

**I-866-OUR-VOTE
(1-866-687-8683)****Disclaimer:**

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**I. Where can voter registration forms be obtained?**

Voters can use the Online Voter Registration Application or print a Voter Registration Application by going to the Division of Elections website at http://www.elections.alaska.gov/vi_vr_how.php. Application forms are also available at the Division of Elections as well as at designated voter registration agencies (including DMV locations, Health and Social Services offices, Community and Economic Development offices and Armed Forces Recruitment Offices). Alaska Stat. § 15.07.055.

2. Are there restrictions on copying voter registration forms?

Implicit in its policy of allowing residents to fax registration forms, Alaska accepts photocopied voter registration forms. See http://www.elections.alaska.gov/vi_vr_how.php. Voters can submit Voter Registration Applications by mail, fax, or e-mail as an attached PDF, TIFF, or JPG file.

3. Are there restrictions on the use of the National Voter Registration Form?

The National Voter Registration Form can be used in Alaska. See http://www.eac.gov/national_voter_registration_act/frequently_asked_questions.aspx. If using the National Voter Registration Form in Alaska, the political party affiliation and race/ethnicity fields may be left blank. See <http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Page/National%20Mail%20Voter%20Registration%20Form%20-%20English.pdf>. One of the following identification numbers must be provided: Alaska Driver's License or Alaska State Identification Card Number. If a person does not have either of those, he/she must provide the last four digits of his/her social security number. If a person does not have any of those identification numbers, he or she must write "NONE" on the form and a unique identifying number will be assigned to him or her for voter registration purposes. See <http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Page/National%20Mail%20Voter%20Registration%20Form%20-%20English.pdf>.

4. Are there restrictions regarding the use of registration form information?

Yes. Portions of the voter record are confidential, including the voter's voter identification number, social security number, date of birth, place of birth, signature and driver's license number. If a voter provides a separate mailing address, the voter may elect to keep that residential address confidential, subject to disclosure in all cases to certain election officials. Similarly, all information made confidential may be released to government bodies and agencies. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.195. Party preference is public information and is printed on all voter lists. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.127.

5. Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling information on registration forms?

Applicants are to complete their own registration application unless the applicant needs assistance due to a disability. A registrar may assist those who are unable to read or write the English language by translating the required information and the oath appearing on the registration form or by completing the application. See Official Registrar Handbook, adopted by reference in Alaska Admin. Code tit. 6, § 25.025(d). The Handbook can be obtained by contacting any regional office of the Division of Elections. Contact information for the regional offices can be found on the Division of Elections website at http://ltgov.state.ak.us/elections/csm_contact_reo.php.

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

6. How long must you live in a county before you are able to register to vote?

If you are in Alaska, you can register to vote as soon as you arrive as long as you intend to remain there and have the intent to return when you leave. However, a person must have been a resident of Alaska and of the election district in which the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election in order to vote in that election. The voter may not be registered in another state. Alaska Stat. § 15.05.010. The 30-day residency requirement does not apply to presidential elections in the case of a voter who is otherwise qualified. Alaska Stat. § 15.05.012.

7. Are there any restrictions on registering to vote using a P.O. Box, college campus, or dorm address?

In general, a P.O. Box, including a campus P.O. Box, is not sufficient to establish residency. An applicant must provide sufficient information to determine the location of the residence of the voter. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.064.

8. Can a person register to vote at a college address that is not a permanent address?

Use of a college address is permissible provided that you consider your college address your legal residence. Residence is defined as the place in which a person's habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever absent, the person intends to return. Alaska Stat. § 15.05.020. To vote, you must have been a resident of Alaska and of the house district in which you plan to vote for at least 30 days just before the election and you may not be registered to vote in another jurisdiction. Alaska Stat. § 15.05.010.

9. Are there any identification requirements to register to vote?

Yes. When registering to vote in person, a voter's identity must be verified by a driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license. A registration official who knows the identity of the applicant may waive the identification requirement. See Alaska Stat. § 15.07.060.

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For voters who are registering for the first time and are registering by mail, fax, or e-mail, the voter must submit a copy of his or her photo identification, driver's license, passport, state identification card, or birth certificate. http://www.elections.alaska.gov/vi_vr_how.php.

10. Are there any identification requirements in order to vote?

Yes. Alaska voters must provide identification at the polling place in order to vote. Acceptable forms of identification include an official voter registration card, driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport or hunting or fishing license. In the alternative, the following documents are acceptable identification as long as they list the voter's current address and name: an original or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document.

A voter who cannot exhibit a required form of identification shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot. Alaska Stat. § 15.15.225.

11. What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?

The applicant must provide the following information: name; sex; State of Alaska driver's license number or State of Alaska identification card number, if issued, or the last four digits of the applicant's social security number; date of birth; Alaska residence address; statement of whether the applicant has been registered to vote in another jurisdiction and, if so, the jurisdiction and the address of the previous registration; a declaration that the applicant will be 18 or older within 90 days after the date of registration; declaration that the applicant is a citizen of the United States; the applicant's signature; any former name under which the applicant was registered to vote in Alaska; and other certification statements attesting to the veracity of information provided and understanding of potential criminal prosecution for violating sections of the Elections title. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.060.

An incomplete or inaccurate registration form may not be accepted. An application will not be processed if the residence address is missing, or if you provide a PO Box, HC No. and Box, PSC Box, Rural Route No., Commercial Address or Mail Stop Address. If the application is incomplete, the registrant will be notified in writing. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.070;
http://www.elections.alaska.gov/vi_vr_how.php.

A person who submitted an incomplete or inaccurate registration form may register by re-executing and resubmitting a registration form in person, by mail, or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the elections director. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.070.

12. Can a person whose name has changed since registering vote on Election Day?

Yes. A voter whose name is changed by marriage or court order may vote under his/her previous name. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.090. In order to vote under a name that has been legally changed, a voter must use the Voter Registration Application Register to perform a name change. In order for the change to be in effect for an election, the request must be received or postmarked 30 days before an election. A voter who wishes to vote under the new name, but has not re-registered at least 30 days before the election may vote a questioned ballot or an absentee ballot. Alaska Admin. Code tit. 6, § 25.520.

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

13. What are the laws regarding third-party registration?

According to Alaska law, a registration official shall be a qualified state voter and must take an oath to honestly, faithfully, and promptly perform the duties of the office. Additionally, a registration official must transmit completed voter registration forms to the election supervisor within five days of completion. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.100.

A regional election supervisor may appoint registrars for the supervisor's region. A qualified voter who is interested in serving as a registrar may contact any regional office to obtain training in the proper conduct of a registrar and the proper procedures for voter registration. A registrar acting in an official capacity may not persuade or attempt to persuade the applicant to register with a political party or group; make any changes to a voter registration form or absentee ballot application while the applicant is not present; collect or store any information supplied on a voter registration form or absentee ballot application other than the information that is also available on a public voter registration list, or reproduce or store copies of completed voter registration forms or absentee ballot applications. In addition, a telephone number and an electronic mail address provided by the applicant when registering to vote or applying for an absentee ballot must be treated as confidential information and may not be used for any other purpose by the registrar. Alaska Admin. Code tit. 6, § 25.025.

14. Are there any laws regarding compensation for the submission of voter registration forms?

A registration official may not accept a fee from an applicant applying for registration. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.180. A person who violates § 15.07.180 is guilty of a misdemeanor. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.190.

15. Is training required for voter registration drives?

Yes. Training is required for and is provided by the director. Once the training has been completed, the director may require that officials demonstrate their competence by a test or other method. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.100.

A registrar may conduct a voter registration drive at any time. A qualified voter who wishes to become a registrar may contact any regional elections office to obtain training in the proper conduct of a registrar and the proper procedures for voter registration. Alaska Admin. Code tit. 6, § 25.025.

16. Are volunteers or staff of voter registration drives required to be county or state residents?

Yes. A voter registrar must be a qualified voter. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.100.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

17. What is the deadline to register to vote?

For the 2010 Primary Election, the deadline to register or update your voter registration is July 25, 2010. For the 2010 General Election, the deadline is October 4, 2010. Alaska requires voters to be registered 30 days before an election. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.070.

18. Is the registration form submission deadline different from the voter registration deadline?

Completed registration forms submitted by mail must be postmarked at least 30 days before the next election, and completed registration forms submitted by fax or other electronic transmission approved under Alaska Stat. § 15.07.050 must be received at least 30 days before the next election. The names of applicants submitting forms without postmarks will be placed on the official registration list for that election if the form was signed and dated at least 30 days before the election and the form is received by the director or election supervisor at least 25 days before the election. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.070.

19. Is Election Day registration allowed?

Individuals who register to vote on Election Day will not be permitted to vote in that election. Alaska Stat. § 15.07.070.

20. Does state election law allow for early or absentee voting?

Yes. Early voting and absentee voting are permitted in Alaska. Absentee in person voting begins 15 days before an election and continues through Election Day at absentee voting sites throughout the state of Alaska. http://www.elections.alaska.gov/vi_ea_ev_ip_about.php.

A person residing outside the United States may register and vote absentee if that person was domiciled in Alaska immediately before leaving the United States, has not established a domicile in another state, territory or possession of the United States since leaving Alaska, and is not registered to vote and has not voted in another state, territory or possession of the United States since leaving Alaska, has a valid passport, card of identity and registration, or other identification issued under the authority of the United States Secretary of State, and identification complying with the requirements of this title. Alaska Stat. § 15.05.011. A person does not lose residence in Alaska by reason of absence while in the civil or military service of the state or of the United States or of absence because of marriage to a person engaged in the civil or military service of this state or the United States, while a student at an institution of learning, while in an institution or asylum at public expense, while confined in public prison, while engaged in the navigation of waters of this state or the United States or of the high seas, while residing upon an Indian or military reservation or while residing in the Alaska Pioneers' Home or the Alaska Veterans' Home. A person does not lose residence if the person goes to another country, state or place in Alaska for temporary purposes only. Alaska Stat. § 15.05.020.

VOTING REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

21. Is there any pending legislation that affects voter registration? If so, where is it in the legislative process?

House Bill 115 would establish permanent absentee voting for qualified voters. As of August 25, 2010, the bill is awaiting action by the Judiciary Committee.

House bill 248 would establish a separate primary ballot for voters registered as nonpartisan or undeclared that contains all of the candidates for office. This bill has been referred to the State Affairs and Finance Committees.

Senate Bill 68 would amend Alaska Stat. § 15.05.030 to allow a convicted felon to vote upon release from incarceration after having served time for a lower level felony. As of April 16, 2009 the bill had been referred to the Finance Committee. No further action has been taken on this bill.

22. What applicable statutes are possibly affected?

Alaska Statute Title 15 and Alaska Administrative Code Title 6 govern the election process.

23. Are there any helpful state elections official contacts?

For more information, contact the Alaska Division of Elections at:

Division of Elections

PO Box 110017

Juneau, AK 99811-0017

(907) 465-4611

elections@gov.state.ak.us

24. What web resources are available?

The Alaska Division of Elections: www.elections.alaska.gov. The site includes resources such as frequently asked questions and absentee ballots.

The National Campaign for Fair Elections is also a helpful resource: <http://www.866ourvote.org/>.