



Election Myth Busters/OH Hamilton Co

1. Fiction: Voting machine counts cannot be verified.

FACT: Voters in Hamilton Co cast their ballots on a hand-marked paper ballot that is scanned by the voter. The paper ballot is a legal record that is hand counted in an audit or recount and compared to the machine count.

2. Fiction: The election workers at a polling place on Election Day are volunteers.

FACT: Election Workers/Poll Workers receive payment for working the election. They attend a training class; set up the polling place the night before the election; and work Election Day.

3. Fiction: The homeless cannot vote.

FACT: A residence does not have to be a house or apartment. A shelter or other location at which the person has been a regular inhabitant and to which the person has the intention of returning is a person's residence for voting purposes.

4. Fiction: Voters must vote on Election Day or have a valid reason to vote early.

FACT: Ohio does not require a reason to vote early. Voters may choose to vote early by mail, in-person at the BOE Office, or at their polling place on Election Day.

5. Fiction: A voter with a disability must always have assistance while voting.

FACT: A voter with a disability can vote without assistance using the BOE's Access Writer at their polling place or the Board Office, or vote from home using a Remote Ballot Marking device.

6. Fiction: ID isn't required when voting early (in-person or by mail).

FACT: Absentee voters must provide a driver license #; last four digits of social security #; military ID; or a copy of: photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, govt check, paycheck or other govt document that shows name and current address.

7. Fiction: You must be 18 years old to work the polls.

FACT: In Ohio, 17 year old high school seniors can work the polls. We have a successful Youth at the Booth program, employing hundreds of students since 2008. www.VoteHamiltonCounty.org for info on our Youth at the Booth Challenge

8. Fiction: Convicted felons cannot vote.

FACT: Electors who are convicted of a felony and incarcerated cannot vote. Once the elector is released from incarceration, the elector may re-register to vote.

9. Fiction: The Board of Elections automatically sends absentee ballots every election.

FACT: A voter must request a ballot by submitting an application every election. (Exception: military and civilian overseas voter applications are good for all elections occurring in that year.)

10. Fiction: Absentee ballots are only counted in close elections.

FACT: All validly cast absentee ballots are counted, regardless of the closeness of a race. They are the first ballots counted on Election Night.

11. Fiction: Polling places are changed randomly.

FACT: Polling places in Ohio must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many times polling places are changed to be ADA compliant. Sometimes a privately owned facility chooses to no longer be a polling place.

12. Fiction: A US passport is a valid form of ID for voting in Ohio.

FACT: A US passport is not an acceptable form of ID for voting purposes. Passports do not contain the voter's address.

13. Fiction: Election results are transmitted over the internet.

FACT: In Ohio, it is not permitted to send vote totals over the internet from polling locations to county board of elections. Our Vote Counting Room has no internet connection.

14. Fiction: I have power of attorney for my relative so I am allowed to sign their name for voting.

FACT: A power of attorney is not valid for signing election documents. A voter may appoint someone to sign on their behalf by filing an Attorney-In-Fact form with the BOE.

15. Fiction: A voter who is registered in Ohio but did not update their new address before the deadline cannot vote in the upcoming election.

FACT: The voter may vote by casting a provisional ballot at the BOE Office or at their new polling location on Election Day.

16. Fiction: Provisional ballots are only counted in close elections.

FACT: All validly cast provisional ballots are counted in the official count. In Nov of 2018, 88% of provisional ballots cast were counted in Hamilton County.

17. Fiction: Election Night is the final count.

FACT: Election Night is an unofficial count. Validly cast provisional ballots and absentee ballots received 10 days after Election Day (postmarked before Election Day) are added to the official count which occurs 11-21 days later.

18. Fiction: You must be at least 18 years old to vote in a Primary Election.

FACT: 17 year old voters who will be 18 by the November General Election, may vote to nominate candidates in the Primary Election.

19. Fiction: Voters declare party affiliation when registering to vote.

FACT: In Ohio, voters do not declare party affiliation when registering. Party affiliation is based upon the type of ballot (political party or issues only) the voter chooses when voting in a primary election.