



Delaware Voters' Guide for Survivors of Domestic Violence

August 2024

This guide will include information on:

- Voter registration deadlines
- Voting dates and deadlines
- How to register to vote
- Voter registration for the unhoused and sheltered survivors
- Absentee Voting vs. Early Voting
- Survivor safety and confidentiality
- Additional resources for voters

Voter Registration and Deadlines:

What is the difference between a Primary and General Election?

- A **Primary Election** is held by political parties to select their nominees for the offices to be elected at the upcoming General Election. In a primary, Republicans run against Republicans and Democrats run against other Democrats. During a Primary voters may choose only one party to vote for. In the state of Delaware, you must be registered under one party to vote for that party's candidates (i.e. if you are registered as a Republican you can only pick from the Republican Party candidates).
- The **General Election** determines which candidates will occupy the offices that are up for election. In two-party (Democrat vs. Republican) races, candidates that were nominated at the Primary election compete for races along with any candidates without political party affiliation. In this election, you can be registered under any party and vote for any candidate (i.e. if you are registered as a Republican or a Democrat, you can vote for either the Republican or the Democrat candidate).

The deadline to register for Delaware's Primary Election was August 17, 2024. Those who are registered as either Democrat or Republican can vote in the Primary Election on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

The deadline to register for the Tuesday, November 5 General Election is **Saturday, October 12, 2024.**



Delaware State Primary Election Day: Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Absentee and online early voting ballots must be received by: Friday, November 1, 2024
General Election Day: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

There are three ways to vote in Delaware: Absentee voting, if eligible, in-person Early Voting at any early voting site in your county during the 10 day early voting period, or in-person Election Day voting at your assigned polling place. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Department of Elections office in your county by 8 p.m. on Election Night, November 5, 2024 in order to count.



For more information, please contact the Office of the Attorney General at (800) 870-1790.

Are you registered to vote?

- Check to see if you are registered to vote, and where you are registered to vote! You can check voter registration information and polling place locations at <https://ivote.de.gov/VoterView>.
- To register to vote, or update an existing registration, DE voters have the following options:
 - Online at the [State of Delaware Voter Portal](#) (requires valid state-issued ID or driver's license)
 - At any [Department of Elections office](#) statewide
 - Download, print, complete and submit a [voter registration application](#) to the Department
 - Call the [Department of Elections](#) and have a voter registration application mailed to you to complete and submit
 - At a voter registration event hosted by a [Delaware Organized Voter Registration \(OVR\)](#) Program group of trained voter registrars
 - Military and overseas citizens can fill out an application using [Delaware's Online Registration System](#) or at the [FVAP WEB Site](#) and then mail, email or fax the application to the [Department's Office for your county](#).
- Participants of the [Address Confidentiality Program \(ACP\)](#) are still able and permitted to vote! New ACP participants will receive ACP voter registration information forms upon ACP enrollment.[1]

What about the address for unhoused or sheltered survivors?

- In Delaware, people do not need a mailing address to register to vote. If you don't have a fixed residence or are experiencing homelessness, you may register by completing the [proper registration form](#). If registering in-person you must provide **two pieces** of identification containing your name. Additionally, one of the pieces must include the address that you listed on the application. The address can be a shelter, agency or another location where you receive your mail.
- If they are currently receiving mail or residing at the domestic violence program shelter/hotel they can put that mailing address as theirs. Please use the program's administrative office physical address, not the P.O. Box. You don't need to include the program name. (Please note the section above on survivor safety and address confidentiality regarding potential safety risks due to voter rolls being subject to public inspection).

[1] According to the Delaware Code, "a person may petition the Superior Court for an order to have that person's own address kept confidential upon a showing of a legitimate need and lawful purpose. A person's participation in Department of Justice's Address Confidentiality Program shall constitute a legitimate need and lawful purpose for the purposes of this section. Upon submission to the State Election Commissioner and department of elections for the county in which the voter seeks to register of a certified copy of the court order granting confidentiality, the person's address shall be removed from all voter records available for public inspection, as long as the submission is not 21 days prior to an election, in which case the person's address shall be removed from the voter records within 7 days after the election." You can also visit Title 11, Chapter 96: Address Confidentiality Program or Title 15, Chapter 13: Confidentiality of Addresses

Absentee Voting vs. Early Voting:

- Absentee voting by mail is a way someone can still cast their vote in the event they cannot go to an in-person Polling Place on Election Day. In Delaware, there are 8 reasons listed on the absentee ballot application that allow someone to receive an absentee ballot. Learn more about [Absentee Voting for Delaware Citizens](#).
- Sometimes circumstances make it hard or impossible for you to vote on Election Day. However, early voting allows you to vote in person before Election Day. Delaware will offer early voting at designated sites, and dates are now available on the [Department of Elections website](#).
- If survivors want to vote absentee, they need to request an [absentee ballot](#) in addition to registering to vote. They can do this by downloading, printing and mailing the [ballot application](#) to the county elections office. They can also apply for an absentee ballot in person at the county elections office. They will receive their absentee ballot at the mailing address listed on their registration form.
- For some survivors, especially those still living with their abusers, completing a ballot at home and mailing it may not be safe, or free from the abuser's interference. Therefore, voting in-person may be a better option. If they vote in-person, they may vote at an early voting site during the early voting period or at their assigned polling place on Election Day. Election officers will ask voters for ID. If a voter does not have ID, election officers will verify their registration, and once confirmed, a voter will fill out an Affidavit of Affirmation of Voter Identity form and will be able to vote.
- Survivors can choose whatever voting option is best for them. There are benefits and drawbacks to both. Survivors may fear running into their abuser at the polls on Election Day. Absentee voting by mail is helpful to avoid this and protect their safety.



What about survivor safety and confidentiality?

- Personal voter information including the voter's address could be made available through public inquiry putting the survivor's safety at risk.
- If the survivor is in [Delaware's Address Confidentiality Program \(ACP\)](#), be sure they have updated their voter registration to replace their confidential physical address with the substitute mailing address provided by ACP. This will ensure the public voter roll lists the ACP address and protects the survivor's confidential address.
- For survivors who are not yet enrolled in ACP, please contact The Department of Justice, Criminal Division ACP Director, Donna Lindsey (donna.lindsey@delaware.gov), 302-577-8312.

Additional Resources for Voters:

- NNEDV, [Safe Voting Tips for Survivors](#)
- National Low Income Housing Coalition, [“You Don’t Need A Home to Vote”](#)
- [Delaware Department of Elections](#)
- [Delaware Voting Information by the ACLU Delaware](#), including information on all candidates
- Election Protection Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE
- [Registering to Vote Without A Fixed Address](#)
- [Online Delaware Voter Registration Application](#)
- [Delaware Application for an Absentee Ballot](#)
- [Absentee Voting for Delaware Citizens](#)
- [Address Confidentiality Program \(ACP\)](#) enrollment through DE Attorney General’s Office



Scan here for a list of resources with links mentioned in this packet.

Thank you to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence for sharing their [Voting in PA for Survivors of Domestic Violence Guide](#) with DCADV!

**We appreciate your guidance and support for all survivors.
GREAT resources!**