

How do I register to vote?

Cal Ransom

This Week Editor



Photo by Abe Frato

Throughout the year when volunteers from the League of Women Voters or Students for Civic Engagement are not available, Alison Ricker, head of the Science Library, is available with voter registration forms. She delivers forms every week to the Lorain County Board of Elections, which will process your registration.

“I’ve trained our student staff to help [students] fill out forms completely,” she said. “I’ve always thought it would be a good idea to help all the off-campus students vote by absentee ... because what you put on the external envelope is extremely important – that you fill out the required fields ... they will discount your ballot if you don’t sign it where it should be signed and put your last four digits of your social security number and birth-date.”

If you live on campus, print and bring a physical copy of the utility bill Oberlin emailed to you.

If you live off campus, bring a bank statement or bill that has your Ohio address and name on it.

If you do not have a bank statement or bill under your name in Ohio, fill out a paper application for absentee voting with the Students for Civic Engagement or Alison Ricker.

Where can I find out what local candidates stand for?

To find out about candidates and issues on the ballot, read Midterm Election Candidates Speak to Oberlin College, Community article in *The Oberlin Review* News section this week.

Most candidates will have a personal website, but in smaller local elections that may not be the case.

Vote411.org provides voter guides in which candidates respond to a series of questions on their positions on various issues. It also outlines issues on the ballot in easy-to-understand language.

You can also check out local papers, including *The Morning Journal* and *The Chronicle-Telegram*, for coverage on specific races and ballot items.

It’s easiest to register to vote or change your address in Ohio using paper forms – you’ll only need the last four digits of your Social Security number instead of a form of Ohio ID, which is required to register to vote online.

In the weeks leading up to elections, representatives from the League of Women Voters and Students for Civic Engagement are available to help students fill out voter registration forms inside the Science Center and outside various dining halls.

If you’ve moved dorms since you first registered to vote in Oberlin, you’ll need to update your voter address to match the address on your utility bill.



Courtesy of Tanya Rosen-Jones

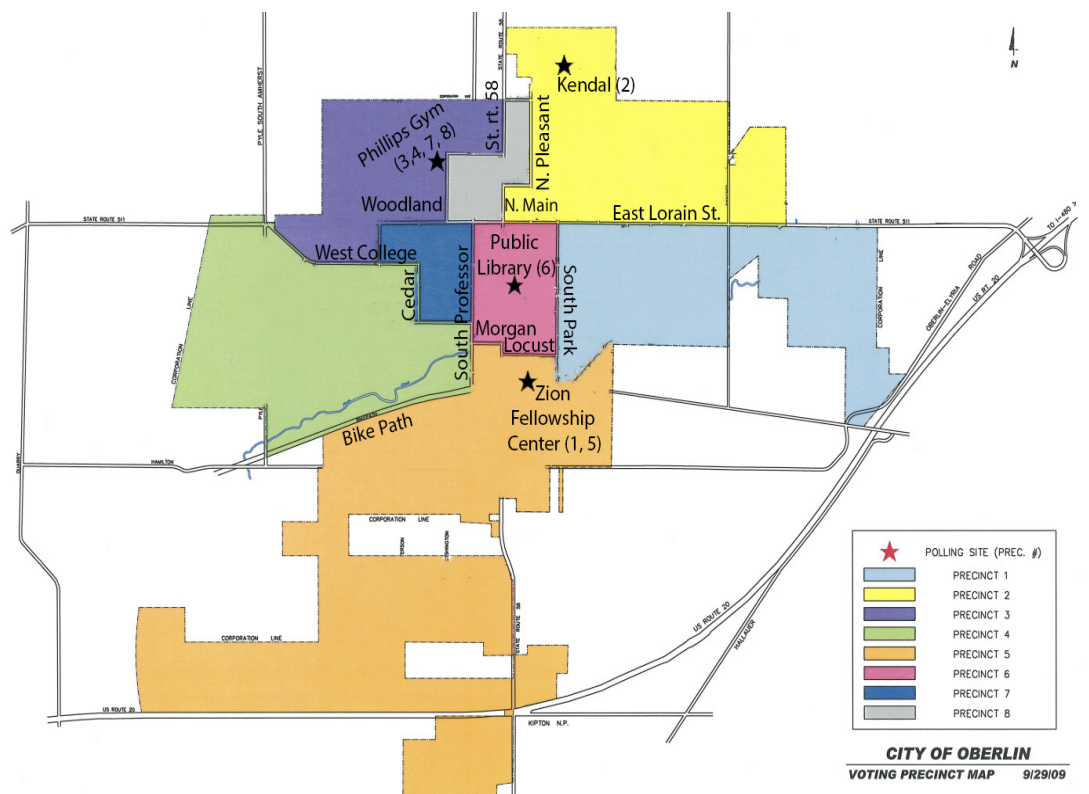
Important dates:

- Register to vote or change your address by **Oct. 11**.
- Early in-person voting is available at the Lorain County Board of Elections (1985 North Ridge Rd, Lorain, OH) weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting **Oct. 12**. Starting **Oct. 29**, early voting is also available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. **Nov. 6 and 7**, early voting is available from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., respectively.
- Forms to request an absentee ballot must be postmarked by **Nov. 5** at noon.
- Absentee voting by mail begins **Oct. 12** and mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by **Nov. 7**.
- Absentee ballots may be returned in person **Nov. 8** before 7:30 p.m.
- The general election is on **Nov. 8**. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where do I vote? Do I need to bring anything to the polling place?

All students living in traditional dorms, except Old Barrows, vote in Phillips gym. Residents of Old Barrows vote at the House of Zion Fellowship Center located at 81 Locust St., across from Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Community members and students living in apartments or off campus can check their precinct at voteohio.gov. See the voting precinct map (below).



Courtesy of City of Oberlin



Photo by Abe Frato

“You can reach out to candidates you are interested in or have questions about – often candidates at the local level have the capacity to engage more because they aren’t representing as many total constituents and receiving thousands of emails a day,” Elliot Davey, treasurer of Students for Civic Engagement, said.