

# Understanding PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

At your polling place, if you meet the eligibility requirements, it is always better to vote with a REGULAR BALLOT, rather than with a provisional one.

- However, if your eligibility to vote is uncertain, a provisional ballot records your vote while your County Elections Office determines, after the election, whether it can be counted.
- If your eligibility is confirmed, your PROVISIONAL BALLOT will be counted!
- *Believe you ARE eligible but not permitted to cast a regular ballot? Cast a provisional ballot; [Election Protection](#) English- 1-866-687-8683; Spanish- 1-888-839-8682*



Your eligibility is **CONFIRMED** and you may cast a **REGULAR BALLOT**



Following the election, the Elections Division will determine if your PROVISIONAL BALLOT is counted



You believe you are eligible to vote, but your name was NOT found in the poll book at your polling place.

The Judge of Elections confirms your eligibility with the Election Division OR finds your name in the "supplemental list" in the poll book OR you have a valid court order; you may cast a REGULAR BALLOT.

If you have recently moved, and/or updated your registration in some way, you may still be listed at your old address, or some other error may have occurred. Cast a PROVISIONAL ballot and follow up with the Elections Division.

You applied for a Mail-in ballot, but you never received it, lost it, or did not bring it to be surrendered at your polling place (so your Mail-in ballot could be spoiled)

(If you did receive your Mail-in ballot and you have your UNVOTED Mail-in ballot along with its return envelope with you, you could surrender it at your polling place to be spoiled. Then you could cast a REGULAR ballot.)

Ask the Judge of Elections to verify that your Mail-in ballot was not submitted, and that you are not listed in the poll book, or supplemental list. If you are NOT listed, cast a PROVISIONAL ballot and follow up with the Elections Division or use the Provisional Ballot Tracker (below) to see if your ballot was counted.

You are a first-time voter, but forgot your approved ID

Return home to collect approved ID; then cast a REGULAR ballot.

If you cannot return home for your ID, you may cast a PROVISIONAL ballot, but be aware it is NOT likely to be counted.

You have moved\* to a new residence, but you never updated your voter registration.

You may go to your old polling place and vote there with a REGULAR ballot one last time. While there, update your voter registration with your new address OR you can update your voter registration at [vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov).

If you cannot go to your old voting location, because of time or distance, you may cast a PROVISIONAL ballot, but be aware it is NOT likely to be counted.

\*For more about moving and provisional ballots, see the [Make a Plan](#) and [Know Your Rights](#) web pages.

**IMPORTANT:** After completing the form to vote with a PROVISIONAL BALLOT at your polling place, ask for a RECEIPT so you can track your ballot [HERE](#) to see if it was counted by seven days after the election.