



## Lehigh County Mail-In Voting Q&A

### **Q. Can I vote by mail?**

A. Yes. Act 77, which was passed in 2019, allows for no excuse mail-in voting. Applications must be received by October 27<sup>th</sup> and are available in the Voter's Office or online at <https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Q. How do I know my application has been accepted or if my ballot has been received?**

A. Citizens who sign up on [votespa.com](https://www.votespa.com) will receive emails about their application/ballot status. Voters who applied on paper can track the status of their ballot at [votespa.com](https://www.votespa.com) and check for the "Pending" status. Voters will receive email updates on the status of their ballot if their email address has been provided while applying for their ballot.

### **Q. Why did I get an email saying my application for a mail-in ballot has been declined?**

A. It's likely that a duplicate application was filed. If an application was requested for General Election while applying for the Primary, then your request was already received. Local groups have also sent out unsolicited applications which may have confused voters into applying more than once.

Do not hesitate to contact the Lehigh County Voter Office at 610-782-3194 or email [electionboard@lehighcounty.org](mailto:electionboard@lehighcounty.org) with any questions on your application status.

### **Q. Where is my mail-in ballot? When will ballots go out in the mail?**

A. Mail-in ballots were started to be mailed out on Tuesday, October 6th. We ask that you allow 10-14 days for your ballot to be received in the mail. If you applied for your ballot online, be on the lookout for an email that will notify you your ballot is being prepared and is on the way.

You may check the status of your ballot online at [votespa.com](https://www.votespa.com).

### **Q. What kind of stamp should I use to mail my ballot back?**

A. Voters do not have to use a stamp to return their ballots. Return envelopes are already paid with first class postage.

### **Q. Do I have to return my ballot by mail?**

A. No. Those who wish to hand their ballots in directly can do so by directly handing their ballot to the Voter Office located on the basement floor of the Government Center. The deadline to physically hand in a mail-in ballot is 8PM on Election Night. Voters are also welcome to use any one of the five Lehigh County drop boxes.



**Q. I'm worried about getting my mail-in ballot back to the Elections Office on time. What can I do?**

A. To be counted, ballots must be returned to the Election's Office by 8:00PM on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Right now, we are recommending voters return their ballot as soon as possible in person, through a drop box, or at least get it in the mail by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Q. When will the drop boxes be available? Can I use any of the five Lehigh County drop boxes?**

A. Yes, a resident may use any of the five Lehigh County Drop boxes. The drop boxes are available as of Friday, October 16th, 2020.

**Q. Where are the mail in ballot drop off boxes if I do not mail in my ballot?**

A. There is one 24/7 ballot box located at the Government Center, (17 South Seventh Street, Allentown, PA 18101-2401) at the 7th Street Lobby side.

There are four secure ballot boxes located in the following municipalities:

**North Whitehall Township Municipal Building Lobby**

**Monday thru Friday, 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020 closes at 4:00 P.M.**

3256 Levans Road,

Coplay, Pa 18037 (NOT IN COPLAY BOROUGH)

610-799-3411

**Upper Macungie Township Municipal Building Lobby**

**Monday thru Friday 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020 closes at 4:00 P.M.**

8330 Schantz Road

Breinigsville, PA 18031

610-395-4892

**Catasauqua Borough Municipal Building Lobby**

**Monday thru Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020 closes at 4:00 P.M.**

90 Bridge Street

Catasauqua, PA 18032

**Emmaus Borough Municipal Building Lobby**

**Monday thru Friday 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020 closes at 3:00 P.M.**

28 South 4th Street

Emmaus, PA 18049



**Q. Can I drop off all my families mail in ballots or a friend’s ballot at the drop off locations?**

A. No, you may only drop off your own ballot at a Ballot drop off location.

**Q. What if I change my mind about vote by mail and now want to vote in person at my polling place?**

A. You would take your complete mail in ballot and envelopes to your polling place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.

The poll worker will spoil your mail in ballot and issue you a new ballot.

Complete the ballot and place in the scanner. Wait until the screen tells you that your ballot has been cast.

If the mail-in ballot is already voted and surrendered or a voter does not have their ballot and it has not yet been received by the Voter’s Office, they will have to vote on a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are not scanned. They are investigated on the Friday after by the computation board. This is to make sure a person did not vote at the polls and then mail-in a ballot.

If the Office of Voter Registration has their completed mail-in ballot already, they cannot vote at the polls. Their vote has already been counted.

**Q. What is Early Voting, and where do I vote early in Lehigh County?**

A. Pennsylvania now allows early voting prior to this election. This is for individuals who have not already requested a mail-in ballot. The location is the Lehigh County Government Center located in the Voter Center on the lower Level.

*NOTE:* A person cannot vote early in person if they have requested a mail in ballot (eliminate the risk of double voting)

**Q. Can I go in and physically hand in my ballot?**

A. Yes! The Lehigh County Government Center is open to personally receive your mail-in ballot. On the lower level of the government center, approach the Conference Room 40 counter and hand in your ballot.

Extended office hours include:

Saturday	10/24 & 10/31	9am – 1pm
Tuesday	11/3	7am – 8pm

**Q. Is there anything visible on the outside of the mail-in ballot envelope that indicates my party affiliation such as a “D” for Democrat?**

A. No.

**Q. Will the polls be open on November 3<sup>rd</sup>?**

A. Yes.



**Q. Do I have to wear a mask at the polls? What about the poll workers?**

A. We strongly advise that voters wear masks out of respect to the people who volunteer in our elections. All poll workers are required to wear a mask.

**Q. Who should voters call if they have problems or questions either before or on Election Day?**

A. For assistance, please call the Lehigh County Voter Office at 610-782-3194 or email [electionboard@lehighcounty.org](mailto:electionboard@lehighcounty.org)

**Q. What parking options are available if I want to return my ballot to the Lehigh County Government Center?**

A. Reserved parking spaces are available for voters who are dropping off their ballots during the extended office hours at the Lehigh County Government Center located at 17 S 7th St, Allentown, PA 18101. Two spots will be accessible on 7th Street and two spots will be available on Hamilton Street.

We ask that these spots not be used for extended office visits so the next voter can use the space. Additionally, due to a heavy increase of traffic to the Lehigh County Government Center, IBEW 35 has given permission for residents to park their vehicles in their parking lot on the corner of S 7th and Walnut Street.

This is an effort to accommodate the increased volume of residents dropping off their ballots while parking their vehicles within walking distance from the Government Center.

We ask that all residents be respectful when utilizing these spaces and to safely obey all traffic laws. Please be mindful of other drivers and pedestrians when parking.

**Q. What is the status of my poll worker application? I have not yet received any confirmation.**

A. Thank you for applying to be a poll worker in Lehigh County. At this time, you will receive a phone call from the Office of Voter Registration if your application has been approved. We keep all applications in a reserve pool in case of an emergency.