

How to Get a Ballot and Vote

WHERE CAN I VOTE?

You must vote in your own precinct's polling place. Its location is shown on your voter registration card and also will be listed in a major newspaper the Friday before election day.

WHEN ARE POLLING PLACES OPEN?

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WHAT IS PUNCH CARD VOTING?

Punch card voting is the computerized voting system used in King County. Demonstration devices are located at each polling place on election day.

The votes are cast by punching out pre-numbered perforations on a light-weight ballot card. After the polls are closed, the ballot cards are transported to the counting center to be tabulated by computer.

MAY I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Yes ... Even if you expect to be in town on election day, you may apply for an absentee ballot as early as 45 days prior to any election. Requests may be made by mail, telephone or in person at the Elections Office. All requests must indicate which election the ballot is for and must include your name, registered address, registration number if available, and ballot mailing address. Ballots are available in the Elections office approximately 20 days before the election through 4:30 p.m. the Monday before the election. State law prohibits distribution on election day.

For your convenience, you may print the [absentee ballot request form](#), fill it out, and mail it to our office. You may also request an absentee ballot by phone (296-VOTE) or by fax (205-5080).

You may vote and return your ballot immediately after you receive it. To be valid for counting in an election, the returned voted ballot envelope must be signed by the voter and postmarked no later than

the date of the election.

ONGOING ABSENTEE REQUEST

Any voter may apply in writing or by telephone for status as an ongoing absentee voter. Each voter will receive a ballot for every election in which they are entitled to vote. Status as an ongoing absentee voter shall be terminated upon the occurrence of the following:

- the cancellation of the voter's registration record
- the written request of the voter
- the death or disqualification of the voter
- the return of an ongoing absentee ballot as undeliverable

WHAT'S A SUBMARINE BALLOT?

A "submarine ballot" is a special absentee ballot for voters residing or stationed outside of the Continental U.S., who believe they will be unable to vote a regular absentee ballot by normal mail delivery. Such voters may apply in writing to this office to receive a write-in ballot listing major offices and measures. These requests can be accepted starting ninety days before a general election. The special absentee ballot will be mailed as soon as possible after a request is received.

WHAT IF I'M IN THE HOSPITAL?

A voter admitted to a hospital no earlier than five days before an election and confined to the hospital on election day may apply in writing for an absentee ballot to be delivered by messenger on election day if a signed statement from the hospital administrator or designee is attached to the absentee application.

For more information about this King County Election page, contact:
pamiller@metrokc.gov

[Elections Section](#) | [Records & Elections](#) | [King County](#)
[Comments](#) | [Search](#)

Updated: 2/17/97