



# Portsmouth Voters—Frequently Asked Questions Rhode Island General Election, November 3, 2020

Portsmouth  
Canvassing  
Authority (Voting)  
401-683-3157

## ***Can I vote in-person before November 3?***

**Emergency In-Person & Mail Ballot Voting at Town Hall**—Wednesday, October 14 through, Monday, November 2 (4PM) during business hours: M – W, 8:30AM to 4:30PM; Th, 8:30AM to 6:30PM; Fr, 8:30AM to 2:30PM

**PLEASE NOTE:** No appointment needed for voting. All other Town business offices require appointment.

Voters are able to do the following:

1. **In-Person voting at Town Hall**
  - a. Ballot is voted and recorded in the DS-200 optical scanner—Photo ID Required
  - b. Voters who have applied for a mail ballot have the option of voting a PROVISIONAL BALLOT at the POLLS on ELECTION DAY only.
  - c. Replacement mail ballots can be issued by the Board of Canvassers during this time.
2. **Complete Emergency Mail Ballot Application**  
<https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Content/Pdfs/Calendar/Emergency%20General%20Mail%20Ballot%20Application.pdf>
  - a. Allows voter to pick up a mail ballot at Town Hall
  - b. Allows voter to designate a representative to pick up ballot at Town Hall (courier must show ID)
3. **Military and Overseas voters** can complete an FPCA application (<https://www.fvap.gov/>)

Ballots can be deposited in **BALLOT DROP BOX** at the south entrance to Town Hall.

## ***I applied for a mail ballot. Can I vote in-person?***

Voters who applied for a mail ballot are eligible to cast a PROVISIONAL BALLOT at the polls on ELECTION DAY. The Board of Canvassers must receive confirmation that the ballot sent to you was not received by the State Board of Elections before the PROVISIONAL BALLOT can be counted.

## ***I made a mistake on my mail ballot. Or I applied for a mail ballot but haven't received it yet. What can I do?***

Contact the Board of Canvassers (BOC) to request a replacement ballot. Confirm with the BOC that the ballot was sent to the correct address and allow at least 7-10 business days for USPS to deliver your ballot before requesting a replacement.

## ***I received my mail ballot but find the instructions confusing. Why do I need two envelopes?***

Once completed, your voted ballot is placed in an “oath” envelope that you sign, attesting to be the person who cast that ballot. Contact information is needed in the event there is a problem that needs to be corrected. Optional personal identification can be provided to assist the Board of Elections in the certification process, confirming that the ballot was cast by the voter identified.

The oath envelope is then placed in an outer mailing envelope addressed to the Board of Elections. Even if you are placing your voted ballot in a DROP BOX, the outer envelope protects your information.

## ***Where can I find information about the Charter questions on the ballot?***

Based upon recommendations submitted by the Charter Review Committee, the Portsmouth Town Council signed Resolution 2020-07-27B authorizing these twelve questions to appear on the November ballot. The resolution can be found on the Town website:

<https://www.portsmouthri.com/DocumentCenter/View/3882/Signed-Resolution-2020-07-27B-Charter-Changes>

**Where is the BALLOT DROP BOX?**

The BALLOT DROP BOX for Portsmouth is located outside the south entrance to Town Hall. It is available 24-7 until 8PM on Election Day, November 3.

**What happens to my ballot after I put it in the DROP BOX?**

Ballots are gathered several time a day by Canvassing staff and secured in locked ballot cases. The State Board of Elections retrieves these cases and transports the ballots to their offices in Cranston where they are scanned as received, certified, and tabulated.

Voters can track their mail ballot at [vote.ri.gov](http://vote.ri.gov). The deadline to deposit a mail ballot in the DROP BOX is 8PM on Election Day, November 3.

**Where do I go to vote on Election Day?**

All Portsmouth precincts will be open on November 3 from 7AM to 8PM. If you do not know your precinct, go to [vote.ri.gov](http://vote.ri.gov) to view your voter records and obtain a sample ballot.

**NOTE: Precinct 2706** will be located at St. Barnabas Parish Hall for this election. All voters in this district were sent a postcard notifying them of this change.

<b>2701</b>	<b>Hope Brown Center at Farnham Farm</b>	113 Mt Pleasant Ave., Prudence Island
<b>2702</b>	<b>Portsmouth Multi-Purpose Senior Center</b>	110 Bristol Ferry Road
<b>2703</b>	<b>Common Fence Point Community Center</b>	933 Anthony Road
<b>2704</b>	<b>Portsmouth High School (Old Gymnasium)</b>	120 Education Lane (Door #8)
<b>2705</b>	<b>Melville School Cafeteria</b>	1351 West Main Road
<b>2706</b>	<b>Moved from Portsmouth Town Council Chambers to St. Barnabas Church Parish Hall</b>	1697 East Main Road
<b>2707</b>	<b>St. Barnabas Parish Hall</b>	1697 East Main Road
<b>2708</b>	<b>Portsmouth Middle School Gymnasium</b>	125 Jepson Lane
<b>2709 &amp; 2710</b>	<b>Portsmouth Town Hall 2200 East Main Road will be equipped for the following only:</b>	
	<b>Emergency Mail Ballot (until 4PM)</b>	
	<b>Limited Ballot</b>	
	<b>President/Vice-President Only</b>	

**I have moved since the last election and my voter records were not updated. Where do I vote?**

**NOTE:** Voter will be required to complete an affirmation (pink) form at the polls. Determine what fits your situation:

- Moved within Portsmouth <less than 30 days—Vote in your previous precinct
- Moved within Portsmouth >greater than 30 days—Vote in your new precinct
- Moved to Portsmouth from a different RI community <less than 30 days—Vote in your previous town/city
- Moved to Portsmouth from a different RI community >greater than 30 days—Vote a limited ballot (Federal & State offices/questions) in your previous city/town.
- Moved to Portsmouth from another state—Vote a President/Vice-President Only ballot at Town Hall on Election Day

**I am not registered to vote but want to participate in this election. What can I do?**

Come to Precinct 2710 at the Town Hall on Election Day. Complete a RI Voter Registration form and cast a President/Vice-President Only ballot.

**Contact the Portsmouth Canvassing Authority at [401-683-3157](tel:401-683-3157) with any additional questions.**