

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

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VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**1) Where can voter registration forms be obtained?**

There are several places from which to obtain a voter registration form. Voter registration applications are available online at <http://www.sos.state.ne.us/forms/pdf/vr.pdf>. Additionally, applications are available at the county clerk's office, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Office of the Election Commissioner.

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

According to officials in the office of the Secretary of State, there are no restrictions against using photocopied voter registration forms.

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

The National Voter Registration Form can be used in Nebraska. Voters using the National Voter Registration Form must still meet the Nebraska registration deadline and other informational requirements (**see below**). For information on the National Voter Registration Form, see <http://www.eac.gov/voter/Register%20to%20Vote>.

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

Yes. Although voter registration forms are public records, Nebraska law limits the purpose for which a person can use the information. A person who purchases registration information must pledge not to use the information for commercial purposes. A voter may file an affidavit with either the election commissioner or the county clerk to keep his/her residential address and telephone number confidential. The affidavit must state whether the voter is a participant under the Address Confidentiality Act. If the voter is not a participant under the Act, the affidavit must state the county or district court that issued an order declaring that life threatening circumstances existed in relation to the voter or his/her family.

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

No. However, the State Board of Election advises against applicants using pre-filled registration forms. Any inconsistent information on registration forms, such as an incorrect county or zip code, may delay the registration process.

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

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

Nebraska does not require a voter to reside in a county for a particular period of time before becoming eligible to vote.

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

No. A person may use his/her P.O. Box, college campus or dorm address if that is where he/she receives his/her mail. However, an applicant may not provide *only* a P.O. Box or college dorm address because these locations are not residences. A voter must provide a residential address or a description of his/her home's location sufficient to allow election officials to accurately assign the voter to the appropriate precinct or political subdivision. In order to vote in Nebraska the voter must be a resident of the county and precinct in which the individual intends to vote.

Note that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the rights of student voters to register and cast a ballot on equal terms as non-student residents in the location where they go to school. Consequently, election officials may not prohibit students from registering, nor require students to complete any additional registration materials, based on their status as students.

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 the voter considers his/her college address to be his/her residence and the location where he/she receives mail.

An applicant may, however, vote in the precinct in which his/her school is located if he/she is a self-supporting student and meet general Nebraska eligibility requirements.

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

No. Under federal law, however, first-time voters who have not provided identification at registration are required to do so at the polling place (**see Question #10**). The Nebraska voter registration form asks for the applicant's driver's license number or the last four digits of his/her social security number. If an applicant does not have either a social security number or a driver's license number, the applicant can still vote and the election commissioner will generate a unique number to identify the voter's registration record.

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

Yes. Nebraska requires voters who have registered to vote by mail after January 1, 2003, and who have not previously voted, to present identification. The law allows voters to present identification either before or after applying to register to vote, or before casting a ballot. A voter, however, does not have to present identification if he/she fits one of the following descriptions:

- I. He/she has provided his/her Nebraska driver's license number or the last four digits of his/her social security number and the election commissioner or county clerk verifies the number provided.

2. He/she is a member of the Armed Forces or Merchant Marine who is otherwise eligible to vote but, by reason of service, away from his/her residence.
3. He/she is the spouse or dependent of a member of the Armed Forces or Merchant Marine who is otherwise eligible to vote but is absent from his/her place of residence due to the service of that member.
4. He/she is either handicapped or elderly and has requested to vote by means other than casting a ballot at a polling place on Election Day.

If the voter is required to present identification, acceptable forms include:

1. Valid and current photographic identification;
2. A copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or any government document. These forms of identification must be no more than sixty days old and must show the same name and residential address provided on the voter registration application.

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

The voter registration application requires the applicant to provide the following information: citizenship; age; full name; place of residence; postal address if in a different location than the residence; address of last registration; home and work telephone numbers; driver's license number or last four digits of social security number; place of birth; and date of birth. If the registration application is missing information, the election commissioner will send confirmation cards to the applicant requesting the missing information.

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

Yes. A registered voter who changed his/her name since registering to vote must update his/her registration record to avoid additional requirements at the time of voting. The voter can use the voter registration form to update his/her name in the voter registry. On Election Day, the registered voter may fill out the voter registration application to update his/her name in the registry. (Note: If a registered voter changes his/her residence within the county, the voter must follow the same process to update his/her information on the voter registry).

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

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

Third parties may deliver registration applications to either the election commissioner or the county clerk. The voter's application for registration must be delivered on or before the third Friday before the election. If a person only plans to hand out registration cards and deliver completed cards, there are no further regulations or required training. There are no express provisions of Nebraska law, however, those wishing to assist persons in filling out their forms must become a deputy registrar by taking a training course from the county clerk and notifying the clerk when they plan to hold their voter registration drives.

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

No. There are no express provisions of the Nebraska law prohibiting the submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation.

15) Is training required for voter registration drives?

No. There is no training requirement under Nebraska law.

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

No, they are not. See **Question #13**.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

17) What is the deadline to register to vote?

Voter registration applications may be returned:

1. In Person at: (1) the office of the election commissioner, county clerk, or Office of the Secretary of State; (2) a registration site at which a deputy registrar is in attendance; (3) the State Department of Education, or the Department of Health and Human Services; or (4) the office of the county treasurer or Department of Motor Vehicles while applying for a motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card.

a. For applications made in person in accordance with number (1) or (2) above, the application must be received no later than 6:00 p.m. on the second Friday preceding an election in order for the applicant to be eligible to vote in that election. For applications returned to the Office of the Secretary of State, the deadline is the close of business on the third Friday before Election Day.

b. Applications made pursuant to number (3) or (4) above must be received in person by the department, agent, or contractor no later than five days prior to the third Friday preceding an election, at which time it shall be delivered to the County Clerk or the Office of the Election Commissioner not later than five days after the date it is received.

2. Through Another Person: at the office of the election commissioner or county clerk. Applications must be received on or before the third Friday preceding the election in order for the applicant to be eligible to vote in that election.

3. By Mail: to the office of the election commissioner or county clerk. Applications must be postmarked on or before the third Friday before the election in order for the applicant to be eligible to vote in that election. (see <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html> to find the contact information for local election commissioners and county clerks.)

A complete election calendar is available at <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/pdf/2008%20Election%20calendar.pdf>.

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

No. Applications must simply be received on or before the third Friday preceding the election in order for the applicant to be eligible to vote in that election. However, the Secretary of State's office recommends that third parties keep registrations no longer than one or two days.

19) Is Election Day registration allowed?

Individuals who register to vote on Election Day will not be permitted to vote in that election. For the registration deadline, see Question 17 above.

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

Absentee voting and early voting are permitted in Nebraska.

Any registered voter who meets the following criteria may request an absentee ballot:

1. He/she is a member of the Armed Forces or a spouse or dependant of a member of the Armed Forces; or
2. He/she is a U.S. citizen living overseas who will be at least 18 years of age before the next general election and whose last residence prior to going overseas was in Nebraska. Early ballots are available at the county clerk's office and must be requested by 4 p.m. on the Wednesday before an election. They must be returned to the county clerk's office before the polls close on Election Day.

Any qualified voter may vote early by requesting a ballot, in writing, from either the county clerk or election commission. A qualified voter may deliver his/her written ballot request in person, by personal agent, or through the mail or fax.

A. Requesting Early Voting Ballots

1. A request for an early voting ballot must be made in writing and sent no earlier than 120 days before the election. The request must be received by the election commissioner or county clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the election.
2. There is a form available for requesting an early voting ballot, but no specific form is required. The request must be made in writing, it must be signed, and it must include the applicant's residential address, the mailing address, if different, the applicant's political party, telephone number, if available, and precinct, if known.

B. Returning Early Voting Ballots

1. Completed ballots must be returned no later than the hour established for the closing of the polls in order to be accepted for review by the counting board for early voting.
2. **Note:** Polls in Nebraska close at 8:00 p.m. Central time and 7:00 p.m. Mountain time.

C. Casting a Ballot in Precinct on Election Day When an Early Voting Ballot Has Previously Been Requested

1. If a ballot for early voting is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the registered voter, the voter may cast a provisional ballot at the voter's polling place on election day or may obtain a replacement ballot from the election commissioner or county clerk by signing a statement that the original ballot for early voting was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received and delivering the statement to the election commissioner or county clerk by noon on the day of the election.
2. To receive a replacement ballot by mail, the voter must send in the statement to the election commissioner or county clerk no later than close of business four days before the election.

D. Assistance with Early Voting

1. Any registered voter may appoint an agent to submit a request for a ballot for early voting on his/her behalf. The registered voter or his/her agent may request that the ballot be sent to the registered voter by mail or indicate on the request that the agent will personally pick up the ballot for such registered voter from the office of the election commissioner or county clerk. A registered voter, or an agent acting on behalf of a registered voter, shall request a ballot in writing to the election commissioner or county clerk in the county where the registered voter has established his/her residence in accordance with the procedure set out above in Section A. The registered voter or his/her agent shall sign the request.
2. A candidate for office and any person serving on a campaign committee for a candidate cannot act as an agent for any registered voter requesting a ballot unless such person is a member of the registered voter's family. No person shall act as agent for more than two registered voters in any election.

VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

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

No.

22) What applicable statutes are possibly affected?

If you would like to read the statutes that generally apply to voter registration, they appear in Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 32, Articles 3 and 9.

23) Are there any helpful elections official contacts?

For more information, contact the Elections Division of the Nebraska Secretary of State:

Phone: 402.471.2555 | Fax: 402.471.7834

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 94608 Lincoln, NE 68509-4608

Location: State Capitol, Third Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509

Email: ElectionsAssistant@sos.ne.gov

24) What web resources are available?

The Nebraska Secretary of State has a website dedicated to providing information on the voter registration process: <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/2008/index.html>. This site includes resources such as frequently asked questions, early ballots, and special provisions for military officers.

The National Campaign for Fair Elections is another resource:
<http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/nebraska>.