

ACTION ALERT:

Election Day is quickly approaching, and member programs interested in participating in nonpartisan voter engagement efforts are encouraged to begin planning now. All Get Out the Vote (GOTV) outreach activities should be completed by

NOVEMBER 2, 2026.



IMPORTANT DATES

Your PA Deadline to Register to Vote:
OCTOBER 19, 2026

Last Day to Apply for Mail-In
or Absentee Ballot:
OCTOBER 27, 2026

Election Day:
NOVEMBER 3, 2026



CHECK YOUR VOTER STATUS

Help survivors identify
if they are registered
to vote.

Check your status here:

[pa.gov/agencies/vote/
voter-registration/check-my-
registration-status](https://pa.gov/agencies/vote/voter-registration/check-my-registration-status)



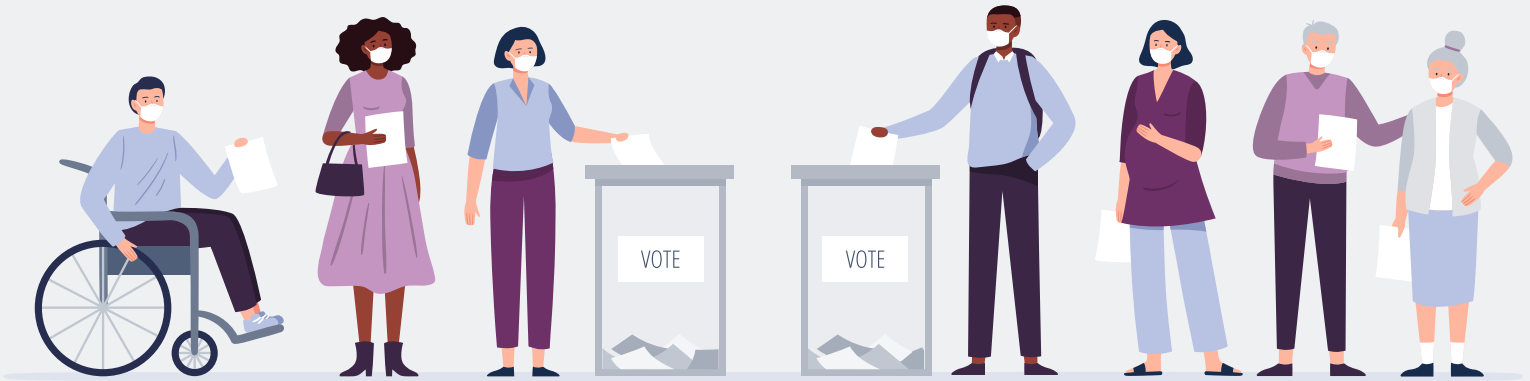
ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

The Office of the Victim
Advocate (OVA) can assist
survivors enrolled in the
program.

Learn More Here:

[pa.gov/agencies/ova/
address-confidentiality](https://pa.gov/agencies/ova/address-confidentiality)

VOTING IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



This guide includes information on:

1. Voter registration deadlines
2. Voting dates and deadlines
3. How to register to vote
4. Voter registration for homeless and sheltered survivors
5. In-person voting vs. mail-in voting
6. Survivor safety and confidentiality
7. Additional resources for voters

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Online or in-person: **October 19, 2026**

By mail: **Must be received by October 27, 2026**

Registering to vote

1. Help the survivor check to see if they are registered to vote, and where they are registered to vote. They can check their voter registration at <https://www.vote.org/>.
2. If they aren't registered to vote in Pennsylvania, advocates can help them register.
3. They can register either [online](#), by mailing in a completed [Pennsylvania voter registration application](#) or in-person at their local county elections office.¹
4. Participants of the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) must register to vote through the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA). OVA works directly with county voter registration offices to register survivors and will send their ballots to their ACP substitute mailing address. ACP participants are ineligible to register at the Department of Transportation or their local county voter registration office, and must go through the ACP.

What about the address for homeless or sheltered survivors?

1. In Pennsylvania, people do not need a mailing address to register to vote. However, they cannot use a P.O. Box. PA voter registration applications contain a cross-streets diagram where those experiencing homelessness can mark their place of residence. If the survivor is receiving mail at an address, best practice is to list that as their mailing address as long as that address is safe, and they can still access the mail they are receiving there.
2. If they are currently receiving mail or residing at the domestic violence program shelter/hotel, they can put that mailing address as theirs. Please use the program's administrative office physical address, not the P.O. Box. There's no need to include the program name. (Please note the section below on survivor safety and confidentiality regarding potential safety risks due to voter rolls being subject to public inspection).

VOTING DATES & DEADLINES

Last day to request a mail-in ballot: **October 19, 2026**

Mail-in ballots must be received by: **November 3, 2026**

Election Day: **November 3, 2026**

In-person voting vs. mail-in voting

1. If survivors want to vote by mail-in ballot, they need to request a mail-in ballot on top of registering to vote. They can do this by downloading, printing and mailing the ballot application to the county elections office. They can also apply for a mail-in ballot in person at the county elections office.² They will receive their mail-in ballot at the mailing address listed on their registration form.
2. For some survivors, especially those still living with their abusers, completing a ballot at home and mailing it may not be safe, or free from the abuser's interference. Therefore, voting in-person may be a better option. If they vote in-person, they will vote in the precinct in which their mailing address or cross-street diagram is located. However, identification is still required for first-time voters.
3. Survivors can choose whatever voting option is best for them. There are benefits and drawbacks to both. Survivors may fear running into their abuser at the polls on Election Day. Mail-in voting is helpful to avoid this and protect their safety. In addition, since identification is required for first-time voters, mail-in voting is a suitable option for many survivors who lack proper identification.³
4. There's a recent Supreme Court ruling involving mail-in voting in Pennsylvania. Anyone planning to vote by mail in the November election can continue to do so under the current rules, as SCOTUS has ruled in favor of mail-in voting.

What about survivor safety and confidentiality?

Voting records include personal details like their address, which may be public. If advocates are working with a survivor, they may want to take extra steps to keep their address private and plan for their safety when voting.

Protect their address

- If they are part of Pennsylvania's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), be sure to use the mailing address given by ACP for their voter registration instead of their private home address.
- You must register to vote at the address where you **actually live**—your residential address. Owning property or a business in a county does not necessarily make you a resident of that county.
- They might also be able to keep their home address private in the voter registration record. They can ask for address confidentiality if they:
 - Have received a Protection from Abuse (PFA) Order;
 - Have certain protections related to stalking, including a qualifying protection order, or a case involving a stalking conviction; or
 - Can show that disclosure of their home address would endanger their personal safety.
- Contact their county elections office to get the form to request address confidentiality. If their county does not have a form, they can write a request and explain why sharing their home address could put their safety at risk.

Planning for safety when voting

If a survivor is worried about their safety at a polling place, including concerns about encountering the abuser or law enforcement, it can help to make a plan before Election Day. Here are some steps for them to take:

- Look up their polling location ahead of time and think about when and how they would feel safest going there.
- Bring someone they trust with them if it helps them feel more comfortable.
- Suggest they think about whether voting by mail is a better choice for them. Keep in mind that voting by mail could bring up other safety or privacy concerns if someone else can access a survivor's mail.

- Remember, everyone has the right to vote without intimidation, threats, harassment, or being stopped. If anyone tries to interfere with their vote or makes them feel unsafe at the polling place, tell them to notify the Judge of Elections or another poll worker.
- If they are concerned about dealing with law enforcement or federal authorities when voting, recommend they speak with a trusted legal services group or voting-rights organization before Election Day to discuss their situation and options.

In most cases, Pennsylvania law limits police officers from being at polling places, except in certain situations. If an advocate has questions or a survivor they're working with runs into problems while voting, call Pennsylvania's voter hotline at 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) or contact a trusted non-governmental voting-rights group.

Safety tip: If they think someone abusive is monitoring their phone, email, mail, or internet use, recommend that they use a safer device or another way to communicate when checking their voter registration, asking for a mail-in ballot, or reaching out to their local domestic violence program.

- ¹ A list of the county election offices with contact information is available on most paper voter registration applications.
- ² Please be aware that county elections officials may ask for identification in response for a mail-in ballot request. This may not be a viable option if the voter does not have proper identification.
- ³ Remember to let survivors know that if they show up to vote in-person on election day and are refused because they lack proper identification they can always request and submit a provisional ballot.
- ⁴ "Protection order" are not specified here and arguably can encompass any protection order granted to a survivor based on stalking.



Resources for Voters

NNEDV, Voting, and Survivor Privacy

<https://www.techsafety.org/voter-registration-privacy>

"You Don't Need A Home to Vote," Homeless and Low-Income Voter Rights Manual

<https://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Manual-for-web.pdf>

Pennsylvania Department of State, VotesPA,

<https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Election Protection administered by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law,

<https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Including the Election Protection Hotline: **866-OUR-VOTE**

Registering to Vote Without A Permanent Address,

<https://866ourvote.org/>

Online Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application,

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

Pennsylvania Application for a Mail-In Ballot,

https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Documents/PADOS_mailInapplication.pdf

Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) enrollment through your local domestic violence program: <https://www.pcadv.org/find-help/find-your-local-domestic-violence-program/>

ACP enrollment can also be completed by contacting OVA directly at **800-563-6399**