



## Absentee Ballot Party – Step-by-step Guidance

In 4 simple steps, you can host your own absentee ballot party no matter where you're located. If you need help planning your event, reach out to Ohio Votes for assistance at [cohhio.quintero@gmail.com](mailto:cohhio.quintero@gmail.com)

---

### Step 1: Publicize and Collect RSVPs

People will have to already have received their absentee ballot to take full advantage of the event. Make sure you give people as much notice as possible so they have time to receive their ballots in the mail. We recommend putting on your event the week before Election Day, and begin advertising ASAP.

This event should still be open to people planning to vote election day, early in person, or even already voted, because voter education is *always* important. Be sure to invite everyone!

---

### Step 2: Gather supplies

- [Absentee ballot applications](#)
- Ohio Votes' "what's on my ballot" handout, and if available, your local League of Women Voters' Voter Guide.
- A projector to play the "Why Ohio Votes" videos of your choice (search the hashtag on social media to find videos from all around the state, and find ones you think will resonate most with your attendees!)
- A computer, tablet, or smartphone to help voters look up their specific registration, local ballot, local candidates, polling location, or other voting resources, which can be found on our website, [www.OHvotes.org](http://www.OHvotes.org).
- Voter Pledge Cards (available in hard copy or [online](#))
- Stickers, candy, snacks, balloons, or any other "party stuff" that will create the celebratory and community ambiance you want.

---

## Step 3: PARTY!

Here are some activities you can do:

- Overview of the 2018 ballot – who’s on it, why it’s important, and how to find information about the candidates (use resources from Step 2 as guidance and aid).
- Help voters research the candidates. You can use the candidates’ campaign websites, Vote411, and other news articles that summarize candidate positions as help.
- Help voters properly complete their absentee ballots (friendly reminder: **you may not tell voters who or what to vote for**, but you are encouraged to help voters find information about the candidates and issues most important to them).
- Help voters properly complete their absentee ballot request forms, especially folks who will have trouble getting to their polls on election day.
- For anyone planning to vote in person, help that voter plan their trip to the polls. Make sure they have a ride and help them commit to a specific time to go vote. If the voter needs help getting to the polls, contact Ohio Votes Canvasser Manuel Quintero at [Cohho.Quintero@gmail.com](mailto:Cohho.Quintero@gmail.com).
- View some #WhyOhioVotes videos and have the voters record their own!
- Play music, do trivia, or come up with other creative ways to motivate voters.

## Step 4: Submit forms

Finding a stamp can be a huge barrier for folks submitting things through mail.

Collect and mail to your county Board of Elections, all:

- **Absentee ballots**
- **Absentee ballot request forms**

Collect and mail or email originals or copies of all **pledge cards** to Ohio Votes – [MariaBruno@cohhio.org](mailto:MariaBruno@cohhio.org) or Ohio Votes – COHHIO, 175 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Ste. 580, Columbus, OH 43215

---

**That’s it!**

**You’re now prepared to throw your own absentee ballot party.**

Ohio Votes is a nonpartisan voter engagement campaign and does not support any party or candidate.