

# PRESS RELEASE

(To be released the week of March 14th)

From: Franklin County Election Board

Subject: **DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING - REGISTERING TO VOTE**

## **What are the Qualifications to Vote?**

You can apply to register to vote at the upcoming 2016 Presidential Primary Election if by April 26th:

- 1) You will have been a citizen of the United States for at least one month.
- 2) You have been a resident of Pennsylvania and the election district in which you seek to register and vote for at least 30 days.
- 3) You will be at least 18 years of age.

## **How Do I Register to Vote?**

- 1) Submit online by going to [register.votespa.com](http://register.votespa.com).
- 2) In person at the Franklin County Voter Registration Office which is located in the Old Courthouse, Memorial Square, Chambersburg from 8:30-4:30, Monday - Friday.
- 3) By mail in one of two ways:
  - Obtain a state or federal voter registration mail application from a candidate, political party and other Federal, State, and municipal offices. You may also request one from the Department of State's website at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).
  - Download the voter registration application available from the Department of State's website at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or from the County's website at [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov).

**IMPORTANT: If you are already registered and just need to update your information, you will need to check one of the boxes on Line 3 of the voter registration form to either Change Name, Change Address and/or Change Party.**

- 4) Apply at Department of Transportation photo license center when you obtain or update your driver's license.
- 5) Apply at a government agency. Clients of these government agencies may apply to register to vote or make a change to their registration at:
  - State offices that provide public assistance and services to persons with disabilities
  - Armed Forces Recruitment Centers
  - County's Clerk of Courts Office
  - Area Agencies on Aging & County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Offices
  - Centers for Independent Living

## **What is the Deadline to Register to Vote?**

**The deadline to apply to register to vote for the upcoming Presidential Primary Election on April 26<sup>th</sup> is Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. This is also the deadline for a voter to change their name, address and/or party affiliation. Applications will be accepted and processed as long as they are postmarked with Monday's date. If your application is received and/or postmarked after that date, it will be processed for the 2016 Presidential Election in November.**

Once the registration application is processed, each voter will receive a voter registration card in the mail which will notate the location of their polling place.

If you are currently registered as an Independent or with any minor political party (i.e. Green, Libertarian, Constitutional, etc.), you will not be able to vote for any candidate, including President, at the upcoming Presidential Primary to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Pennsylvania has a closed primary voting system which allows only registered Democrats and Republicans to be able to vote for their parties' candidates in the primary.

The only thing that Independents and those registered with minor political parties will be able to vote for at the upcoming election are two Constitutional Amendments, one dealing with judges being able to work until they turned 75 and the other dealing with the abolishment of the Philadelphia Traffic Court. Upon showing up to the polling place to vote on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the only thing on the Non-Partisan ballot will be the two Constitutional Amendment questions with a Yes/No voting option.

If you wish to vote for all of the candidate races, you will need to change your party affiliation to either Democrat or Republican prior to Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Any questions concerning registering to vote should be directed to the Voter Registration Office at (717) 261-3886 or the Franklin County Election Board at (717) 261-3810. You can also find additional election information on the County's website at [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov).