



# CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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## Suggestions to Encourage Voting

### **Voter turnout continues to be low.**

As a result, a small margin of people made decisions on behalf of their entire community. We cannot assume others will take care of voting for us. We all must be engaged in the decision making that affects our community leaders, schools, laws, and other important issues. If you do not vote, you give others the power to make decisions for you.

- November 7, 2017 General Election: 31% turnout
- September 12, 2017 Primary Election: 13% turnout (Not a typo!)
- May 2, 2017 Primary Election: 23% turnout

### **One vote can make a difference.**

Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted announced that 112 elections in Ohio have been decided by a single vote or tied in the past five years.

Full news release: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/media-center/press-releases/2016/2016-12-16/#gref>

## IN THE PAST EIGHT STATEWIDE ELECTIONS...

**112**  
RACES AND ISSUES  
WERE DECIDED BY  
**ONE VOTE OR TIED**

**14**

**IN 2016 ALONE**  
LOCAL RACES WERE DECIDED  
BY **ONE VOTE OR TIED**

**JON HUSTED**  
Ohio Secretary of State



**one  
vote  
matters**

### **Voters have three options for casting their vote in Ohio.**

Voters may choose their preferred method of voting from the following:

1. Traditional voting on Election Day
2. Early voting by mail
3. Early voting in person at the Board of Elections (evening and weekend hours)

Early voting begins 30 days prior to Election Day. All voted ballots that are submitted through early voting are the first votes to be counted on election night. Anyone can vote early.

**Myth: My absentee ballot is only counted if necessary.**

Many people believe that vote-by-mail ballots are only opened and counted if the election has a close race. This is simply not true. In fact, vote-by-mail ballots are the first votes processed and counted on election night.

**AIGA “Get Out the Vote” Posters**

There are some very cool and fun posters available to download to encourage voting. Visit this website and scroll all the way down to the bottom. Each thumbnail can be clicked on and the poster can be downloaded and printed.

<http://www.aiga.org/vote>

**Here are ten reasons to vote by mail.**

1. **Vote on your own schedule.** So many of us are juggling work, taking care of our families, running errands, exercising, volunteering, etc. that voting in person can be a hassle. Vote at your leisure when it’s convenient for you.
2. **It’s easy.** Voting comes to you! How easy is that? After you request your vote-by-mail ballot, the Board of Elections will mail you the ballot and all you need to do is complete it and mail it back.
3. **You still get a sticker.** Everyone’s favorite part of voting, right?



*You still get a sticker when you vote by mail!*

4. **Every vote counts.** All votes are counted as soon as ballots arrive back at the Board of Elections. Now you can even get a text or email to confirm your vote has been counted through VoterNotify.

5. **There's no place like home.** Vote from the comfort and privacy of your own home.
6. **Take your time.** Never heard of that candidate running for judge or councilman? Say no more! When voting from home you're just a quick Google search away from researching candidates as you go to make educated decisions.
7. **You can vote in your pajamas.** But really.
8. **Avoid lines on Election Day.** More people come out to the polls in presidential election years. Don't let this happen to you (Election Day 2012)



*Election Day 2008 – Voters waited in line that spanned blocks.*

9. **Safe and secure.** Voted ballots are locked in the vault until they are ready to be counted on election night. Additionally, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted has solved the issue of counting ballots that arrive after Election Day without a postmark. No more worries! Read about it here: Ohio absentee ballot postmark fix proposed by Secretary of State Jon Husted [http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2016/01/absentee\\_ballot\\_postmark\\_fix.html](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2016/01/absentee_ballot_postmark_fix.html)
10. **Get it over with.** Already know who you're voting for? Then why wait? Go ahead and vote already!

To learn more about voting by mail, call 216-443-VOTE or visit our [website](#).