



# HOW TO VOTE IN KENTUCKY

## A Quick Guide for People with Disabilities Voting in the Primary Election on Tuesday, May 21, 2024

**Note:** There are lots of different words and phrases used in voting and elections. We explain some of these words and phrases in this guide. Other definitions and examples can be found in our [Voting Language Resource](#).

There are also phrases that might change based on where you live. For example, in this guide, we use the term "local election office." In some cities and towns, this office might have a different name. Your local election office might be called the county clerk, county election commission, board of elections, or something else. You can find that information by clicking on the links for each state that we have included in the guide.



## REGISTERING TO VOTE

- **How can I register to vote?**
  - You can find out if you are already registered by visiting [vote411.org](https://vote411.org).
  - Register to vote online at Kentucky's [online voter registration website](#).
  - Register to vote by downloading, filling out, and returning the Kentucky [voter registration form](#).
- **When do I need to register?** The voter registration deadline is Monday, April 22. In this state, voters cannot register after this date or on Election Day.

- **Do I need an identification (ID) to register?** You will need to have a state address and your Social Security number to register to vote.
- **Can I vote if I have a disability?** Yes! People with disabilities who are 18 years old or older have the right to vote. Your vote matters and is protected by laws to make sure voting is accessible, independent, and private.
- **Can I vote if I have a guardian?** In this state, just having a guardian does not automatically take away your right to vote. However, sometimes a court may decide that you cannot vote. If you are not sure, you can check your guardianship order. If your guardianship order does not say anything about voting, this means you can still vote! Your right has only been taken away if your order directly says that. For help understanding your right to vote and guardianship, contact the local [Protection and Advocacy Agency \(P&A\)](#).
- **Can I vote if I have gone to jail or prison?** If you have gone to jail or prison, you should check to see if you are allowed to vote. Some states take away your right to vote if you have gone to jail or prison. Learn about voting rights for people who have [gone to jail or prison](#). You can also learn more from the [Campaign Legal Center](#) or [contact the local P&A](#).



## LEARNING ABOUT THE ISSUES

- **What is a primary election?** In some elections, only one person from each political party can run for an elected official position. For example, only 1 Democrat candidate and 1 Republican candidate can run in a race to become a President or Senator. But many people want to be elected officials, so the state hosts two elections. In the first election, every party votes on who their candidate will be. This is a primary election. Then, there is a second election that happens later with the winners of the primary election. This is the general election. In the

general election, everyone votes for which of these candidates they want to elect to each office.

- **What is a ballot?** A ballot is a list of who and what you are voting for. Your ballot will list candidates who are running for different offices, such as President, Senator, or Representative. You vote by marking your choice on the ballot. If you are voting by marking a paper ballot and not using a voting machine, make sure to look at both sides of the ballot. Sometimes, your ballot has choices on both sides.
- **What is a ballot measure?** Sometimes, your ballot will have ballot measures. A ballot measure is a law, issue, or question that you can vote on. Voters get to decide if they agree or disagree with the ballot measure by voting yes to agree or no to disagree. [Learn about ballot measures](#) on our resource page.
- **Can I look at my ballot before I go to vote?** Enter your home address in [Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup](#). This tool will give you a "sample ballot," which will show you what will be on your ballot when you vote.



## VOTING IN PERSON

- **Where do I need to go to vote?** The place where you go to vote in person is called a polling location. You can find your local polling location through the Kentucky State Board of Elections website. [Find your polling location.](#)
- **Do I need an ID to vote in person?** This state requires voters to show a government or college-issued photo ID to vote in person. If you don't have a photo ID, you may sign a form and use another type of ID such as your Social Security card, any ID card with your name and photo, or a credit card to vote. [Learn about voter ID.](#)
- **What if I need help with filling out my ballot?** You are allowed to have someone help you fill out your ballot.

- **Who can help me with filling out my ballot?** You may choose someone you know to help you vote or ask for help from a poll worker at the polling location. Your boss cannot help you vote. If you are part of a labor union at work, the person who helps you vote cannot be your labor union representative. [Learn about labor unions](#) on our resource page.
- **Can I vote before Election Day?** This state allows any voter to vote in person before Election Day during the Early Voting Period. You can vote between Thursday, May 16 and Saturday, May 18 and avoid lines on Election Day. Some voters, such as voters with disabilities and those who are away from home on Election Day, have extra days that they can vote during a period called "Excused In-Person Absentee Voting." During this period, these voters can go to the local election office or a polling location before Election Day to vote in person. This period is on weekdays from Wednesday, May 8 to Wednesday, May 15. Excused In-Person Absentee Voting is not available on Saturday, May 11 or Sunday, May 12.
- **Can I vote outside of the polling location if it is inaccessible?** This state does not usually allow people to vote outside the polling location if it is inaccessible. You can contact the [local election office](#) to see if they will make this accommodation. You can also contact the [Kentucky State Board of Elections office](#) for assistance or vote by absentee ballot.



## VOTING BY MAIL

- **Can I vote by mail?** If you have a disability or you will be away from home on Election Day, you can vote by mail in this state. This is called absentee voting. (If a polling location is not accessible to people with disabilities, this is another way for you to vote.)

- **Do I need an ID to vote by absentee ballot?** You must include a valid ID when requesting an absentee ballot. You do not need to include a copy of ID when returning your ballot.
- **How do I request an absentee ballot?** You must request an absentee ballot online. [Request your ballot.](#)
- **Can I get an electronic absentee ballot?** Kentucky allows voters who cannot fill out a paper ballot to request an electronic absentee ballot. They can fill out the ballot on their computer, print it, and return the ballot. You must contact the [local election office](#) to request an electronic absentee ballot.
- **What is the deadline for requesting my ballot?** The last day to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, May 7. Request your ballot as soon as possible to make sure that you receive your ballot on time.
- **What if I need help with filling out my ballot?** You are allowed to have someone help you fill out your ballot. The person who helps you must sign the assistance form on the inner envelope of the absentee packet.
- **Do I need to sign my ballot envelope?** Follow the instructions on the envelope to sign your envelope when asked. This state requires the signature to match the signature on your voter registration form. If you cannot sign your ballot envelope, you can fill out the voter assistance form, make a personal mark, and have two witnesses sign your ballot envelope.
- **How do I return my ballot?** You can return your ballot by mail to the local election office or deliver it to a ballot drop box. Your ballot must be received by 6 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, May 21.
- **Can someone return my ballot for me?** Yes, you may choose to have a family member, household member, or direct support professional (DSP) mail your ballot for you.
- **Can I track my ballot?** Yes, you can track your ballot online to see if the local election office has received it. You can do this on the Kentucky State Board of Elections website. [Track your ballot.](#)



## MORE VOTING HELP

- **Where can I find more information on how to vote?** Check out the [Kentucky State Board of Elections website](#). Learn about [voting assistance for voters with disabilities](#).
- **What if I am having trouble voting or registering to vote?** If you have any trouble voting, [contact the local P&A](#). If you need help, the phone number is 800-633-6283.
- **What if I have more questions?** Check out these resources:
  - [America Votes: Local Election Office Directory](#)
  - [Guardianship and Voting Laws](#)
  - [Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters](#)
  - [Resources for Blind and Low Vision Voters](#)
  - [Easy Read and Plain Language Voting Resources](#)
  - [Campaign Legal Center: Restore Your Vote](#)
  - [VoteRiders: Voter ID Help](#)
  - [Election Protection Hotline](#): 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)



The 2024 State Voting Guides for Disabled Voters are made by the REV UP Voting Campaign at the American Association of People with Disabilities. This project was led by Sarah Blahovec.