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Introduction

The 2024 Presidential election day is on Tuesday, November 5. In service of its mission to increase civic literacy and engagement, the Ohio Northern University Institute for Civics and Public Policy's first entry in the *ICAPP Explains* series focuses on voter eligibility, registration, and methods of voting.

Question 1: Who is eligible to vote?

In all federal elections, such as for the Presidency, all voters [must be United States citizens](#). Some areas which extend voting rights to non-citizens do so only in local elections. In Ohio, voters [must reside in the state](#) "for at least 30 days immediately before the election." Ohio also denies the vote to those who are currently incarcerated for felony offenses.

Nationally, the voting age of 18 is enshrined in the [26th amendment](#) to the U.S. Constitution. Ohio, however, provides one exception: a person who will be 18 years of age by the November 5 general election may vote in the primary election, but not on any other issues. Ohio is one of [20 states plus Washington, D.C.](#) that makes this exception.

Ohio is also a state which extends voting rights to [felons](#), except while they are incarcerated. The incarceration invalidates prior voter registration, however, so any felon released on parole or who has completed their sentence must re-register. Permanent ineligibility from voting occurs only when one has been twice-convicted of crimes relating to Ohio's election laws. Finally, a probate court may bar someone from voting by declaring them incompetent.

Question 2: How can you register to vote?

Regardless of the other voter eligibility requirements, all potential voters in the United States—except [North Dakota](#)—must first register to vote. All states must allow registration up to [30 days](#) before an election, and while some states [extend](#) the deadline, Ohio maintains this standard with a final voter registration deadline of October 7.

In Ohio, people can register to vote [online](#). This requires an identification number from a state-issued ID, such as a driver's license, in addition to one's name, date of birth, address, and the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN). The same online portal can also be

used to update voter registration information. Alternatively, Ohio allows the use of a [paper form](#), which must be sent to the county board of elections. A directory of county boards of elections can be found [here](#).

Question 3: What are the ways you can vote in the Presidential election?

The iconic method of voting occurs in-person, on election day. Polls will be open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM on November 5, and polling locations based on one's address can be found via the Ohio Secretary of State [website](#).

There are options, however, for Ohioans to vote outside of this window. Early in-person voting begins on October 8—the day after registration ends. Each county has one early voting location, which can be identified using this [map](#). Ohio also allows voting by mail using an absentee ballot. Applications must be received by the Board of Elections by the end of the business day on October 29, and completed ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by the closing of in-person polls at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 5.

Conclusion

Most citizen residents of Ohio over the age of 18 are eligible to vote. Registration is required to vote. This can be done online or via paper form, and is due on October 7. Early voting can be done in person starting October 8, or done via an absentee ballot, which must be requested by October 29 and received by election day. Otherwise, election day is on Tuesday, November 5, with polls open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM.

For a comprehensive election timeline which goes beyond this paper in depth, consider reviewing the [calendar](#) maintained by the Ohio Secretary of State.