

# PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## Mail-In Ballot FAQs

No excuse Mail-In Ballots are now available. Here's what you should know.

### What is a Mail-In Ballot and how is it different from an Absentee Ballot?

- To qualify for an Absentee Ballot, a voter must meet certain criteria; an illness, physical disability, or be unable to go to their polling place because of duties or occupation.
- **Anyone can receive a Mail-In Ballot with no reason or excuse needed.**
- Voters may request to be placed on a permanent **Mail-In Voter** List. These individuals will have an application mailed to them by the first week in February each year, which, if completed and returned, entitles them to receive ballots in the mail for all elections taking place in the remainder of the calendar year and for any special elections through the third week in February of the following year.
- To be placed on a permanent **Absentee List**, a voter must have an illness or physical disability and an affidavit signed by their doctor. These individuals will have an application mailed to them by the first week in February each year, which, if completed and returned, entitles them to receive ballots in the mail for all elections taking place in the remainder of the calendar year and for any special elections through the third week in February of the following year.

### How do I apply for a Mail-In or Absentee Ballot?

- The quickest way to apply for a Mail-In or Absentee Ballot is online at [www.votesPA.com](http://www.votesPA.com). If you provide an email address when applying online you can track your ballot. You will receive email notifications as your application goes through the process of being approved, your ballot mailed, and your ballot received.
- Paper applications are available to print out and mail to your county elections office at [www.votesPA.com](http://www.votesPA.com) or [www.pikepa.org](http://www.pikepa.org), or you may pick up an application at the Pike County Election Office, 506 Broad St., Milford PA 18337
- You can also call the Pike County Elections Office at **570-296-3427** and request an application be mailed to you.

### When can I apply for a Mail-In or Absentee Ballot?

- Voters can apply for a Mail-In or Absentee Ballot 50 days prior to an election. Applications received earlier will be held by the elections office until they can be officially processed. Your ballot will be mailed as soon as the ballot is ready and has been certified by the state.
- All applications for Mail-In and Absentee Ballots **must be received** by the elections office **no later than the Tuesday before Election Day. Post-marks do not apply.**

### When and where do I return my Mail-In or Absentee Ballot?

- All voted ballots **must** be returned to the Pike County Elections Office **no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day.**
- **Mail-In or Absentee Ballots cannot and will not be accepted at polling places.**

## How is my Mail-In or Absentee Ballot counted?

- After returning your ballot to your county elections office, your ballot is recorded as being received and your ballot is securely stored until after the polls close on Election Day. A computation team will begin counting Mail-In and Absentee Ballots at 8:00 pm on Election Day at the Pike County Administration Building. The counting of the ballots is advertised in local newspapers and open to the public.
- After the Mail-In and Absentee Ballots have been counted, the results from those ballots are added to the results of the votes cast at the polls and posted on the Pike County website [www.pikepa.org](http://www.pikepa.org).

## Can I still vote in person if I apply for a Mail-In or Absentee Ballot?

- No. Once a voter applies for a Mail-In Ballot or Absentee Ballot, that voter is not eligible to vote at the polls, however, if the voter was not able to return their Mail-In or Absentee Ballot to the elections office on time, they can be issued a Provisional Ballot at the polls.

## Why should I vote by mail?

- Voting by mail is secure and convenient! When you apply online and provide an email address you can track your ballot and receive alerts when your ballot is on its way to you and has been received by your elections office.
- Voting from the comfort of home gives you more time to select and research the candidates on the ballot so you can make better informed choices!
- We all lead busy lives and sometimes it can be difficult to schedule a trip to the polls around our daily obligations.
- During busy elections when a high turnout is expected, you can skip the hassle of finding parking and waiting in lines at the polls.
- Weather can play a factor here in Northeast PA .....no worries about getting out to the polls during inclement weather!

## What are the benefits of voting by mail?

- The new Mail-In Ballot makes voting easier and more accessible than ever! With no reason needed to request a Mail-In Ballot more voters have the opportunity to participate in our elections. Higher voter participation gives our communities the knowledge and confidence that they are being governed by officials that have been elected by a majority of the people.
- Pike County voters can have confidence in knowing that their Mail-In and Absentee Ballots are counted using the same secure and accurate software used to count ballots at the polls.
- No excuse Mail-In Ballots give all eligible Pennsylvania citizens the freedom to exercise their right to vote from just about anywhere, securely and hassle-free!

For more information visit [www.votesPA.com](http://www.votesPA.com) or contact the

Pike County Elections Office 570-296-3427

[www.pikepa.org](http://www.pikepa.org)