## **Will someone be able to help me at the polling place if I need assistance voting or reading my ballot?**

Yes. Just let the poll worker know of your special needs when you arrive. You can also bring a family member or friend who can help ensure your needs are met.

## **What if I'm told I can't vote?**

Don't panic. You can call our Voter Protection hotline to talk through your issue at **1-833-DEL-DEMS**. Please call before opting to complete a provisional ballot, as provisional ballots - by law - only include federal offices.

We want to help you, but we also want to know about issues that may impact other voters like you. That's why it's so important we hear from you if you have trouble voting.

If you prefer, you can call the Department of Elections in your county:

New Castle County Department of Elections: (302) 577-3464

Kent County Department of Elections: (302) 739-4498

Sussex County Department of Elections: (302) 856-5367

### **What is a provisional ballot?**

If election officials can't confirm your eligibility to vote, they may offer you a provisional ballot. This ballot is only for federal races and if your eligibility to vote is later verified, it will be counted. Provisional ballots, however, do not allow you to vote in state and local races. That's why, before you proceed with a provisional ballot, you should call us at **1-833-DEL-DEMS** or the Department of Elections in your county:

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Kent County Department of Elections: (302) 739-4498

Sussex County Department of Elections: (302) 856-5367

### **What if my polling place is closed?**

All polling places are expected to be open on Sept. 15 and Nov. 3. Due to the pandemic, a few traditional polling places - such as those at senior living facilities - may have been relocated to nearby locations. Voters in these areas should have received written notification of those changes. If you show up at the place you expect to cast your ballot and find it is not an open polling location, please call us at **1-833-DEL-DEMS** and we can help ensure you are at the proper place. You can also call the Department of Elections in your county:

New Castle County Department of Elections: (302) 577-3464

Kent County Department of Elections: (302) 739-4498

Sussex County Department of Elections: (302) 856-5367

### **I've noticed that there aren't any signs/volunteers at the polling place for my chosen candidate.**

Call the Delaware Democratic Party at (302) 328-9036 and we will contact the appropriate campaign.

### **I've noticed that there are campaign signs or campaign volunteers closer than 50 feet from the door of my polling place?**

All campaigners and campaign signs are required to remain 50-feet from the entrance of a polling place at all time. In many cases, poll workers will mark this distance off when polls open in the morning. If anyone is violating this rule, the first step is to simply let a poll worker know.

If it doesn't appear the poll worker is willing to enforce the 50-foot rule, call **1-833-DEL-DEMS** to report the issue.