Provisional Ballots

There are all kinds of reasons why you might need a provisional ballot, sometimes called a ‘challenge ballot’ or an ‘affidavit ballot’, depending on your state. Your name might not be on the registration list, or you requested an absentee ballot but did not receive it, or your name or address have changed but your registration information doesn’t reflect that. No matter what the reason you are denied a regular ballot, all voters have the right to cast a provisional ballot.

To do this you will need to provide a written affirmation stating that you are genuinely eligible to vote in that election. Once that is completed, you will be issued a provisional ballot to fill.

After you’re done, federal law requires election officials to give you information on how you can check whether your vote was counted and, if not, the reason why.

**Remember: no matter why you might need a provisional ballot, it is your right to have one!**

The National Conference of State Legislatures has published an exhaustive guide on how to enforce your right to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day, including the particulars in your state or territory.


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**About Symantec**

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