



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PREPARED FOR THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

### Pulaski County Election Commission



**Q: I requested an absentee ballot but decided to early vote. Can I drop my unvoted absentee ballot to a poll worker at the vote site?**

**No.** Absentee ballots may not be returned to a poll worker. However, a voter who applied for an absentee ballot will be offered a provisional ballot, and it will be incumbent upon the voter to dispose of the unused **absentee** ballot.

**Q: Do I have to remove my mask when I show my ID to the election clerk at the poll?**

Per policy of the PCEC, election officials will ask you to briefly reveal your face for the purpose of verifying your **identity**.

**Q: The news reported that the county buildings are still closed. What does that mean for the downtown location?**

The Pulaski County Regional Building at 501 W. Markham is an early vote location and an election day vote center and is open to voters, poll watchers, and limited media and public access based on the size of the room and based on COVID19 protocols. Election Processes will also be livestreamed for public viewing via YouTube (see [www.votepulaski.net](http://www.votepulaski.net)).

**Q: I don't want a poll worker touching my ID. What can I do?**

Poll workers have been instructed to not touch a voter's **ID**.

**Q: Are voters required to wear masks?**

Voters are not required to wear **masks**; however, it is strongly encouraged. Masks are available upon entry.

**Q: The county executive order states all persons entering a county building must wear a mask, but I have a health condition. Does that apply to me?**

**No.** This requirement does not apply to voters.

**Q: I am planning on attending the canvassing of absentee ballots as a poll watcher. Is this allowed?**

**Yes,** qualified **poll watchers** are permitted to be present for the canvassing of absentee ballots.

**Q: What room is the election night meeting? Can the public observe?**

The meeting will be held in the Jeffrey Hawkins room. The public observe the meeting via livestream, and qualified poll watchers and **limited media may be admitted** in compliance with COVID 19 safety protocols.

**Q: How long does the election commission have to count the absentees?**

Arkansas law allows for absentee ballots to be counted at **8:30 a.m. on election day** and counting will continue until complete.

**Q: When will they start opening absentees? Will this be live streamed?**

**Only the outer envelope of the Absentee Ballots will be opened beginning at 8:30 a.m. October 19, 2020 and not until election day will the inner envelope be opened and ballot counted per Executive Order and Arkansas Law.** Yes, it will be live streamed.

**Q: The state order requires notice of canvassing. When will this be published and where?**

The notice was published in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on **October 11, 2020** and again on **October 18, 2020**.

**Q: If the Commission is required to have public meetings and why can't the public interact live?**

The **public may interact live through digital means** as authorized by the General Assembly and the Commission will ensure this occurs.

**Q: What happens if a polling site is shut down by a protest?**

The appropriate **local law enforcement** agency will be contacted and asked to restore order and access to the polls.

**Q: Where do we park for the downtown voting site during early voting and on election day?**

Limited street parking is available and parking on **2nd and Gaines** is now available during the duration of the Election.



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**Q: My mother is elderly. Can I assist her in the polling site despite the social distancing requirements?**

**Yes.**

**Q: My mailed absentee did not have a postmark. Will it count?**

**The absentee ballot will count as long as it is received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.**

**Q: I forgot to put my voter statement in with my absentee? Can I bring it?**

**No. All required absentee forms and materials must be submitted with the ballot.**

**Q: What happens if I signed my voter statement with my married name and my absentee application with my old name?**

**The name on an application for absentee ballot must match the name on the voter statement accompanying the returned absentee ballot. The county board of election commissioners must examine all of the facts to determine whether the named voter in the voter statement is the person who applied for the absentee ballot. It is recommended that every voter having a name change submit an updated voter registration application.**

**Q: My husband is in the hospital with COVID, and I cannot go see him, but he had already requested a ballot. Can I complete his absentee ballot for him?**

**No. Arkansas law mandates that the voter mark the absentee ballot and place it in the provided envelope. That envelope must then be placed in the outer envelope with the required documentation, including the completed and executed voter statement.**

**Q: What is the difference between the county clerk and the election commission?**

**The County Clerk is an elected official charged with maintaining the Voter Rolls for the County. The Election Commission is an administrative board charged with conducting elections within the county in accordance with Arkansas Election laws and regulations.**

**Q: I moved but forgot to change my address. Can I just vote at my old address?**

**No, you must vote based on the address where you permanently reside. You will be required to update your address when you go to vote so you are given the correct ballot. If you have moved to a different county within Arkansas, you will need to transfer your voter registration four days prior (October 30, 2020) to the election.**

**Q: Is there a time limit on voting? As in - the voting booth.**

**10 minutes.**

**Q: If I get in line at 7:30pm on election day, do I still get to vote?**

**All persons already in line when the polls close will be allowed to vote.**

**Q: I am Active military and have an Arkansas ID and not registered to vote but an Alaska address. What do I use for my residential address?**

**You would use the address where you last resided in Arkansas.**

**Q: Will there be security onsite during early voting and on election day?**

**Security will be onsite at select locations during early voting and on election day.**

*Prepared by Commissioner Kristi M. Stahr*