

October 6, 2020

Facilitating Voting by Personal Care Homes (PCH) and Assisted Living Residence (ALR) Residents

The Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) supports the right of all eligible Pennsylvanians to vote in the 2020 general election. This is a unique election, in that it is occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic, and any qualified voter has the option to vote by mail-in ballot. PCH and ALR residents face unique challenges in exercising their right to vote in this election due to health risks associated with the pandemic. As such, OLTL encourages each Department of Human Services-licensed PCH and ALR Administrator to develop plans for facilitating voting by their residents.

Plans for facilitating voting by PCH and ALR residents should consider the challenges they may encounter and should consider addressing:

- Supporting residents who wish to register to vote in the upcoming election or update their registration. If a resident would like to register to vote, they can [register online](#) or [download a blank voter registration form](#) at www.votespa.com. If a resident needs to [update their registration](#), they can do so at www.votespa.com. October 19, 2020 is the last day to register to vote in the 2020 general election.
- Supporting residents in requesting mail-in or absentee ballots and planning for how they will receive assistance with voting. Residents may [request a mail-in or absentee ballot](#) at www.votespa.com. Please note that completed applications for a mail-in ballot must be received in the [county election office](#) by 5 p.m. on October 27, 2020. The mail-in ballot must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020 and received by the county election office by 5 p.m. on November 6, 2020 to be counted. If returning a mail-in ballot in person, the mail-in ballot must be received by the county election office or other designated location by 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020. More [information on voting by mail-in and absentee ballot](#) is available at www.votespa.com
- Permitting residents to designate whomever they wish to assist them in voting, with only narrow restrictions as allowed by the Voting Rights Act. (i.e. the designated person cannot be the individual's employer or an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of the individual's union.) Residents may require assistance using technology to complete a digital ballot.
- Facilitating an in-person meeting with the designated person to assist with voting.
- Permitting such a designated person to enter the facility, even if visitors are not otherwise permitted, provided that reasonable safety precautions are implemented.
- Reminding staff that they are not authorized to decide who is eligible to vote

With your help, we can ensure that our PCH and ALR residents have every opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

Jamie F. Buchenauer

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