

Voting KYR FAQ

Disclaimer: The information below is for educational purposes and is not intended to be legal advice. Please be mindful of the publish date as this information may not reflect recent legal changes that could impact your rights.

“The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy.”— John Lewis

What is the legal framework surrounding my right to vote?

Your right to vote is protected by federal constitutional provisions and statutes, including the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act, and the Help America Vote Act. With that said, most election rules are controlled by state law. The Oklahoma Constitution protects your right to free and equal elections and prohibits others from infringing on your right to vote. It also requires the state Election Board and legislature to create comprehensive rules governing elections.

What is the Oklahoma State Election Board?

The Oklahoma State Election Board (“OSBE” or “the Board”) establishes specific rules and procedures for each stage of the election process. The Board is led by a Secretary, who serves as the chief state election officer and ensures compliance with state and federal law. The Board’s [website](#) is a good one-stop shop for voter information, and the Board can also be reached at info@elections.ok.gov.

What are the rules and deadlines surrounding voter registration?

You must register to vote at least twenty-four days before an election for your ballot to be counted. Check your registration status by entering your name and date of birth on the OK [Voter Portal website](#). If you are not registered, you can do so online through the Voter Portal or obtain an application at your County Election Board, most tag agencies, public libraries, or post offices. You may submit your application online, by mail, or in person at the County Election Board office. Once approved, your County Election Board will mail you a voter identification card, which you can use to verify your identity on election day if you do not have another government-issued ID.

What are the eligibility requirements to register to vote?

To register to vote, you must be a United States citizen, an Oklahoma resident, and at least 18 years old. If you are 17 and a half, you may pre-register and will be approved on your 18th birthday. You must provide an unexpired Oklahoma Driver’s License or State ID, or another valid ID issued by the United States government, the State of Oklahoma, or a federally recognized tribal government. For more information on the necessary identification documents, visit the [OSBE website](#).

Can I register to vote if I've been convicted of a felony?

Yes. If you were previously convicted of a felony and your sentence was NOT commuted, you may register once you have completed any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed any period of probation ordered by the court for the felony conviction, AND you are not currently incarcerated, on parole, on supervision, or on probation for any other felony conviction. If you were previously convicted of a felony and later received a commutation or pardon for the felony offense, you shall be eligible to vote if you are not currently incarcerated, on parole, on supervision, or on probation for another felony conviction.

Does Oklahoma allow for absentee voting?

Yes. You may vote early in person (in-person absentee voting), by mail, or by hand-delivering your ballot. No excuse or absentee ballot request is required for early in-person voting. Simply show up with valid identification to your authorized early voting location. Early voting is available from 8 AM to 6 PM on the Thursday and Friday before an election.

If you wish to vote absentee by mail or by hand-delivering your ballot, you must request an absentee ballot in advance. No special excuse is required, although specific absentee ballot options are available for physically incapacitated voters and caregivers, visually impaired voters, nursing home or veterans center residents or employees, military or overseas voters, emergency incapacitated voters, and first responders. The OSBE website provides links to request an absentee ballot. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 PM on the third Monday before an election (15 days).

When voting absentee by mail or hand delivery, you must submit your own ballot. The only exception is for physically incapacitated voters or their caregivers, who must apply for the "Physical Incapacitated Voters (and Caregivers)" ballot through the OSBE website. Hand-delivered absentee ballots must be received by your County Election Board by the close of business on the Monday before the election. Mailed absentee ballots must arrive at your County Election Board by 7 PM on election night.

What do I need to know to vote in person on election day?

Before election day, confirm your polling location using the [OK Voter Portal website](#). Make sure you bring identification when you vote. Your polling location will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM and, if you are still in line to vote after 7 PM, you may stay in line. So long as you've arrived by 7 PM, you are entitled to vote. If you show up to vote and officials say you're not registered, but you believe you are, you may still vote. You may also do the same if you don't have a valid ID. Your ballot will be deemed a "provisional ballot" and will be counted once officials have confirmed your registration status.

You may request a new ballot if you make a mistake, and if voting machines are unavailable, you can ask for a paper ballot. Do not bring or wear items that advocate for or against

any candidate or issue on the ballot, such as campaign t-shirts. Oklahoma law requires employers to provide at least two hours to vote, but you must notify your superiors at least three days in advance.

What rights do I have while voting?

- If you have a disability or need assistance at the polls or early voting site, or if you wish to use an audio-assisted ballot, inform a poll worker. You are also entitled to help with completing your voter registration application. Voters with disabilities have the right to necessary accommodations to ensure fair and free participation in elections.
- You have the right to privacy while voting. No one may enter your voting enclosure or interfere with your ballot. Reporters may briefly enter but cannot observe your selections or interfere. Your party affiliation is public, but your vote remains private. Survivors of intimate partner violence may be eligible for additional privacy protections through the [Address Confidentiality Program](#).
- You do not need to speak English or pass any test to vote.
- You have the right to vote free from intimidation, and law enforcement cannot interfere with your right to vote. If approached by law enforcement, you are not required to answer questions and may refuse searches of your belongings. If detained, you may state that you wish to remain silent and speak to an attorney. Do not flee, lie, or physically resist, as this may result in additional charges.
- You can report voter intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline:
 - English: 405-849-5220
 - 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

Which websites are helpful for informing me about my voting rights?

- OK Voter Portal: <https://okvoterportal.okelections.gov>
- State Election Board website: <https://oklahoma.gov/elections.html>
- Find Your Legislators: <https://okpolicy.org/resources/find-your-legislator/>
- Oklahoma Voter Guide: <https://oklahomavoice.com/voter-guides/2026-oklahoma-primary-election/>
- ACLU Know Your Voting Rights: <https://www.acluok.org/know-your-rights/voting-rights-2/>