

**Residential Community Voting  
Preferred Presidential Primary  
March 19, 2024**

The Preferred Presidential Primary is fast approaching! Here are some helpful tips and deadlines to be aware of as you help your residents exercise their right to vote. Residents have the right to participate as little or as much as they want, in the voting process. If a resident does not want to vote, that is okay.

Your county may also have local elections on the ballot, if so now is the time to invite candidates of both parties to speak with the residents.

Contact your local county board of elections to request election officials visit your community to properly aid residents with updating their voter registration, requesting an absentee ballot, ballot submissions, and election authorities may also hand deliver and return your residents ballot.

Contact your local county board of elections at:

[ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/](https://ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/)

**Feb. 20, 2024** - Is the deadline for a resident to update their voter registration information. This is especially important for a resident that has just moved. Visit [olvr.ohiosos.gov](https://olvr.ohiosos.gov) or preferably request election authorities to visit your community to assist residents.

**Now thru March 16 (noon), 2024** - Residents may request an absentee or vote by mail ballot. Visit: [ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a\\_english.pdf](https://ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_english.pdf) or request election authorities visit your community to aid residents with absentee ballot requests.

It is important to remember that you may have residents who do not wish to participate or are unable to participate in the voter registration or absentee ballot request process due to cognitive impairment. It is unlawful for anyone to fill out voter registration and ballot requests for such residents. A Texas social worker was arrested for submitting voter registration applications without voter consent and an employee at a nursing home in Michigan was sentenced to jail for forging signatures on absentee ballot requests.

**There are some important steps that the facility may take to protect their residents.**

Identify your facilities vulnerabilities

- Are staff trained in voting laws?
- Does my facility have good management oversight?
- Is there un-monitored “assistance” with ballot requests and/or submissions?
- Are outside groups asking staff to fill out ballots or ballot requests for residents?

**Feb. 21, 2024** - Residents who requested absentee ballots will soon be receiving them. If the residents ballot is mailed, it is important to protect the ballot chain of custody - ballot should be secured and no one should be handling your residents' ballot - unless requested by the resident. Residents may have their ballot delivered and returned by election authorities, along with election authorities providing assistance with ballot submissions, if requested.

**Feb. 21 - March 17, 2024** - Advance In Person Voting. Many residents take pride in participating in the election process at a polling place. Bring your ID! To find your polling location and verify it is handicapped accessible visit: [ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/](https://ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/early-voting/)

**Advance In Person Voting has many benefits for a resident including:**

- Early voting often offers decreased wait times. If there is a line and if they are 75+ or disabled, they may go to the front of the line (per federal law)
- Election judges from both political parties are present for checks and balances, protecting your residents voting rights
- Early in-person voting allows your resident to receive correct answers to their questions from election officials who have been trained and are knowledgeable on voting laws.
- Curbside voting can be scheduled ahead of time

**March 19, 2024** - Election Day voting. Bring your ID! To find your polling location and verify it is handicapped accessible visit: [ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/](https://ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/)

**What are my responsibilities as a director?**

- Protecting residents that may be considered “non compos mentis”. If the resident cannot express they wish to vote, they should not have a ballot request filled out for them or a ballot marked for them
- Educating and training staff on the voting laws in your state
- Being aware of, and enforce ballot assistance laws
- Educating staff that it is never “ok” to tell a resident who to vote for
- Protecting staff from outside groups that offer financial compensation for ballot trafficking
- Protecting residents from outside groups that may coerce their choices, fill out their ballots and/or offer to take the ballots with the promise to submit them
- Ensure ballots are protected and secured at all times

It's important for facilities to weigh their role carefully. Conduct a self-assessment to ensure you are providing impartial and unbiased assistance if you are asked to help with ballot requests or ballot submissions. Utilize your local election authorities for residents requesting aid for voter registration, absentee ballot requests, ballot assistance, and for proper ballot chain of custody.

It is imperative that residential communities take their role in protecting their residents seriously. Only with continued strong leadership can residential communities safeguard the residents. By protecting your residents, you will also be protecting your staff and your facility.

Have questions or want further information? Please contact our National Training Coordinator, Laura Williams, OTR/L at [Laura.Williams@centerforvulnerablevoters.org](mailto:Laura.Williams@centerforvulnerablevoters.org) or visit [centerforvulnerablevoters.org](https://centerforvulnerablevoters.org).