

Pennsylvania Primary Election Dates & Deadlines

Primary: Party Affiliation Deadline

The deadline to change party affiliation ahead of Pennsylvania's 2025 May 20th Primary Election is May 5, 2025. Your county Commissioner of Registration or your municipal clerk must receive the form by this deadline.

- A primary is an election that allows members of a political party to choose a candidate to represent them in an upcoming general election. In Pennsylvania, only voters who are registered members of a political party may participate in nominating that party's candidates. Currently, only the Republican and Democratic parties use a primary election system to select nominees.
- Unaffiliated voters (voters currently not affiliated with any party) have multiple options to declare a party, including in person at the polls.
- A registered voter currently affiliated with a political party who wishes to change their party affiliation must complete [a voter registration form](#) by May 5th, 2025 and on question three, check off, change of party.

Unaffiliated Voters:

All unaffiliated voters can declare their affiliation in person at the polls on Primary Election Day or during the early voting period.

- Unaffiliated Voters on the Permanent Vote-By-Mail list:
Unaffiliated voters who automatically receive Vote-By-Mail Ballots will not be sent ballots for the primary election. To receive a Vote-By-Mail Ballot, these voters must declare a party by filling out a party affiliation declaration form and returning it to the municipal clerk or county Commissioner of Registration by mail or in-person Vote-By-Mail application deadlines (see below).
- Unaffiliated voters not signed up to Vote-By-Mail that wish to do so:
Must declare their party and apply for a mail-in ballot by the Vote-By-Mail application deadlines (see below).

Primary: Voter Registration Deadline

The voter registration deadline for the May 20th Primary Election is May 5, 2025. Remember to re-register to vote if you change your name or address, or are no longer serving a sentence of incarceration. [You can register to vote online here](#) or print and mail a voter registration form to your County Commissioner of Registration or Superintendent of Elections.

[Not sure if your registration is up to date? Check now!](#)

Primary: Vote-by-Mail

How to Apply for a Vote-by-Mail-Ballot

- To apply through the mail, the Vote-By-Mail application must be received by the County Clerk by May 13, 2025. Do not wait until the last minute to apply if you want to Vote by mail!
- Voters can also apply for a Vote-By-Mail Ballot in-person at their County Clerk's office. There is also an emergency mail-in ballot that can be obtained [here](#).
- Vote by mail ballots for the primary must be received by the county clerk by 8pm.

You can check your Vote-By-Mail status using the [Track My Ballot Tool](#) or by contacting your county clerk.