


2026



Lancaster
Chamber

Elections Guide

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a light-colored sweater, holding a white envelope. The envelope is tilted and has the text "2026 Primary Elections" printed on it in blue. The envelope is positioned over the top of a white ballot box. The background is a blue pattern of overlapping circles in various shades.

2026 Primary
Elections

How to Use This Elections Guide

Federal, statewide, and local elections have a significant impact on how we do business. Before you head to the polls, make sure you have all the knowledge needed to make an educated decision. Browse this elections guide to learn more about the current election landscape, the elections process, and how to ensure your vote is counted. Feel free to share this with your colleagues and employees to double the impact!



BIZPAC is a voluntary, non-profit association which is independent of any political party, candidate or political organization. BIZPAC is dedicated to the protection, preservation and furtherance of the private enterprise system and to the improvement of the business climate in Pennsylvania. The activities and contributions of this non-partisan PAC are directed by a board of directors composed of Chamber members.

Primary Elections

What is a primary election?

In Pennsylvania, primary elections give registered Democratic and Republican voters the opportunity to choose which candidates will represent their party in the November general election. Because Pennsylvania has a closed primary system, voters can only cast ballots for candidates within their registered party. Primary elections are a critical step in the democratic process, helping to narrow the field of candidates and influence the choices voters will see on the general election ballot.

Who can vote in a primary election?

In Pennsylvania, only voters registered with a political party – either Democratic or Republican – can participate in that party’s primary election. This closed primary system means that independent and third-party voters are excluded from voting in the primary elections (unless there’s a ballot question).

You are eligible for voter registration if you have been a citizen of the United States for at least one month before the next election; you have been a resident of Pennsylvania and your election district for at least 30 days before the next election; you will be at least 18 years old or older on the day of the election. Voters can update their registration if they move, change their name, or wish to change their political party affiliation.

Important Dates: In-person and mail in ballots

May 4

Last day to register to vote for the primary election. vote.pa.gov/register

Scan this QR Code



May 12

Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot. vote.pa.gov/mailballot

Scan this QR Code



Mail-in ballot or absentee ballots must be requested by 5pm. Registered voters can apply for a Mail-in Ballot online, download, print, and mail in an application, or fill out an application in-person at the Lancaster County Office of Elections.

May 19

Polls open from 7am-8pm. vote.pa.gov/mailballotstatus

Scan this QR Code



Completed mail-in ballots must be received by the Lancaster County Office of Elections by 8pm. Ballots may be mailed to: P.O. Box 2139 Lancaster, PA 17608. Track the progress of your absentee or mail-in ballot: vote.pa.gov/mailballotstatus Voters may drop off their own ballots at: 150 N Queen St. Suite 117 Lancaster, PA 17603.

What's on the ballot?

Statewide Offices (Contested Race Appearing on All Ballots)

GOVERNOR

The governor serves as the chief executive of Pennsylvania, overseeing state agencies, implementing laws, and setting policy priorities.

CANDIDATES:

Democrat: Josh Shapiro (*Incumbent*)

Republican: Stacy L. Garrity

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The lieutenant governor presides over the State Senate and supports the governor. This role can also be influential in policy initiatives and commissions.

CANDIDATES:

Democrat: Austin Davis

Republican: Jason Richey

Republican: John Ventre

Federal Offices (Contested Race Appearing on All Ballots)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (PA 11th Congressional District)

Represents Lancaster County and surrounding areas in Congress. Members vote on federal legislation, budgets, and national policy issues.

CANDIDATES:

Republican: Lloyd Smucker (*Incumbent*)

Democrat: Nancy Mannion

What's on the ballot? (continued)

This guide only lists the candidate names for state legislative offices that are contested primary races for the nomination. Uncontested candidates will appear on the ballot, but not in this guide.

State Legislative Offices

PA STATE SENATE

Represents the district in the Pennsylvania Senate. Senators vote on state laws, budget decisions, and policy affecting residents and businesses.

48th Senatorial District CANDIDATES:

Republican: Chris Gebhard (*Incumbent*)

Republican: Clovis Crane

36th Senatorial District Candidates:

Republican: Jere Swarr

Republican: Tom Jones

PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Serves in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing a local district and working to introduce, debate, and vote on legislation that impacts residents and businesses across the state.

98th State Representative District Candidates:

Republican: Nikki Woods

Republican: Danielle Lindemuth

100th State Representative District Candidates:

Republican: Dave Nissley

Republican: Kelly Osborne

MEMBER OF THE STATE COMMITTEE:

A member of the State Committee helps guide the direction of the party at the state level, including setting party priorities, supporting candidates, and shaping strategy.

COMMITTEEPERSON:

A Committeeperson is a local party representative who engages voters, supports, party activities within their precinct or municipality, and helps organize grassroots efforts during elections.

Scan this QR Code to
view your Sample Ballot or visit
<https://vr.lancastercountypa.gov/sampleballots/>



How Do I Vote in a Primary Election?



If you're voting in-person...

- First, find your polling location. If you've recently moved, make sure your voter registration is updated so you're assigned to the correct polling place.
- Plan what time you'll go and how you'll get there. In Pennsylvania, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you're in line by 8 p.m., you have the right to vote.
- Know what to bring. If it's your first time voting at a particular polling place, you'll need to show ID; acceptable forms include a driver's license, U.S. passport, student ID, or utility bill with your name and address.



Scan this QR Code to find your polling place or visit pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/pollingplaceinfo.aspx

Ask yourself **WHEN**
you plan to vote:

Add it to your
calendar today!

Ask yourself **HOW**
you plan to vote:

By mail or on
election day?

If you're voting by mail-in ballot, follow these steps:

- All registered voters in Pennsylvania are eligible to vote by mail—no excuse needed. Applications for mail-in ballots are available in multiple languages and should be submitted as early as possible to ensure enough time to receive, complete, and return your ballot before the deadline.
- Once completed, your mail-in ballot can be returned by mail or delivered in person to the Lancaster County Board of Elections. To be counted, it must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Here's how to vote by mail step by step:

- Once you receive your ballot, carefully follow the instructions to mark your choices.
- Place your completed ballot in the secrecy envelope labeled "official election ballot," then seal it.
- Insert the secrecy envelope into the official return envelope, making sure to complete and sign the back. Unsigned ballots may not be counted.
- Return your ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day. You can mail it to: P.O. Box 2139, Lancaster, PA 17608 or drop it off in person at: 150 N Queen St., Suite 117, Lancaster, PA 17603. Voters must return their own ballot; ballots submitted by others will not be accepted. at 150 N Queen St. Suite 117 Lancaster, PA 17603.



Scan this QR Code to check the status of your mail-in ballot or visit www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/BallotTracking.aspx

Voter Information

Check your registration status

Use your name, your PennDOT Driver's License, or PennDOT ID.

pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx

Scan this
QR Code



You can register to vote if you're:

- ✓ A U.S. citizen at least 30 days before the next election.
- ✓ A resident of Pennsylvania and your election district for at least 30 days before the next election.
- ✓ At least 18 years of age on the day of the next election.

Check your registration status using your name, your PennDOT Driver's License, or PennDOT ID.

Incarcerated Voters & Returning Citizens:

In Pennsylvania, you only lose your right to vote if you are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction. If you lost your voting rights because of a conviction, you could register to vote immediately after release. Your voting rights are not restricted by pretrial detention, misdemeanors, probation, or parole.

Note: This does not apply if you have been convicted of a violation of the Pennsylvania Election Code.

Voters Without Traditional Residence:

If you do not have a street address or a permanent residence, use the map on the back of the voter registration form to show where you live or spend most of your time, with landmarks and road names. If you do not receive mail at your residential address, the mailing address on their registration form can be a PO box, local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or the home of someone who will accept mail for you.

Thank you for making a plan to vote!

Impact Update:

Sign up for our e-newsletter to stay up-to-date on all pre- and post- elections insights!

Scan QR Code or
visit lancasterchamber.com/advacay



Lancaster Chamber

Vision:

Lancaster County. A thriving community for all.

Mission:

Create the environment, facilitate partnerships, and lead on issues that elevate business success.

Core Values

- Serve** We commit to a culture of service.
- Connect** We maximize connections that grow networks and accelerate business success.
- Solve** We approach all issues with a solution-oriented mindset.
- Lead** We pledge to lead on behalf of the business community.



Questions?

Reach out to James Voutisinos

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