



Pennsylvania
Department of State

College Voting Guidance

Date: August 5, 2026

Version: 1.0

Background

Students at Pennsylvania's colleges and universities (higher education institutions or "HEIs") who meet the citizenship, age, and residency eligibility criteria may be registered to vote in Pennsylvania. A student's residence may be the place where they reside while attending an HEI.

The Department of State ("Department") and county boards of elections ("BOEs") receive consistent questions about student registration and voting, and the Department issues this guidance to answer these common questions and to assist students, HEIs, and county BOEs in a smooth election administration process.

Preparing for Student Applicants

Clear and consistent communication between BOEs and HEIs can facilitate the receipt and processing of applications, records, and balloting materials. The Department recommends that BOEs designate a point of contact for administrators and staff of HEIs in their county and work to establish communication plans to address any pain points.

Appendix A of this guidance contains a list of HEIs (main and branch campuses), alphabetically by county, for reference in reaching out for contacts, so BOEs can ensure productive conversations with every HEI in their county. Regular communication with a long-term contact (i.e., a staff member, not a student volunteer) at an HEI allows for timely discussion with the HEI about, e.g., any voter registration issues that may be occurring on their campus, planning for any voting drives the HEI may wish to organize, and any changes to in-person polling places on or near campus.

Voter Registration

Address Formatting

A commonly raised question concerning student voting is the proper formatting of campus addresses. Many HEIs may designate a mailing address for their students that differs from the precinctable registration address. For example, an HEI may set up a central mail room where students pick up their mail, but this address is not the student's dormitory address. Some HEIs assign a random P.O. Box for pick up each time a student receives a piece of mail.

County practices vary as to which of a student's addresses they will accept for voter registration purposes. As a result, voter registration applications and mail ballot applications may not accurately capture addresses in a way that permits the county to reliably enter both pieces of information. Student voters may also change voting addresses more frequently than some other voters (because of moving to a new residence hall each academic year), which can pose issues for counties determining how to allocate resources across voting precincts.



In addition, some HEIs have new residential addresses (required by local emergency services) whose length can pose challenges for data entry into the SURE system.

So that counties may proactively answer any questions HEIs may have, the Department recommends that each BOE complete the form attached as Appendix B and distribute it to contacts at HEIs in their county (provided in Appendix A). The county should also post the completed form prominently on its website. Along with providing the information for HEIs to follow in registering students, the county should encourage the HEIs to widely distribute the information about proper address format to students and to any third parties that contact the HEIs about running voter registration drives on campus.

County Preference Form for Higher Education Institutions	
Instructions: This form is intended to communicate to higher education institutions the county board of elections' preferences for formatting on-campus addresses when students register to vote, as well as the county's preferred contacts for campus voting issues. Please fill out this form, distribute it to the higher education institutions in your county, and post publicly on the county board of elections' website.	
County	1
Point of contact for general inquiries	2
Point of contact for questions about voting drives	3
Point of contact for discussions about location of on-campus precinct(s)	4
Example campus address for voter registration	5
Student mailing address format, if different from voter registration address	6
Campus address formatting instructions	7

This form allows the county to indicate:

1. the best point of contact for general inquiries;
2. a point of contact and best practices for HEIs that want to conduct voting drives;
3. a point of contact to discuss on-campus precinct locations; and
4. the county's preference for college address formatting (e.g., residential, mailing, uniform address for all students).

Other Registration Questions

Students may not – and frequently do not – live at the same address for the entire time they are at an HEI. BOEs should advise HEIs to inform students of the need to promptly update their addresses with every move.

BOEs should also be prepared to receive voter registration forms from certain student disability services offices at HEIs across the Commonwealth. The provision of voter registration services to these populations is mandated by the National Voter Registration Act.¹

Students who live in Pennsylvania but do not have a PennDOT ID are, nonetheless, eligible to register to vote in the Commonwealth and to request a mail ballot. These students may register using the last four digits of their Social Security number (SSN) or by checking the appropriate box if they have neither an SSN nor a PennDOT ID.

BOEs should stress to the HEIs how important it is for students to regularly check their physical mailboxes for communications about their voter registration status and voting generally, not just when anticipating a mail ballot.

Third-Party Voter Registration Drives

The Department provides and updates, in consultation with BOEs, a [guide for third parties running voter registration drives](#). This document offers best practices for third-party organizations, many of which run registration drives on college campuses. The Department recommends that BOEs make HEIs aware of this guide, so that they may have a better understanding of the drives that may be occurring on their campuses. The organizers of these drives may reach out to HEIs, and it is important that HEIs be able to articulate the same best practices as BOEs and the Department.

During regular communication with HEIs, BOEs should encourage HEIs to provide educational resources to students about the rules for registering and voting in Pennsylvania, including that students have the option of registering at college or at home and how to properly complete their addresses.

API

The Department offers an API program that HEIs may find beneficial in ensuring that their students are submitting complete, accurate, and legible applications to the county election office. [More information about this program is available on the Department of State's website.](#)

¹ 52 U.S.C. § 20501 *et seq.*

Mail Voting

Requesting a Mail Ballot

All eligible voters in Pennsylvania, including students, can choose to vote by mail for any reason. Students are sometimes confused as to whether to request that a mail ballot be sent to their Pennsylvania college address or their home address. Additionally, the first screen of the online mail ballot application asks applicants to enter their name “as it appears on their PA Driver’s License or PennDOT ID card.”

It is important to remember that in Pennsylvania, a voter is required to provide a PennDOT ID *only if they have one*. Properly registered student voters without a PennDOT ID who wish to vote by mail are encouraged to apply for a mail ballot by paper, in person at their BOE office, or online at vote.pa.gov/applymailballot. If they have a Social Security number, they can use the last four digits for mail ballot application purposes in lieu of a PennDOT ID number.

Students can decide to indicate they would like to be placed on [the permanent list of mail voters](#). Placement on this list allows a voter to be automatically mailed a ballot for all elections for which that voter is eligible during that calendar year. BOEs may wish to advise HEIs that this option may not be the best choice for students, given that students may change addresses frequently. To avoid problems, HEIs will need to advise students who move to update their address on the permanent list as soon as they change addresses.

Use of Drop Boxes

There are several ways voters can return their mail ballots: by mail, in person at their BOE office, or in person at a satellite office or drop box designated by their county.

If a student is not registered in the county in which their HEI is located (and is, for example, registered in their home Pennsylvania county), the student may not realize that they need to mail their ballot back to their home county rather than putting it in a drop box where their HEI is located. BOEs should request that HEIs actively educate students that the county that issued the mail ballot must receive the ballot back for tabulation. BOEs should also consider placing a notice on their drop boxes indicating that they are not the proper receptacle for ballots issued by another county.

Printed Signatures

Print lettering for signatures on the outer mail ballot declaration envelope should be accepted. There is no requirement in the Election Code that voters sign their ballots in cursive; indeed, voters are permitted to sign with a “mark,” so there is no justification for rejecting a hand-printed signature.

In-Person Voting

Student Precincts: Location

The best practice for in-person student voting is to consider a polling location (or multiple co-located polling locations) **on campus** or within a short walking distance or shuttle bus ride from campus, as college students may be less likely to have access to a car. HEIs may have opinions about ideal polling locations or changing where the current locations are, and this is another area where clear and regular communication between BOEs and HEIs is essential.

Student Precincts: Provisional Voting

For many reasons, college students may become confused about where they are registered to vote. This may cause students to present themselves at either their HEI precinct or their home precinct when they are registered at the other. This may lead to their casting a provisional ballot instead of a regular ballot, which may be counted only in part or not at all, depending on whether their correct precinct and the precinct at which they cast a provisional ballot are in the same county. BOEs should communicate this potential problem to HEIs as part of the voter education HEIs should conduct.

The Department recommends that student precincts keep a higher number of provisional ballots on hand than other precincts.

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Version	Date	Description
1.0	8/5/2026	Initial document release

Appendix A: Pennsylvania HEIs by County (Main and Branch Campuses)

Adams

Gettysburg College	300 N Washington St, Gettysburg, PA 17325
HACC-Gettysburg	731 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Allegheny

Carlow University	3333 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Carnegie Mellon University	5000 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Chatham University	107 Woodland Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Community College of Allegheny County	808 Ridge Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Duquesne University	600 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15282
La Roche University	9000 Babcock Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Penn State Greater Allegheny	4000 University Dr, McKeesport, PA 15132
Pittsburgh Technical College	1111 McKee Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
Point Park University	201 Wood St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Robert Morris University	6001 University Blvd, Moon Twp, PA 15108
University of Pittsburgh	4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Armstrong

Indiana University of PA - Northpointe	167 Northpointe Blvd, Freeport, PA 16229
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Beaver

Community College of Beaver County	1 Campus Drive, Monaca, PA 15061
Geneva College	3200 College Ave, Beaver Falls, PA 15010
Penn State Beaver	100 University Drive, Monaca, PA 15061

Berks

Albright College	1621 N 13th St, Reading, PA 19604
Alvernia University	400 St Bernardine St, Reading, PA 19607
Kutztown University of PA	15200 Kutztown Rd, Kutztown, PA 19530
Penn State Altoona	3000 Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16601
Penn State Berks	1801 Broadcasting Rd, Reading, PA 19610
Reading Area Community College	10 South Second Street, Reading, PA 19602

Blair

Penn State Altoona	3000 Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16601
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Bradford

Lackawanna College	1024 S Main St, Towanda, PA 18848
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Bucks

Bucks County Community College	275 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940
Bucks CC-Lower Bucks	1304 Veterans Highway, Bristol, PA 19007
Bucks CC-Upper Bucks	1 Hillendale Road, Perkasie, PA 18944
Cairn University	200 Manor Ave, Langhorne, PA 19047
Delaware Valley University	700 E Butler Ave, Doylestown, PA 18901
Penn State Abington	1600 Woodland Rd, Abington, PA 19001

Butler

Butler County Community College	107 College Drive, Butler, PA 16002
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	1 Morrow Way, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Cambria

Mount Aloysius College	7373 Admiral Peary Hwy, Cresson, PA 16630
Penn Highlands Community College	101 Community College Way, Johnstown, PA 15904
Saint Francis University	132 Franciscan Way, Loretto, PA 15940
University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown	450 Schoolhouse Road Johnstown, PA 15904

Centre

Penn State University	201 Old Main, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802
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Chester

Delaware CC-Downingtown	100 Bond Drive, Downingtown, PA 19335
Immaculata University	1145 West King Road, Immaculata Dr, PA 19345

Lincoln University	1570 Baltimore Pike, Lincoln University, PA 19352
Penn State Great Valley	30 East Swedesford Road, Malvern, PA 19355
University of Valley Forge of the Assemblies of God	1401 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460
West Chester University of Pennsylvania	700 S High St, West Chester, PA 19383

Clarion

Pennsylvania Western University-Clarion	840 Wood St, Clarion, PA 16214
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Clearfield

Commonwealth University-Lock Haven-Clearfield	201 University Dr, Clearfield, PA 16830
Penn State Dubois	1 College Place, DuBois, PA 15801

Clinton

Commonwealth University-Lock Haven	401 N Fairview St, Lock Haven, PA 17745
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Columbia

Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg	400 E 2nd St, Bloomsburg, PA 17815
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Crawford

Allegheny College	520 N Main St, Meadville, PA 16335
University of Pittsburgh-Titusville	504 East Main Street, Titusville, PA 16354

Cumberland

Central Penn College	600 Valley Rd, Summerdale, PA 17093
Dickinson College	28 N College St, Carlisle, PA 17013
Messiah University	One College Ave., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Penn State University Dickinson Law	150 S College St, Carlisle, PA 17013
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	1871 Old Main Dr, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Dauphin

HACC	1 HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110
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Harrisburg University of Science and Technology	326 Market St, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Penn State Harrisburg	777 W Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057
Penn State University Hershey Med Center	700 HMC Crescent Road, Hershey, PA 17033
Widener University/Harrisburg	3800 Vartan Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Delaware

Cheyney University of PA	1837 Township Dr, Cheyney, PA 19319
Delaware County Community College	901 South Media Line Road, Media, PA 19063
Eastern University	1300 Eagle Rd, St Davids, PA 19087
Haverford College	370 Lancaster Ave, Haverford, PA 19041
Neumann University	1 Neumann Dr, Aston, PA 19014
Penn State Brandywine	25 Yearsley Mill Rd, Media, PA 19063
Pennsylvania Institute of Technology	800 Manchester Ave, Media, PA 19063
Swarthmore College	500 College Ave, Swarthmore, PA 19081
Valley Forge Military College	1001 Eagle Rd, Wayne, PA 19087
Villanova University	800 Lancaster Ave, Villanova, PA 19085
Widener University / Main	One University Pl, Chester, PA 19013

Erie

Erie County Community College	2403 W 8th St., Erie PA 16505
Gannon University	109 University Square, Erie, PA 16541
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine	1858 W Grandview Blvd, Erie, PA 16509
Mercyhurst University	501 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16546
Pennsylvania Western University-Edinboro	219 Meadville St, Edinboro, PA 16444
Penn State Erie	4701 College Drive, Erie, PA 16563

Fayette

Penn State Fayette	2201 University Dr, Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
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Franklin

Penn State Mont Alto	1 Campus Drive, Mont Alto, PA 17237
Wilson College	1015 Philadelphia Ave, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Greene

Waynesburg University	51 W College St, Waynesburg, PA 15370
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Huntingdon

Juniata College	1700 Moore St, Huntingdon, PA 16652
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Indiana

Indiana University of Pennsylvania	1011 South Drive, Indiana, PA 15705
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Jefferson

Indiana University of PA - Punxsutawney	1012 Winslow St, Punxsutawney, PA 15767
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Lackawanna

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine	521 Pine Street, Scranton, PA 18509
Johnson College	3427 N Main Ave, Scranton, PA 18508
Keystone College	1 College Rd, La Plume, PA 18440
Lackawanna College	501 Vine Street, Scranton, PA 18509
Clarks Summit University	538 Venard Rd, Clarks Summit, PA 18411
Marywood University	2300 Adams Ave, Scranton, PA 18509
Penn State Scranton	120 Ridgeview Dr, Dunmore, PA 18512
University of Scranton	800 Linden St, Scranton, PA 18510

Lancaster

Elizabethtown College	1 Alpha Dr, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Franklin and Marshall College	637 College Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603
HACC-Lancaster	1641 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602
Lancaster Bible College	901 Eden Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601
Millersville University of PA	40 Dilworth Rd, Millersville, PA 17551
Pennsylvania College of Art & Design	204 N Prince St, Lancaster, PA 17603
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology	750 E King St, Lancaster, PA 17602

Lawrence

Westminster College	319 S Market St, New Wilmington, PA 16172
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Lebanon

HACC-Lebanon	735 Cumberland St., Lebanon, PA 17042
Lebanon Valley College	101 College Ave, Annville, PA 17003

Lehigh

Cedar Crest College	100 College Dr, Allentown, PA 18104
DeSales University	2755 Station Ave, Center Valley, PA 18034
East Stroudsburg University – Lehigh Valley Center	60 W Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
Lehigh Carbon Community College	4525 Education Park Drive Schnecksville, PA. 18078
Muhlenberg College	2400 W Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104
Penn State Lehigh Valley	2809 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley, PA 18034
Respect Graduate School	2200 Industrial Dr, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Luzerne

Wilkes University	84 W South St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
Luzerne CC-Hazleton	100 West Broad Street, Hazleton, PA 18201
Penn State Hazleton	76 University Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202
Penn State Wilkes-Barre	44 University Drive, Dallas, PA 18612
King's College	133 North River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Lycoming

Penn College of Technology	1 College Ave, Williamsport, PA 17701
Lycoming College	One College Place, Williamsport, PA 17701

McKean

University of Pittsburgh-Bradford	300 Campus Drive, Bradford, PA 16701
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Mercer

Grove City College	100 Campus Dr, Grove City, PA 16127
Penn State Shenango	147 Shenango Ave, Sharon, PA 16146
Thiel College	75 College Ave, Greenville, PA 16125

Monroe

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania	200 Prospect St, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
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Montgomery

American College of Financial Services	630 Allendale Road #400, King of Prussia, PA 19046
Arcadia University	450 S Easton Rd, Glenside, PA 19038
Bryn Athyn College of New Church	2945 College Drive, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009
Bryn Mawr College	101 N Merion Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Gratz College	7605 Old York Rd, Melrose Park, PA 19027
Gwynedd Mercy University	1325 Sumneytown Pike, Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437
Harcum College	750 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Manor College	700 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046
MCCC-Pottstown	101 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464
Montgomery County Community College	340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College	1299 Church Rd, Wyncote, PA 19095
Rosemont College	1400 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Ursinus College	601 E Main St, Collegeville, PA 19426
Won Institute of Graduate Studies	800 Jacksonville Rd, Warminster, PA 18974

Northampton

International Institute for Restorative Practices	531 Main St, Bethlehem, PA 18018
Lafayette College	730 High St, Easton, PA 18042
Lehigh University	27 Memorial Dr W, Bethlehem, PA 18015
Moravian University	1200 Main St, Bethlehem, PA 18018
Northampton Community College	3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020

Philadelphia

Community College of Philadelphia	4725 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19139
Chestnut Hill College	9601 Germantown Ave #20, Philadelphia, PA 19118
Curtis Institute of Music	1726 Locust St, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Drexel University	3141 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104
Holy Family University	9801 Frankford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19114
La Salle University	1900 West Olney Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19141
Moore College of Art and Design	1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Peirce College	1608 Walnut St Suite 1900, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	4170 City Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131
Saint Joseph's University	5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131
String Theory School of Design	1600 Vine St #8th, Philadelphia, PA 19102
Temple University	1801 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122
Thomas Jefferson University	4201 Henry Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144
University of Pennsylvania	University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA 19104
Walnut Hill College	4207 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Schuylkill

Penn State Schuylkill	200 University Dr, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
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Snyder

Penn View Bible Institute	125 Penn View Dr, Penns Creek, PA 17862
Susquehanna University	514 University Ave, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Tioga

Commonwealth University-Mansfield	31 S Academy St, Mansfield, PA 16933
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Union

Bucknell University	One Dent Dr, Lewisburg, PA 17837
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Warren

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College	300 2nd Avenue, Warren, PA 16365
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Washington

Pennsylvania Western University-California	250 University Ave, California, PA 15419
Washington and Jefferson College	60 S Lincoln St, Washington, PA 15301

Westmoreland

Penn State New Kensington	3550 7th Street Rd, New Kensington, PA 15068
Saint Vincent College	300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650
Seton Hill University	1 Seton Hill Dr, Greensburg, PA 15601
University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg	150 Finoli Drive Greensburg, PA 15601
Westmoreland County Community College	145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697

York

HACC-York	2010 Pennsylvania Ave., York, PA 17404
Penn State York	1031 Edgecomb Ave, York, PA 17403
York College of Pennsylvania	441 Country Club Rd, York, PA 17403



Appendix B: Fillable PDF to Distribute to HEIs

[Click here to view the fillable form](#)

County Preference Form for Higher Education Institutions

Instructions:

This form is intended to communicate to higher education institutions the county board of elections' preferences for formatting on-campus addresses when students register to vote, as well as the county's preferred contacts for campus voting issues. Please fill out this form, distribute it to the higher education institutions in your county, and post publicly on the county board of elections' website.

County	1			
Point of contact for general inquiries	2	Name		
		Email	Phone	
Point of contact for questions about voting drives:	3	Name		
		Email	Phone	
Point of contact for discussions about location of on-campus precinct(s):	4	Name		
		Email	Phone	
Example campus address for voter registration	5	Name		
		Street Address		Apt. #
		City/Town	State PA	Zip Code
Student mailing address format, if different from voter registration address	6	Name		
		Street Address		Apt. #
		City/Town	State PA	Zip Code
Campus address formatting instructions	7	Additional instructions		