

What is Voter Registration?

Registering is the first step to voting.



Voter Registration refers to the requirement for citizens to register with a state or local elections office in order to be eligible to receive an official ballot for a given election, and to participate in certain election-related activities (including but not limited to signing petitions, serving as poll workers, and running for office). Every state and territory, except North Dakota, requires citizens to register if they want to vote.

Am I eligible to register to vote?

Each state has slightly different rules for who is eligible to vote. In general, you must be:

- a U.S. citizen;
- a resident of the community where you are registering (sometimes for a certain amount of time);
- a certain age (typically 18 years old);
- not disqualified by rules in the jurisdiction (such a felony conviction or judicial ruling).

How can I register to vote?

You can register to vote:



In-person: You can register to vote at your local elections office or other government agency (including motor vehicle agencies).



By mail: Most states provide their own mail-in registration form. However, voters in all states except New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Wyoming can use the National Mail Voter Registration Form.

This form is maintained by the EAC, and it is available in 21 languages:



<https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form>



Online: Forty-Four states, plus Washington, D.C., offer online voter registration for first-time voters.

Go to www.vote.gov to find your state's voter registration requirements, mail-in registration forms, or online registration form (where available).



Do I need an ID to register to vote?

The Help America Vote Act creates mandatory minimum identification standards for states to follow when citizens register to vote for the first time. Each state has its own requirement, but most voter registration forms will ask for either a driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number.



Contact your local elections office if you have any questions about the identification requirement in your state, or find your state's voter registration requirements here:

<https://www.eac.gov/voters/register-and-vote-in-your-state>

When should I update my voter registration?



You should update your voter registration information if you have moved, changed your name, or (in some states) changed your political party. You may also need to update your registration if you have not voted in the last two Presidential Election cycles. Most states allow you to check and update your voter registration information online.

When is the deadline to register to vote?

Voter registration deadlines vary by state. In some states, you may have to register 30 days before Election Day.

UP TO

30

DAYS BEFORE
ELECTION DAY

However, some others allow voters to register up to, or even on, Election Day. Find your state's registration deadlines and requirements here:

<https://www.eac.gov/voters/register-and-vote-in-your-state>

Under federal law, voters who move to a new state within 30 days of a presidential election, and cannot register to vote in their new state, must be allowed to vote for President and Vice-President in their former state.

Is the voter registration process secure?

Election officials regularly update voter registration records based on information from voters and official government data, including death records. Additionally, It is a crime to knowingly complete a voter registration form with false information. Voter registration fraud carries serious penalties, including fines and jail time.



United States Election Assistance Commission
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The U.S. Election Assistance Commission helps election officials improve the administration of elections and helps Americans participate in the voting process.

Voter Registration 101

Election Information for New Voters

