

Absentee Voting and Out of State Registration

1. Are you registered in your home town/state? If yes, they just do absentee request.
2. If not, must fill out federal voter registration form Works for all states except NH, ND, WY)
3. Check and confirm all deadlines.

Project Vote Smart should get you to the info you need to complete federal forms and absentee requests. Resources listed by state.:

http://www.vote-smart.org/voter_registration_resources.php

Federal registration Form (and absentee request):

Fill out the form in black ink.

1. Place a ü next to U.S Citizen
2. Place a ü next to 18 years of age...
3. Home address = where they are voting "from"
4. Mailing address for confirmation (OCMR) and do put Oberlin, OH 44074
5. Encourage to enter telephone number
6. ID # - must see each state's instructions
7. Some states require choice of party – look up state form rules, also for race/ethnicity
8. Some require photocopy of picture ID (*we should have access to copier*)

Info on absentee voting in other states

You will need to look up addresses, county names, specific registration rules for their state, etc. And also help them figure out what is required by their state to get an absentee ballot (some have a form, others do not, you write a letter).

COMPLETING THE FORMS

Ohio Voter Registration Form

Fill out the form in black ink.

1. Place a next to U.S Citizen
2. Place a next to 18 years of age...
3. For number 4 (House Number and Street Address), be sure to list the street address of your dormitory or your off campus street address. Street addresses for all dorms are listed on the back side. The OCMR box may NOT be listed on this line.
4. For Line 7 (Additional Rural or Mailing Address), list the address where you receive mail, if it is different from number 4. For most students this is the OCMR box number. Your registration confirmation will be sent to this address. It is OK to put 135 W. Lorain St. next to the OCMR on the secondary address line, but not at all necessary.
5. The form must include your birth date (number. 9) and either the last four digits of the social security number or an Ohio driver's license number (number 10).
6. Information for number 12 (Address Change Only) should be filled out if you are currently registered at a different address.
7. This will be the case if you have changed dorms, have a new address off campus, or if you are already registered in your home town and want to vote in Ohio instead.
8. Very important to encourage students to RE register, even if they have just changed dorms. It can get messy if you do not update!
9. If student UNSURE of former registration or unsure of address, leave it blank.
 - a. Not illegal to be registered in 2 places, just can't VOTE in 2 places
10. Though the phone number is voluntary, we recommend that all students write down their phone number as this will allow us to reach them if there is any issue. Even if the student does not want to put one on the form, you can jot it down on a separate piece of paper.
 - a. Email is always a great backup, we can figure out most any students address very easily. But DO NOT write email address on the form.
11. The form should be dated and it must be signed in black ink in the white space to the right of "Signature of Applicant" (number 14). It's important that no part of the signature go outside the available white space.

The ***strictly non-partisan*** Voter Registration process is approved and coordinated by the college with help from the League of Women Voters. *Please wear the LWV-provided t-shirts "Where will you vote? Non-partisan voter registration."*

In addition to being non-partisan, it is vital that volunteers do NOT to push potential voters one way or the other when s/he is deciding whether to vote in Ohio or in his or her home state.

- ABSOLUTLEY DO NOT say, "We want you to vote in Ohio because it is a swing state." Watch dogs pay attention to this kind of partisan behavior, and they are ready to make legal challenges to Oberlin College's tax-exempt status if they see anything like that going on.
- If a student asks whether s/he should vote in Ohio or home state, just focus on the technical aspects of registering to vote. Show the registration flow chart.
- A good response:
"I can't advise you on whether or not to vote absentee, but I can explain how each process works and make sure your forms are complete."

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT PROCESS:

We do not need to check IDs to register students to vote.

It is OK to put only WHAT you know about former registration

We are registering a lot of people very close to the deadline, so maybe they won't all receive cards...

Check it before they go and get phone number if possible!!!

DO NOT let them take it home – just call for additional info

PROTECTION of VOTERS:

We will be checking all forms, sealing photocopies with a notary in envelope; this way, we have documentation if there are any problems at the polls.

DOUBLE CHECK:

Check the ***signature and phone number***. If we have these two, any mistakes can be corrected over the phone.

The only thing that has to be in ***that person's handwriting is the SIGNATURE***; Crossing out is OK

At the polls:

If a voter that completed a registration is being turned away at the polls, that person may request a ***provisional ballot***; after the election, if there is a recount they go back and look through those.