

FAQ FOR VOTERS EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY

February 2022

I don't have a permanent address. Can I still register to vote?

Yes. If you are 16 years of age and older, a US citizen, and live in Rhode Island, you are eligible to vote and can register, no matter what your housing situation is. You can register to vote in Rhode Island at age 16, but you must be 18 years old to actually vote.

I don't have a permanent address, what should I put down as my address when I register to vote?

If you don't have a permanent address, you can use the address of the city or town hall where you are residing when you fill out your voter registration form.

What if someone tells me that I can't register to vote because I do not have an address?

Your first step should be to contact the Secretary of State's office at (401) 222-2340 to let them know this is happening.

You can call 211, which has a voting rights hotline.

You can also call the Board of Elections at (401) 222-2345 or your local board of canvassers at your city or town hall.

I have a criminal conviction on my record. Am I eligible to vote?

Yes. If you are not currently incarcerated, you are eligible to vote even if you have a conviction on your record. Once you are out of prison, you can re-register to vote or notify your local board of canvassers in writing to restore your voter status.

What do I need to vote?

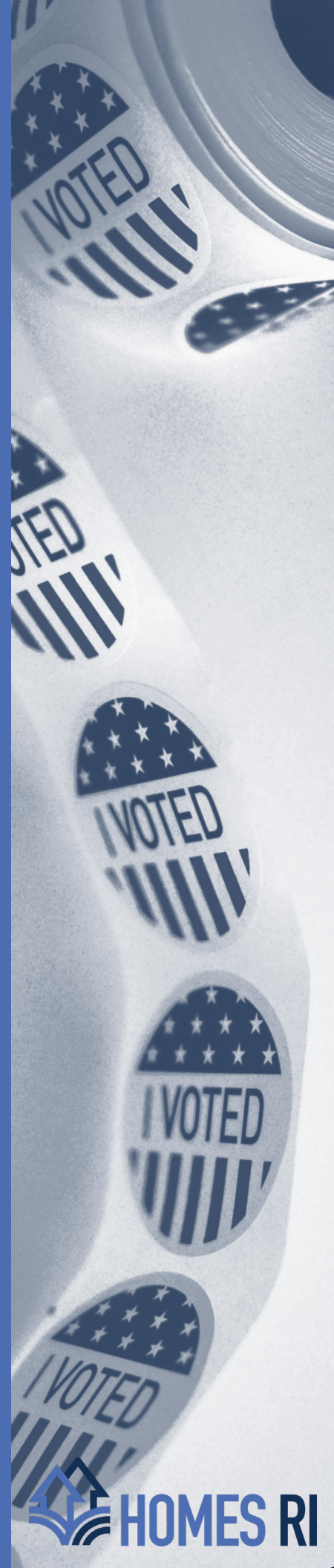
In order to vote you'll need one of the forms of ID:

- RI Driver's License or Permit
- RI Voter ID Card *
- U.S. Passport
- ID issued by a U.S. educational institution
- U.S. military ID
- ID card issued by the United States or the State of Rhode Island
- Government issued medical card

*If you need a voter ID, the Secretary of State office provides free voter IDs. Call (401) 222 2340.

For more information about voter IDs, visit elections.ri.gov.

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Where can I vote?

You can vote early at your city or town hall starting Aug. 24, 2022 through Sept. 12, 2022 at 4pm for the primaries and Oct. 19, 2022 through Nov. 7, 2022 at 4pm for the general. Check with your local board of canvassers for their business hours.

On Election Day, you can vote at your polling place between 7am and 8pm if you are in line to vote by 8pm, you will be allowed to vote after polls close. You can find your polling place on the Secretary of State's website.

Can I vote by mail?

All registered voters can vote by mail in September's primaries and November's general election, but you'll need to apply to do so and you'll need two witnesses or a notary to sign your ballot.

By mail: Download a mail ballot application from the secretary of state's website or call your local board of canvassers and ask that an application be mailed to you. Your local board of canvassers must receive your application by Aug. 2 for the primaries and by Oct. 18 for the general.

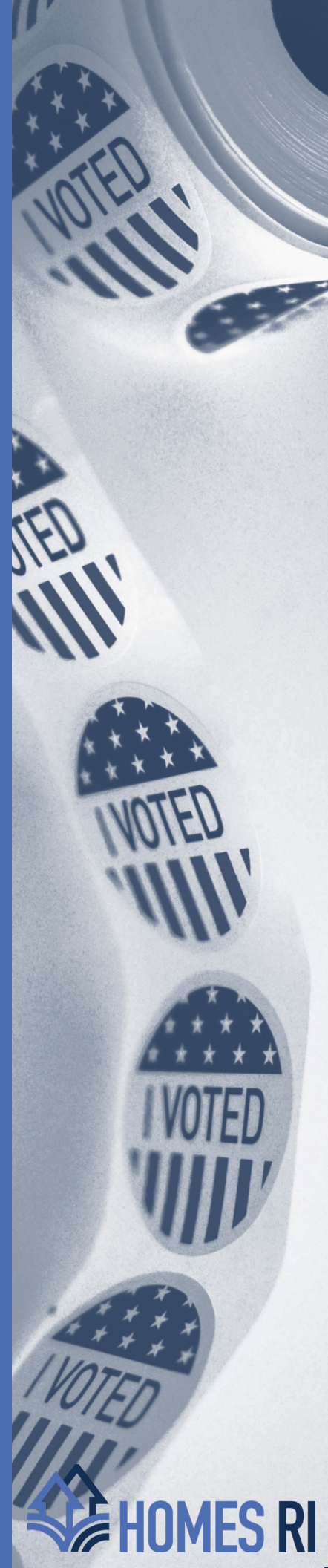
In person: Bring your completed application form to your local board of canvassers by 4pm on Aug. 2 for the primaries and by 4pm on Oct. 18 for the general.

Once you receive your ballot, complete it, sign the mail ballot certificate envelope, and make sure two witnesses or notary also sign it. **Note that the witness signature requirement suspended in 2020 because of COVID-19 has been reinstated.** Return completed ballots by mail or in person.

By mail: Place the mail ballot certificate envelope in the larger, pre-addressed return envelope, seal it and mail it to the state board of elections. The state recommends allowing seven mailing days to ensure the board of elections receives it by 8pm on Election Day.

In person: Hand-deliver it to the state board of elections, or place it in any ballot drop box location by 8pm on Election Day. Contact your local board of canvassers to find a drop box near you.

If you'd planned to vote in person on Election Day but an emergency prevents you from doing so, you can apply for an emergency mail ballot and vote at your local board of canvassers until the day before the election at 4 pm. Contact your local board of canvassers for more information.



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What if someone tells me I can't vote?

You have the right to vote and you should not be turned away or told to find another ID. If you get to the polls on Election Day and someone questions your voting eligibility, here is what should happen:

You should be given what is called a “provisional ballot.”

A provisional ballot means that you will be asked to fill out a form to swear that you are eligible, then that form will be evaluated. Your ballot to vote will be the same as a regular ballot.

When your eligibility is confirmed, your ballot envelope will be opened and your ballot will be counted.

What if I need help casting my ballot?

If you need help casting your ballot on Election Day you can ask a poll worker for assistance. If you have a disability you can bring a person of your choice into the booth with you to help you cast your ballot. You'll be asked to complete an affidavit to do this.

For more information about your rights as a voter, visit www.vote.sos.ri.gov or call 211.

