

**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**1) How can I register to vote?**

You can register in person at your local City or County Clerk's office. You can also register through the mail by downloading Hawaii's Wikiwiki voter registration form, filling it out, and sending it to your local City or County Clerk's office. The form is available at http://hawaii.gov/elections/forms/voter_application.pdf. Application forms can also be picked up at Hawaii state libraries, satellite city halls, state agencies, and U.S. post offices.

In addition, you should be aware that you can register to vote when you apply or renew your driver's license.

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

The Wikiwiki Voter Registration form and the Application for Absentee Voter Ballot can both be photocopied. If you are part of an organization conducting a voter registration drive, however, you must obtain approval from the Office of Elections or County Clerk before duplicating and distributing these forms.

3) Can I register using the National Voter Registration Form?

Yes. It can be downloaded at www.eac.gov/voter/Register%20to%20Vote. Be sure to provide your full social security number or your application will not be accepted.

4) Is all of my voter registration information publicly available?

No. Only the following information from your voter registration form is available to the public: full name; district/precinct designation; voter status. All other information is confidential except for election or government purposes.

You may also ask your City or County Clerk to keep your address and telephone number confidential. You must, however, demonstrate that life threatening circumstances exist to you or a member of your family or demonstrate that disclosure of your address or telephone number would result in unwarranted invasion of privacy or risk of bodily harm to you or your family.

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

5) Who is qualified to vote in Hawaii?

To vote in Hawaii, a person must (1) be a citizen of the United States, (2) be a resident of Hawaii, and (3) be eighteen years old.

6) Do I have to turn 18 before I can register to vote?

No. You may register to vote before you turn 18 if you will turn 18 on or before the day of the next statewide general election. You may also preregister to vote if you are age 16 or older.

7) How long must I have lived in Hawaii before I am considered a resident?

There is no minimum residency requirement in Hawaii. You must only be a resident in time to register to vote within 30 days of an election (as is generally required under Hawaiian law). See Question 21. You will not be eligible to vote in Hawaii if you participate in another state's election by absentee ballot (or in person) after you move to Hawaii.

8) Does it matter if I am a convicted felon?

Yes. You may not vote as of the date you are convicted of a felony, but you may vote if you are placed on probation or are on parole. You are eligible to vote again after serving your sentence and being discharged.

9) What information am I required to include on a voter registration form?

You must include the following information:

- Name,
- Social security number,
- Date of birth,
- Residence, including your mailing address,
- That you are a Hawaii resident and your residence is not simply because of your presence in Hawaii but that you intend to make Hawaii your legal residence,
- That you are a U.S. citizen, and
- Your signature, affirming the truth of the information listed above.

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

If a county clerk receives a deficient form and can contact the person who submitted the application, he or she will do so.

11) I have changed my name since I registered. Can I still vote using my old registration?

Yes. The City or County Clerk may designate a registration clerk to be at your polling place on election day. It is the registration clerk's job to take applications for change of name from voters who have been married or had their names changed since the last election. You will not be prevented from voting because of your name change.

12) I have moved since I registered to vote. Can I still vote using my old registration?

Yes, but you may vote only at your new precinct. If you have changed your residence since the last election, and you have not yet changed your registration information, you will need to complete an application for change of residence at your new polling place on the day of the election. You will not be prevented from voting because of your change in residence.

13) If I am in Hawaii because of work or because I am a student in Hawaii, can I vote in Hawaii?

Yes, but only if you consider yourself a resident of Hawaii. No person gains residency for voting purposes simply by being present in Hawaii. If you maintain your primary home in Hawaii, meaning you intend to return to it after being away from it, you may have residency in Hawaii. If you are a student in Hawaii and consider your school address to be your primary residence, then you may vote in Hawaii. For further explanation of what it means to be a resident of Hawaii see <http://hawaii.gov/elections/factsheets/fsvs512.pdf>.

14) If I leave Hawaii because of work or because I am a student, can I still vote in Hawaii?

Yes, but again only if you still consider yourself to be a resident of Hawaii. Just as no person gains residency for voting purposes by being present in Hawaii, no person loses residency for voting purposes by being absent from Hawaii. If you leave the state but maintain your primary home in Hawaii and plan to return to Hawaii you have not lost the right to vote in Hawaii. You cannot, however, have voted in any other state during your absence.

15) I am registered to vote but I have not voted in the last 2 primary and the last 2 general elections, or any other elections occurring during the same period. Is my registration still good?

Hawaii law requires the county clerk to cancel the registration of any voter who did not vote in at least one of: the last 2 primary elections, the last 2 general elections, or the regularly scheduled special elections associated with those primary and general elections. You should check with your county clerk and may have to re-register.

16) Do I have to show ID to register to vote?

No.

17) Do I have to show ID to vote on election day?

Yes, you may be required to show identification if an election official requests one.

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

18) What are the laws regarding third-party registration?

Anyone may distribute voter registration forms, but you must be deputized in order to collect voter registration forms. To be deputized, contact your local City or County Clerk.

19) Is training required for voter registration drives?

Yes. You may distribute voter registration forms without training but you may not collect voter registration forms without training. To collect forms, you must be trained and deputized. To be deputized, contact your local City or County Clerk.

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

No.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

21) What is the deadline to register to vote?

For the 2008 general election, the deadline is Monday, October 6, 2008. Hawaii requires voters to be registered by 4:30pm on the 30th day before an election.

The October 6, 2008 deadline also applies to voter registration submitted by mail. If you register through the mail your registration form must be received by the county clerk by the 30th day before the election; a postmark by the 30th day is insufficient.

22) Is Election Day registration allowed?

No.

23) Does Hawaii law allow for absentee voting or early voting?

Yes. Anyone registered to vote may vote by absentee ballot by mail or in person.

To vote absentee ballot by mail, you must first request an absentee ballot by mailing a completed Application for Absentee Voter Ballot directly to the City or County Clerk's office. Applications for absentee ballots can be found at your City or County Clerk's office, Hawaii state libraries, satellite city halls, state agencies, U.S. post offices, or online at <http://hawaii.gov/elections/voters/voteabsentee.htm>.

You may also write a letter to the City or County Clerk where you are registered to vote. If you submit a letter to the City or County Clerk in lieu of the Application for Absentee Voter Ballot, the letter must contain:

- The name under which you registered to vote,
- Your residence address and mailing address (if different), or a description of the location of your residence,
- Your home and business phone numbers,
- Your date and place of birth and gender,
- Your social security number,
- The year and the specific elections in which you would like to vote absentee (e.g. the 2008 general election),
- The address to which your absentee ballot should be mailed, and
- The following statement followed by your original signature (it cannot be a copy) and date: "I hereby affirm that I am the person named above; I am requesting an absentee ballot for myself and no one else; and all the above information is true and correct. If you are unable to sign the letter, you must have the above signed and dated by a witness, and include the address and phone number of the witness.

For the 2008 general election, your application must be submitted after Friday, September 5 and by Tuesday, October 28. After you have received and filled out your ballot, you must return it to your City or County Clerk by the day of the general election.

To vote absentee ballot in person, you must vote at an absentee polling place established by the City or County Clerk where you are registered to vote. You need not request an absentee ballot to vote absentee in person. For the 2008 general election, the period for absentee voting in person is from October 21 - November 1.

VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

24) Is there any pending legislation that effects voter registration?

We are unaware of any pending legislation.

25) Who should I contact if I have further questions?

For more information, contact the Hawaiian Office of Elections:

802 Lehua Avenue

Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

(808) 453-8683

(800) 442-8683

26) Are there helpful web resources I should know about?

The Hawaiian Office of Elections has a website dedicated to providing information on the voter registration process: <http://hawaii.gov/elections/voters/registration.htm>. This site includes resources such as frequently asked questions, absentee ballots, and special provisions for military officers.

The National Campaign for Fair Elections: <http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/hawaii>