

# 2011 VOTER GUIDE



## Why is voting important to YOU?

**YOUR VOTE** is the single most powerful voice you have to tell the government how you feel about things that will have an impact on your financial and physical well-being, and the protection of your rights!

**ONLY YOU KNOW** what is best for you and your community. Do not count on someone else to know what is right for you unless you tell them!

## WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible to register and vote in Ohio, you **MUST**:

- ★ **Be a United States citizen.** Any native or naturalized citizen is eligible.
- ★ **Be a resident of Ohio.** You need to have lived here at least 30 days before an election.
- ★ **Be 18 years old.** You are at least 18 years old on or before the day of the General Election. If you will be 18 on or before the General Election, you may vote in the Primary Election for candidates, but not on issues.

## Did you know?

### When you vote, take I.D.

State law requires voters to show identification to vote.

Acceptable forms of I.D. are:

- Bank statements;
- Utility bills;
- Paychecks;
- Any government-issued document showing your current address;
- You may also use your Ohio driver's license or Ohio photo I.D. even if it shows a previous address.

If you do not have the required proof of identity, you may cast a provisional ballot.

## What are your rights?

As a voter you:

- ▶ can ask for written or verbal instructions;
- ▶ must be given another ballot if you make a mistake up to three times;
- ▶ can bring an aide or interpreter if you are disabled or have a language barrier;
- ▶ cannot be prevented from voting for any reason if you are a registered voter;
- ▶ can vote if you are in line at the correct polling location at the time the polls close;
- ▶ must be given an explanation and offered a solution if you are not allowed to vote;
- ▶ must be provided with a voting machine that is in working condition.

## 2011 Dates to Remember

**April 4**

Voter Registration ENDS for Primary Election

**May 3**

Primary Election Day

**October 11**

Voter Registration ENDS for General Election

**November 8**

General Election Day

**YOU'RE MORE  
POWERFUL THAN YOU  
THINK!**

# Absentee Voting

**Any qualified Ohio voter may request an absentee ballot WITHOUT stating a reason.**

\* You must request an absentee ballot from the county board of elections in which you are registered or from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office at [www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us), or 1-877-767-6446.

\* Requests can be made by mail up to three days before the election and in person at the board of elections until the day before the election.

## 2011 Absentee Voting Deadlines

### *Primary Election*

**April 30:** Last day Board of Elections to receive mail requests by noon for the primary election.

**May 2:** Last day for the Board of Elections to receive requests in person for the Primary Election. Mailed in ballots must be postmarked by May 2.

**May 3:** Primary Election Day. Ballots that are returned in person must be received by Board of Elections by close of polls.

### *General Election*

**Nov. 5:** Last day for Board of Elections to receive mail requests by noon for absentee ballots.

**Nov 7:** Last day for the Board of Elections to receive requests in person for the General Election. Mailed in ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 7.

**Nov 8.** General Election Day. Ballots that are returned in person must be received by Board of Elections by close of polls.

## Provisional Voting

\* Provisional voting is a safety-net used to protect your right to vote.

\* If voter registration records have not been updated by either the voter or the county board of elections, provisional voting allows voters to cast ballots and have their registration information verified later.

\* Provisional voting allows voters who have moved within 30 days of an election to vote in their new precincts.

\* Voters who do not bring acceptable I.D. to the polls will be **required** to vote provisionally.

## Did you know?

**You do NOT** have to vote on everything. You can just vote on the issues or candidates you care about.

**You do NOT** have to belong to a political party to vote. You may vote on issues without declaring a political party by requesting an "issues-only" ballot. Your party affiliation (if you choose to have one) is determined by your party declaration and candidate ballot in a Primary Election.

**Jury duty** is selected not only from voter registrations, but ALSO from those with a DRIVER'S LICENSE.

**A voter with a disability or who is unable to read or write may be assisted by anyone the voter chooses**, except by a candidate for office in that precinct, an employer or his/her agent, or an officer or agent of the union a voter belongs to. The voter may be assisted by two poll workers of opposite political parties. No one who assists a voter may disclose any information about how that person voted.

### **For more voter information, contact:**

Athens County Board of Elections: 15 S. Court St., Athens, OH 45701 or (740) 592-3201

Ohio Secretary of State: 1-877-767-6446 or [www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us)

League of Women Voters of Ohio: [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)