



## Blinded Veterans Voting Guide 2020

### Step 1: Register to Vote

1. Register to vote by mailing in a paper application, or, in certain states, you are able to register online. Check to see if you can register online at [vote.org](http://vote.org).
2. Be prepared to show proof of identification when registering for the first time.
3. If you have previously registered, it is important to ensure that all of your information is correct. Verify your information [here](#).
4. Voter registration deadlines vary by state. Check your state deadlines [here](#).
5. To find your local election office's contact information for further questions, utilize the search feature at [usa.gov](http://usa.gov).

### Step 2: Choose How You Will Cast Your Ballot

Voting can be done three ways: in-person on election day, mail-in or absentee, or early in-person voting.

#### Option 1: Voting in-person on election day

This means you will go to your polling station on November 3. You can find your polling station [here](#). All polling locations are required to provide an accessible voting machine which can include a touch screen, audio ballot, large print, different contrast settings, or other specifications to enable independent voting. Some localities may offer curbside voting so contact your local elections office to inquire about this option.

#### Option 2: Voting by mail or absentee ballot

Voting by mail means the election office will mail you a ballot that you must fill out and return. Absentee voting works the same way but is utilized if voters have a reason they cannot vote at their polling place, such as for a disability or because of attending school out of state. You can request your absentee or mail in ballot [here](#) or through your election office. Like in-person voting, states are required to ensure that accessible ballots are available for all voters. If you would like to vote absentee or by mail, most localities require you to submit a form requesting that the ballot be sent to you. Check absentee ballot request deadlines and return deadlines [here](#). Some localities may offer electronic ballot delivery or marking systems for voters with disabilities. Once marked and filled out, the ballot can be printed and mailed to the Board of Elections. [Contact](#) your local election office to inquire about this option.

#### Option 3: Early in person voting

Most states have a period before election day called early voting or in-person absentee voting. The start date for early voting will vary by state and can be found [here](#). During early voting periods, polling stations are still required to have an accessible voting machine available.

### Step 3: Vote!

1. Confirm whether you will need to present identification to vote. You can check your state laws [here](#).
2. If voting by mail, ensure that your ballot is sent before your state deadline. Determine whether you will drop your ballot in a mailbox, use a ballot drop box, or deliver it in person. [Contact](#) your elections office to confirm which options are available in your district.
3. If voting in person, check your polling stations hours before Election Day. You can find state polling station times [here](#), but confirm that your locality has not changed hours due to Covid-19. You can utilize [this tool](#) to find your state election information.
4. If you will need assistance on election day, you can bring someone to assist you. When you check in, let the polling workers know and follow any instructions they give. Ask for any accommodations you may need to vote such as a chair, different materials, etc. Providing an accessible voting experience is required by law.

### Potential Problems in Attempting to Vote

For violations of federal voting rights laws:

Contact the [Voting Section](#) of the Department of Justice.

Call: (202)-307-2767 or (800)-253-3931 (toll free)

Email: [Voting.Section@usdoj.gov](mailto:Voting.Section@usdoj.gov)

For any voting problems or questions on Election Day:

Call the Election Protection Hotline:

- English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683
- Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682
- Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287
- For Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: 1-888-274-8683

Contact your state Protection & Advocacy Agency – Find your state [here](#).

### Directing Further Questions and Helpful Links

For blinded veterans using Aira services as Explorers, Aira is donating 120 minutes per user for access calls relating to voter and election questions. Research questions relate to the following:

- Preparing to vote
- Voting procedures
- Post-voting

[American Council of the Blind: Accessible Voting](#)

[National Federation of the Blind: Voting, Accessibility, and the Law](#)

[Election Assistance Commission](#)

[Usa.gov: Voting and Elections](#)