



## PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE TOOL TO ESTIMATE VOTER WAIT TIMES!

PLEJ and the Engineering for Democracy Institute (EDI) at The University of Rhode Island have partnered to create a new, publicly available “Wait to Vote Estimator.” This nonpartisan tool allows election offices anywhere to plan ahead for in-person voting by estimating wait times for constituents and enables voters to estimate how long they will wait in line based on several factors.

This tool allows the user to enter information about their voting location to estimate minimum, average, and maximum expected voter wait times. These values are calculated by inputting location-specific information, including the voting process steps, the amount of available voting equipment, the number of questions on the ballot, and either the number of voters currently in line OR a voter’s current position in line. Rest assured, no information that you enter is saved or stored by PLEJ or EDI.

The screenshot shows the votetime.app interface. It is divided into three main sections:

- Voters in Line:** Includes a text input for "Number of voters in line for the first voting step" (set to 50) and "Ballot Information" with inputs for "Number of Referendums" (2) and "Number of Office Questions" (10).
- Steps to Vote:** A list of five steps with corresponding equipment quantities:
  - Application To Vote (if applicable): 0
  - Check-In: 6
  - Ballot Marking Station: 8
  - Ballot Receipt Station (if applicable): 4
  - Ballot Scanner: 2
- Average Wait Time:** A gauge showing an estimated wait time of 19 minutes. The gauge has markers at 0, 30, 45, 60, and 120 minutes. A button labeled "Estimate Wait Time" is at the bottom.

### Consider using this tool to:

- ✓ Determine average voter wait times based on ballot length and/or assigned equipment allocation
- ✓ Forecast equipment needed to reach aspirational wait times during peak voting times
- ✓ Gauge impact of switching voting locations (i.e. see what happens if you need to quickly pivot to a new voting location when your jurisdiction has been impacted by a natural disaster like a hurricane, tornado, flooding, etc)
- ✓ Evaluate operational impact of resource changes (i.e. changes in staffing, resources, budget adjustments, or availability of voting locations that require colocated precincts or creation of super centers)



View:

- User Guide ([bit.ly/PLEJ-WVTEU](http://bit.ly/PLEJ-WVTEU))
- Video Tutorial ([bit.ly/PLEJ-WTVEV](http://bit.ly/PLEJ-WTVEV))
- How-To Instructions on the Reverse Side

**VOTETIME.APP**





## USING THE VOTER WAIT-TO-VOTE ESTIMATOR

### Step 1: Go to [votetime.app](http://votetime.app)

← → ↺ 🌐 votetime.app ☆

### Step 2: Align the “Steps to Vote” to your process using the Trash icon and the Plus icon, where applicable.

**Steps to Vote:** ⓘ  
Add and remove voting process steps to reflect your voting process.

- Check-In** ⓘ  
Quantity:  ⓘ 🗑️
- Ballot Marking Station** ⓘ  
Quantity:  ⓘ 🗑️
- Ballot Scanner** ⓘ  
Quantity:  ⓘ 🗑️

Application To Vote ⓘ (if applicable)    Ballot Receipt Station ⓘ (if applicable)

### Step 3: Enter the relevant information about ballot information, stations, and line length.

Number of Referendums: ⓘ

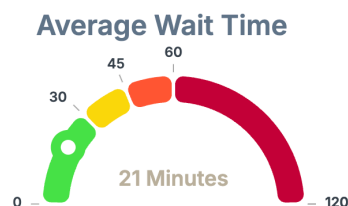
Number of Office Questions: ⓘ

### Step 4: Enter the relevant information about ballot information, stations, and line length.

**Estimate Wait Time**

### Step 5: View Results

This is a data-informed estimate based on the equipment, resources, and ballot information that you provided. While this tool has been designed to be as accurate as possible, it is intended to provide estimates only. Actual wait times may differ from estimates generated by this tool.



### Step 6: Experiment!

Evaluate the numbers you’re entered to identify where bottlenecks occur. Does changing the number of voting stations improve wait times? Or do you actually need more check-in tables? Use this tool to experiment, optimize systems, and plan!

#### About PLEJ

PLEJ is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit providing a community of support to large election jurisdictions (those with 250K+ population or any of the four largest jurisdictions in the state or U.S. territory) and professional development opportunities to individuals working in the election administration space.



#### VBM Lead Time Calculator [vbmtime.app](http://vbmtime.app)

Helps election offices plan the time to process mail ballots (arrival through verification, scanning, and tabulation, based on resources available).



#### Warehouse Estimator [ballotstorage.app](http://ballotstorage.app)

Helps election offices estimate storage needs and off-site storage costs for ballots, equipment, and supplies per election cycle.



#### Precinct Design Tool [votelayout.app](http://votelayout.app)

Allows election offices to create digital layouts of all assigned equipment, staff, etc at in-person voting locations by election type.