Voting 101

Everything Students Need to Know About Casting a Ballot in 2020 and Beyond

Brought to you by the Allegheny Coalition for Student Voting and Engagement
Introduction

2020 is a pivotal year! This November, not only will federal elections take place (presidential and congressional), but state and local races will also be on the ballot. It’s also important to mention that 2020 is a census year, which means that the officials elected to office this year will be tasked with drawing new legislative districts across the country. Regardless of your political beliefs, a Republican, Democratic, or third-party victory will not be possible without record levels of voter turnout—especially among young voters. This year, more than ever, we need you to vote and mobilize!

As a team of students and faculty members at Allegheny College, we are issuing this guide to teach you the basics of voter registration, voting absentee or by mail, and voting in person. However, we would like to emphasize that this guide is Meadville-based—we will be giving you an overview of voting policies in Pennsylvania, and telling you how to vote as a citizen of Meadville. We understand that some of you would prefer to vote as a resident of your home state. If you fall under this category, more information can be found visiting vote.org, VOTE411, or your respective secretary of state's website.

Whether you choose to vote in person, absentee, by mail, in-state, out-of-state, on Election Day, before Election Day—these are all forms of voting, and voting in any fashion, at any time, is something our team supports! Please use the resources enclosed to help you register to vote (and actually turnout!), and then spread the word! Share this guide with five friends!

From our team to you, thank you for participating in our democracy. Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions!
Voter Registration

In PA, you can register to vote if you meet all three criteria:
• You are a citizen of the United States
• You are a resident of PA
• You are 18+ years old on Election Day

You can register using one of the following methods:
• Online, using this form
• Printing, completing, and then mailing this PDF to the Crawford County Voter Services Office
• Visiting the Voter Services Office in person, or in some PennDOT offices

Here’s the mailing address you will need:
Voter Services
903 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335

The deadline to register to vote is always 15 days before the primary or general election. For the 2020 election, this deadline is **October 19**. It is not wise to register on, or shortly before, the deadline—please give Voter Services employees ample time (at least one week) to process your application!

If you have previously registered to vote in PA, you can check your registration status [here](#).

The PA elections information website has been recently upgraded! For more information, your best bet is visiting [votespa.com](http://votespa.com).
### PENNSYLVANIA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

**1.** Are you a citizen of the United States of America? □ Yes □ No □
   Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? □ Yes □ No □
   If you checked “No” in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.

**2.** □ New Registration □ Change of Name □ Change of Address □ Change of Party □
I am a Federal or State employee and wish to retain my voting residence in the county where I last resided.

**3. a.** □ M □ F □
   Last Name □ Doe
   First Name □ John
   Middle Name/Initial □
   Jr Sr II III IV (circle if applicable)
   □ I DO NOT have a PA Driver’s License or Social Security Number.
   Place PA Driver’s License (DL) # here if applicable: 12345678
   If no PA DL #, place SS# (last 4 digits) here:

**4. a.** Address of residence: Include street and city. (Use map above if no street number or name.) (If only P.O. box, see above.)
   517 Park Avenue, Meadville
   Municipality where you live □ Crawford
   County where you live □
   Mailing Address (if different than address of residence) □ 520 N Main Street
   City □ Meadville
   State □ PA Zip Code □ 16335
   Telephone Number (Optional): □

**5. a.** Date of Birth □ 10/2/99 □
   Race (Optional) □ □
   Name on previous registration □ John Doe
   Address of previous registration (include street and city)
   □ 123 Main St, Somewhere, PA 00000
   County of previous registration □ Allegheny
   Year of previous registration □ 2017

**9.** □ Republican □ Democratic □ □
   Name and signature of person who assisted in the completion of this application □

**11.** I HEREBY DECLARE THAT:
(1) On the day of the next election I will have been a United States citizen for at least one month. I will be at least 18 years of age, and I will have resided in Pennsylvania and in my election district for at least 30 days;

(2) I am legally qualified to vote.

AND I HEREBY AFFIRM THAT the information I have provided in this registration declaration is true. I understand that this registration declaration will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit; and if the registration contains a materially false statement, I will be subject to penalties for perjury.

**12.** Voter Identification Number
   (If available – not necessary if you are registering to vote for the first time or if you do not know your number.)

**13.** Do you require assistance when voting? □ Yes □ No □
   Reason for assistance:

**Place signature with full name (or mark) below.**
(Please see Penalty for Falsifying Declaration.)

Print your name below □
John Doe □
Date □ 10/02/19 □
**Section 1:** This is perhaps the most important section on the application! Seriously, don't forget to fill it out.

**Section 2:** John Doe is an in-state student who previously registered back home. Because he wants to register as a Meadville resident, he selects “Change of Address”—but **only because he is from PA.** Out-of-state students wishing to register in Meadville will always need to select “New Registration”.

**Section 3b:** In-state students who have a PA driver’s license are strongly encouraged to submit that number. In-state students without this driver’s license, and everyone who is out-of-state, should use the last four digits of their Social Security number, or check the box denoting they have neither form of identification.

**Sections 4 + 5:** Many students get this part confused! John Doe lives in Walker Hall, not the Campus Center (CC), so we use Walker’s physical address in box 4. The CC address belongs in box 5. Also, Meadville is located in Crawford County, and “municipality” is not applicable.

**Section 8:** Again, this example is describing a student currently registered elsewhere in PA—out-of-state students, or anyone registering for the first time does not need to complete this section.

**Section 9:** Out of efforts to remain nonpartisan, we have not assigned a party affiliation to John Doe. However, **PA requires all voters to register as a Republican or a Democrat if they wish to vote in the primary.**

**Sections 10 + 13:** “Assistance” means that the voter has a hard time physically completing this application, or English is not their first language. An aide or translator are generally the only names you need to record here. In most cases, “No” is selected in box 13.

More information and voter registration FAQs can be found on [votespa.com](http://votespa.com), or get in touch with Coalition members listed at the end of this guide.
List of On-Campus Addresses

Allegheny Commons
326-340 Jefferson Street OR 500-512 Limber Street (varies between residents)

Allegheny Hall
404 Allegheny Street

Baldwin Hall
474 North Main Street

Brooks Hall (Hulings)
517 Park Avenue

Caflisch Hall
469 North Main Street

College Court
510 Highland Avenue

Crawford Hall
461 Highland Avenue

Delta Tau Delta
461 Highland Avenue

Edwards Hall
535 Highland Avenue
North Village 1 (Building A)
436 Highland Avenue

North Village 1 (Building B)
426 Highland Avenue

North Village 1 (Building C)
416 Highland Avenue

North Village 2
421 North Main Street

Phi Kappa Psi
430 East College Street

Ravine-Narvik Hall
547 East College Street

Schultz Hall
549 Park Avenue

Theta Chi
388 North Main Street

Walker Hall + Walker Annex
517 Park Avenue
Mail-In and Absentee Ballots

To vote absentee in PA, you must provide a reason for not being able to vote in person on Election Day. Acceptable excuses include business trips, physical disabilities, military service, religious observances, or attending a college/university outside of your precinct.

Here’s how to vote absentee:
- Complete and mail this application to Voter Services no later than one week before Election Day at 5 p.m. This year, the deadline is October 27.
- Complete and mail your absentee ballot to Voter Services. Because this ballot must be processed by 8 p.m. on Election Day, it is best to submit the ballot as soon as you receive it.

Mail-in ballots are a part of many PA electoral reforms included in a new law called Act 77. Unlike absentee ballots, you do not need to provide a reason to apply for a mail-in ballot, which means you can vote at a date and time that may be more convenient for you! This is especially helpful for students attending classes remotely because of a pandemic.

The application and submission deadlines for mail-in ballots are the same as absentee:
- You must send your application to Voter Services no later than one week before Election Day at 5 p.m.
- You must submit your mail-in ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day

Thanks to Act 77, you can also choose to join an annual mail-in list, which means you will annually receive mail-in ballots for an entire year, and you only need to renew your application once a year! For more information on this list, and other Act 77 reforms, visit (you guessed it) votespa.com.
If you plan to vote in person and on campus, you will need to know which polling precinct is home to your dorm address:

The campus is generally divided into two main precincts—if you live west of North Main Street, you will likely vote in the 1st Ward, 1st District (1-1). Meanwhile, if you live east of North Main Street, you will likely vote in the 2nd Ward, 3rd District (2-3). The Theta Chi house is in the 1st Ward, 2nd District (1-2).

This rule of thumb can also be applied to off-campus houses—North Main Street is a reliable boundary. If you live in on off-campus house, you can confirm your precinct here.
Election Day: Where Do I Vote?

The polling locations corresponding to each precinct are below:

**Meadville 1-1**
Grace Methodist Church Annex
828 North Main Street
Meadville, PA 16335

**Meadville 2-3**
First Christian Church
503 North Main Street Ext.
Meadville, PA 16335

**Meadville 1-2**
Emmanuel United Church of Christ
30 Park Avenue
Meadville, PA 16335

If this is your first time voting in Meadville, you will need to bring a form of **photo ID** with you to the polls—but even if you’re voting your 100th time, it’s safest to **always bring ID with you** when you vote. Your student ID is accepted, but bringing a backup form of ID, issued by a state or federal government, is also a good idea.

It’s also important to mention that our team will be working to provide **rides to the polls** on Election Day! Don’t let distance or bad weather prevent you from making your voice heard—stay tuned and watch for updates from us as the election approaches.
Important Deadlines

October 19 - deadline to register to vote in-person
October 20 - encouraged deadline to submit an absentee/mail-in ballot
October 27 - deadline to register to vote absentee or by mail for the general
November 3 - General Election Day! All absentee/mail-in ballots must be processed by 8 p.m. today.

Contact Us

Andrew Goodman Foundation (AGF)
Email:abloeser@allegheny.edu
Instagram:@agf_at_allegheny

Center for Political Participation (CPP)
Email:cpp@allegheny.edu
Facebook:@aclawandpolicy, @CenterForPoliticalParticipation
Instagram:@alleghenylawpolicy

Hillel
Email:hillel@allegheny.edu
Facebook:@AlleghenyHillel
Instagram:@alleghenyhillel

Rock The Vote PA
Email:rippern@allegheny.edu

Crawford County Voter Services
Ms. Rebecca Little
Director of Voter Services
903 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 333-7307