Before You Vote

Follow Oklahoma's path from registration to a ballot

OKH.C.5.5.B "regulations and processes for registering to vote and participating in state elections."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions a voter must take or check, circle deadlines and voting places, and number the steps you would follow to register and vote by mail.

Maya Plans Her Vote

1. Imagine that Maya wants to vote in Oklahoma's November election for the first time. She is a U.S. citizen, lives in Oklahoma, and will be 18 by Election Day. Before she can cast a regular ballot, she must register. Oklahoma requires a completed voter registration application at least 25 days before an election. Maya can apply through the state's online system if she meets its identification requirements, or submit a paper application. She should check her registration status with the Oklahoma State Election Board rather than assume that sending an application means she is registered.

2. After registering, Maya can choose early voting, Election Day voting, or an absentee ballot. Early voting takes place at designated locations in her county, not necessarily at her Election Day precinct. On Election Day, she must go to the precinct assigned to her registered address. Oklahoma voters must show accepted proof of identity, such as a voter identification card issued by a county election board, before receiving a regular ballot. If Maya prefers to vote by mail, she must request an absentee ballot and follow its return and identity-verification instructions. She should check current dates and locations with her county election board because they can change by election.

3. One more choice depends on the type of election. In a general election, registered voters can vote regardless of party registration. In a party primary, party rules and Oklahoma election rules determine which voters can receive that party's ballot; an independent voter should check the current rules rather than assume access. If Maya moves, she should update her registration address so election officials can assign the correct precinct. If her name is missing from the list at the polls, or she cannot provide the required identification, she can ask for a provisional ballot. Election officials review provisional ballots before deciding whether they count.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A first-time voter sends a registration application 20 days before an election. Does that meet Oklahoma's deadline for that election? Explain.

2. Maya plans to vote on Election Day instead of voting early. How does that change where she goes, and what must she show to receive a regular ballot?

3. An independent voter wants to vote in a party primary and later in the general election. What should the voter check about each election?

4. Maya's name is missing from the list when she arrives at the polls. What can she request, and what happens before that ballot counts?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence plan for a first-time Oklahoma voter who recently moved to a new Oklahoma address and wants to vote by mail in a general election. Include registration and its deadline, the address, the absentee ballot request and return, and identity requirements.

ANSWER KEY

Before You Vote

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.5.5.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions a voter must take or check, circle deadlines and voting places, and number the steps you would follow to register and vote by mail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A first-time voter sends a registration application 20 days before an election. Does that meet Oklahoma's deadline for that election? Explain.	**No. Oklahoma requires a completed application at least 25 days before the election.**
2	Maya plans to vote on Election Day instead of voting early. How does that change where she goes, and what must she show to receive a regular ballot?	**She must go to the precinct assigned to her registered address, rather than an early voting location. She must show accepted proof of identity.**
3	An independent voter wants to vote in a party primary and later in the general election. What should the voter check about each election?	**The voter should check current eligibility rules for the party primary. Party registration does not prevent a registered voter from voting in the general election.**
4	Maya's name is missing from the list when she arrives at the polls. What can she request, and what happens before that ballot counts?	**She can request a provisional ballot. Election officials review it before deciding whether it counts.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would check my registration status and make sure it lists my new address. If I am not registered, I would submit an application at least 25 days before the election. I would check the current absentee ballot request deadline with my county election board and request a ballot. I would follow the ballot's identity-verification instructions and return it by the required deadline. Because this is a general election, my party registration would not prevent me from voting.

Accept plans that distinguish submitting an application from confirming registration. For absentee voting, accept checking current deadlines rather than naming dates not given in the passage.