

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

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VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

There are several ways to get a voter registration form. Via the Internet, the form can be downloaded on the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.state.co.us/> or at <http://www.elections.colorado.gov/DDefault.aspx>. Application forms are available at most state agency offices, public libraries, post offices or at County Clerk and Recorder's offices. The Department of Revenue must supply voter registration forms and change of name and change-of-address forms to the local driver's license examination facilities for any applicant who wishes to register to vote when applying for the issuance, renewal, or correction of a driver's license.

1) Are there restrictions on registering to vote using a photocopied voter registration form?

Yes. Registered organizers of voter registration drives (VRDs) (see **Questions #12-15**) may request an estimated number of required VRD Voter Registration Applications from the Secretary of State. VRD applications differ from the standard Voter Registration Application by including a tear-off sheet that the applicant retains. See <http://www.elections.colorado.gov/DDefault.aspx?tid=502>. Thus, these VRD applications may not be copied. However, according to officials in the Secretary of State's office, there is no restriction on submitting photocopies of standard voter registration form, so long as it contains an original signature. There is also no restriction on copying completed forms before submission, but the Secretary of State's office requests that voter registration drive groups redact driver's license and social security numbers from copied applications.

2) Are there restrictions on the use of the National Form?

The National Voter Registration form can be used in Colorado. See <http://www.eac.gov/voter/Register%20to%20Vote>. Voter registration drives using the National Form are subject to the same requirements described in **Questions #12-15**. If using the National Form in Colorado, the political party affiliation and race/ethnicity fields may be left blank.

3) Are there restrictions regarding the use of registration form information?

Registration books, including all oaths, applications for registration, change of name and address forms, and other papers pertaining to registration are public records, and any elector may examine them and make copies during office hours. Information on a voter registration card may be used for other purposes, for instance, to see if the voter would like an absentee ballot or for Get-Out-The-Vote activities.

4) Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling info on registration forms?

No. The Secretary of State's office advises that a registration form signed by the applicant will be accepted with pre-filled information. Any inconsistent information on registration forms, such as an incorrect county or zip code, may delay the registration process. See **Question #10**.

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

5) How long must you live in a county before you are eligible to register to vote?

A person must have been a resident of the Colorado precinct in which the person intends to register for a minimum of thirty (30) days preceding the election.

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

A person may register to vote using any address she considers to be her residence. A residence is any place where a person lives with the intent of staying. A college or dorm address may be used if the applicant lives at that address, and when she leaves—for any length of time—with the intention of returning. A post office box is not a residence.

Students with a campus P.O. Box should fill in their dorm names and room numbers in the Colorado Legal Residence Street Address on the Colorado form or the Home Address box (2) on the National form and then enter their P.O. Box number in the Mailing Address box on the Colorado form or Address Where You Get Your Mail box (3) on the National form.

7) If I am in the state because of work or school, can I register to vote?

Yes. A student at an institution of higher education in Colorado who is otherwise qualified to vote shall not be denied the right to register or vote solely because that person is a student at an institution of higher education. A student may instead choose to vote at a previous Colorado address or the address of her family if she regards that county as her permanent residence. A person's voting address is determined based on her residence. A residence is any place that a person regards as her home and lives with the intent of staying, even when a particular address, such as a campus dorm, may last only as long as student status. A person can reside at an address and leave for a period of time, e.g. to attend college. However, as long as the person has the intention of returning, that address may be considered their residence.

8) Are there any identification requirements to register to vote?

Identification is not required of voters not registering in person to vote in Colorado but, under federal law, first-time voters who have not provided identification at registration are required to do so at the polling place (see **Question #9**). The registration form requires an applicant's Colorado drivers license number or Department of Revenue identification number. If a registration applicant does not have a driver's license or Department of Revenue number, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number are required. Applicants with no social security number will be issued a unique identifying number and registered to vote by checking a box stating "I do not have a social security number." An applicant who leaves the identification section blank and does not check the box(es) indicating lack of identification will not be registered to vote.

9) Are there any identification requirements in order to vote?

Voters casting ballots for the first time in Colorado, or voting in a new Colorado county before creation a statewide voter database, must provide one form of the following form of identification if they have not done so in person at the time of registration:

1. A valid Colorado driver's license;
2. A valid identification card issued by the state Department of Revenue;
3. A valid United States passport;
4. A valid employee photo ID issued by the U.S. Government, Colorado state government, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other political subdivision of the state;
5. A valid pilot's license issued by the federal aviation administration or other authorized agency of the United States;
6. A valid United States military identification card with a photograph of the eligible elector;
7. A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the elector;
8. A valid Medicare or Medicaid card issued by the United States health care financing administration;
9. A certified copy of a birth certificate for the elector issued in the United States; or
10. Certified documentation of naturalization.

If the form of identification shows an address, it must show the person's address as in the state of Colorado.

A student ID card – if issued by an institute of higher education in Colorado– is considered valid ID for voting.

I0) What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?

As reported by the Colorado Secretary of State, each of the 63 county divisions of elections establishes its own rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms. However, applicants who fail to answer the question regarding U.S. citizenship will be contacted in a timely manner by the election official to allow for the completion of the registration form prior to the next election for federal office.

Contact information for each division of elections is available at http://www.elections.colorado.gov/WWW/default/countyclerk_english.pdf.

I1) Can a person whose name has changed since registration vote on Election Day?

Yes. A person already registered to vote under a different name that has been legally changed may have the name changed in the registration book by (i) submitting the change on a form supplied by the County Clerk and Recorder; or (ii) submitting a personal letter (including the voter's printed former legal name, printed present legal name, birth date, and signature of present legal name and the date) to the Clerk at any time when registration is permitted; or (iii) submitting the form to an election judge, serving at the polling place, on the date of the election.

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

Since 2004, the laws governing voter registration drives have changed dramatically. Please read the section below carefully.

I2) What are the laws regarding third-party registration

When two or more persons distribute and collect voter registration applications for delivery to a county clerk and recorder – regardless of whether persons receive compensation – the state requires:

1. Registration with the Secretary of State as a Voter Registration Drive (VRD);
2. Attendance by the VRD agent at training; and
3. Receipt of a unique VRD number.

The VRD is not authorized to collect voter registrations until receiving a VRD number.

Further information is available from the Secretary of State at:

<http://www.elections.colorado.gov/DDefault.aspx?tid=502>

I3) Are there any laws regarding submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation?

Yes. It is illegal to pay people doing voter registration drives on a per application basis, e.g. \$1 for every voter registration form distributed or collected.

I4) Is training required for registration drives?

Yes. Each VRD agent must attend mandatory state-provided training. Advance registration is required. VRD agents will be instructed on requirements for training individuals distributing and collecting voter registrations.

I5) Are volunteers or staff of voter registration drives required to be county or state residents?

Each VRD must designate a state resident as its agent. Other individuals participating in a VRD need not be state residents.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

I6) What is the deadline to register to vote?

For the 2008 general election, the deadline is Monday, October 6. Colorado has a 29-day voter registration requirement.

I7) Must organizations or individuals engaged in voter registration drives submit their forms within a certain period of time?

Completed voter registration applications must be delivered or postmarked within 15 days of completion to the county clerk or registrar, except for the 30 days immediately prior to the election. During that time, applications must be postmarked or delivered within five days. All voter registration applications must be submitted by the close of registration. A voter registration driver organizer who

willfully fails to deliver registration applications in the time and manner prescribed is subject to fines up to \$5,000.

18) Election Day registration?

Individuals who register to vote on Election Day will not be able to vote in that election. Colorado has a 29-day voter registration requirement, and all applications to vote must be submitted or postmarked no later than the 29th day before the first election in which the individual would like to vote.

19) Does Colorado election law allow for early voting?

Yes. Each county shall provide one or more polling places for any eligible elector during regular business hours for ten days before a primary election and for fifteen days before a general election.

Any eligible voter may vote by absentee ballot at an election. A registered voter does not have to state a reason to vote by absentee ballot. A voter may obtain an absentee ballot application from the designated election official. Or, a voter may write a letter to the designated election official requesting an absentee ballot, including the voter's printed name, signature, residence address, mailing address (if the voter wishes to receive the absentee ballot by mail), and date of birth. Applications for ballots to be mailed are due by October 31 for the 2006 general election, or by November 3 if the ballot is not mailed. All absentee ballots must be in the hands of the designated election official no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

20) Is there any pending legislation? If so, where is it in the legislative process?

The Secretary of State reports in June 2008 that there is no pending legislation affecting elections.

21) Applicable statutes?

Title One of Colorado's Revised Statutes Annotated is relevant to Voter Registration, specifically:

- § 1-1-101 to 1-1-303. on elections generally;
- § 1-2-101 to 1-2-703 on qualifications and registration of electors;
- § 1-7-101 to 1-7-908 on conduct of elections;
- § 1-8-101 to 1-8-311 on absentee and early voting.

21) Is there an elections official contact who is helpful?

For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Office at:

Colorado Secretary of State
1700 Broadway
Denver, CO 80290
(303) 894 2200

22) What web resources are available?

The Colorado Secretary of State has a website dedicated to providing information on the voter registration process: www.elections.colorado.gov. This site includes resources such as frequently asked questions, absentee ballots, and special provisions for military officers.

National Campaign for Fair Elections: www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/colorado.