

## **Q&A: Voting Rights in Colorado**

### **What are my rights?**

- You have the right to vote if you're over 18 and a U.S. citizen. You must be a U.S. citizen and a Colorado resident for 22 days in order to vote in Colorado. You can pre-register to vote at the age of 16 in Colorado and vote in a primary at 17 as long as you will be 18 on Election Day.
- You have the right to accessible voting, meaning you can access the voting center, and can request ballots in different formats. There must be at least one accessible voting system in each Voting Service and Polling Center (VSPC).
- Voting machines must provide all voters with the ability to independently and privately cast, verify, and correct their ballot before it is counted.
- If you have a guardian or are in a group home, psychiatric ward, or other facility setting, you can still vote unless a court order prohibits you.
- You have the right to refuse to vote at any time for any reason.
- If you are or have been incarcerated, you have the right to vote unless you are actively serving a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction.

### **What do I need to vote?**

- U.S. citizenship.
- A valid mailing address.  
Note: If you are unhoused you need to provide a "home base" address which can be anywhere you consider "home base" – a park, a vacant lot, a campground. You also need to provide an address where you can receive mail, like a post office box.
- Identification, including but not limited to:
  - U.S. Passport
  - Driver's license
  - Birth certificate
  - Valid Medicare card
  - [More can be found online.](#)
- To be registered.

### **How do I register to vote?**

- You can register online or get a paper form. Paper forms can be printed from the [Secretary of State's website](#).
- You can also register in-person at:
  - A Colorado Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) office when you apply for a driver's license, or when updating your driver's license information;
  - Offices that provide public assistance, including offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to person with disabilities;
  - Recruitment offices of the armed forces of the United States;
  - Any federal, state, or local government office or any nongovernment office that chooses to provide voter registration service or applications; or
  - A VSPC.

#### **Quick Tips for Voting:**

- You can choose to vote or not to vote.
- No one can tell you who to vote for - YOU get to make that choice.
- There is no right or wrong person to vote for.
- There is no right or wrong way to vote.
- You can vote for as much or as little on a ballot as you want. This means you can vote on certain things and leave others blank.
- You can only vote for one option per category on a ballot.

## How do I vote?

You have a few options for how to vote:

- Mail-in ballot
  - You will automatically receive a mail-in ballot at your permanent address. To vote this way, simply fill out the ballot and mail it back to the clerk's office in the envelope provided with your ballot. You can also drop it off in a designated drop-box, which can be found [here](#). The clerk needs to have your ballot by 7 PM on election day. If you aren't sure whether the clerk will receive it by mail in time, you should instead use the drop-box option to ensure your vote will be counted.
  - If you lose your mail-in ballot you can request a new one from your county clerk. If it's too close to the election day, you should instead vote in person (described below).
- Day of in-person
  - To vote in-person look up a Voting Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in your county, bring your identification, and arrive by 7PM. Just go give your name, show your identification, and cast your vote!
- Electronic ballot
  - You might be able to vote with an electronic ballot. If you are an overseas or military voter, a voter with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or a voter with a qualifying emergency, you can fill out an electronic ballot.
  - Once it is filled out, you can print your ballot and take it to a drop-off box or mail it in. Certain eligible voters, such as those who are blind, are eligible to return their ballot electronically.
- You can also vote early with any of these methods. If you're voting early in-person, you can vote 8 days early for a primary, and you can vote 15 days early for a general election.
- If you need help voting in person or by mail, you are entitled to that help, both for registering and voting. A person with a disability may vote alone or with assistance from a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or an agent of the voter's union, and you may have extra time to cast your vote.

## Why should I vote?

- Voting helps decide who oversees making and upholding laws, rules, and policies.
- Voting gives you a say in the laws and policies being passed and implemented.
- Voting allows you to have your voice heard.
- Voting gets you involved in the democratic process.
- Voting helps uphold your rights.

### If your voting rights have been violated:

- You can file a complaint with the [Secretary of State's Office](#) or the [Department of Justice](#).
- If you need assistance completing and filing your complaint, you can contact [Disability Law Colorado](#) at (303) 722-0300.

## Where can I get more information?

- [The Colorado Secretary of State's Website](#)
- [The American Association of People with Disabilities' Fact Sheets](#)
- [The Arc's Voting Information](#)
- [The Autistic Self-Advocacy Network's Self-Advocate's Guide to Voting in the U.S.](#)
- [DLC's Quick Guide to Polling Place Accessibility in Colorado](#)

### Register To Vote



### Where to Vote



### Electronic Ballot

