



Filling Out and Returning Voter Registration Forms

Filling Out the Form (*legibility counts!*)

State voter registration forms vary. The following fields are mandatory. Make sure to go over the form with the voter when finished to be sure nothing is left out.

- **Citizenship and Age Requirements:** Be sure to check both of these boxes. In order to register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen and be 18 years old or older by the date of the next election.¹
- **Name and Residence Address:** You must give a street address. P.O. Boxes or work addresses may not be used. You can use a P.O. Box for your *mailing address*.
- **Identification:** States ask for driver's license number or the last four digits (or full) Social Security number. If you don't have either, write "none". A number will be assigned to you. Not providing an ID could put your registration under scrutiny.
- **Date of Birth, Signature and Date:** Surprisingly, registrants frequently forget one of these.
- **Other Common Fields:** Change of Address or Change of Name; Party Affiliation

Returning Registration Forms

- **Encourage voters to let you turn in their cards.** This will ensure that their registration gets to the right place in time. Assure them that you are turning in many people's cards and can make sure that theirs gets to the office in time.
- **Return completed forms to the registrant's local election office:** You may return the forms in person or by mail, but in person is preferable. Visit our Voting in Your State tool - www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state to find your local election office.
- **Turn in forms promptly:** Some states require forms collected in a registration drive to be turned in within a certain period of time after the form is signed and dated. Check with your state about their turn-in policy for voter registration drives.

- **Know the deadlines:** Find your registration deadlines on your state election website or by contacting your local election office. www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state. Forms generally must be delivered or postmarked by 5:00 pm on the day of the deadline.

ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION (OVR)

The process is the same to register to vote online. Generally the voter must have a current state issued ID like a driver's license to use a state online voter registration tool.

CHOOSING PARTY AFFILIATION

More than half the states ask registrants to choose a party affiliation or list themselves as "unaffiliated" or "unenrolled". It is nonpartisan to explain the difference. Choosing a party allows you to participate in that party's caucuses and conventions. Many states have "closed primaries" where only those registered in the party can vote.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

For special circumstances such as homeless, victim of domestic violence, ex-offender see – Frequently Asked Questions when doing voter registration at www.nonprofitvote.org/voter-registration-2/

¹ Some states allow pre-registration for youth ages 16 and 17 who won't be 18 by the next election. Check www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/preregistration-for-young-voters.aspx.



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Sample Form - Voter Registration Application - Sample Form

Review the your state form and state specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Don't Forget Highlighted Fields		
If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form. (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)						
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> IV	
2	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State	Zip Code
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			City/Town	State	Zip Code
4	Date of Birth _____ Month Day Year	5	Telephone Number (optional)	6	ID Number - (Usually State ID # or last 4 digits of your SSN)	
7	Choice of Party - <i>if on state form</i>	8	Race or Ethnic Group - <i>if on state form</i>			
9	I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I am a United States citizen ■ I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required. ■ The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States. 			<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲</p> <p>Date: / / </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Month Day Year</p>		

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

A	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> IV
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If you were **registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2**, what was your address where you were registered before?

B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
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If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live. ■ Draw an X to show where you live. ■ Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark. 		<div style="text-align: right;">NORTH ↑</div>				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Example</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">● Grocery Store</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Woodchuck Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Public School ●</td> <td style="text-align: right;">X</td> </tr> </table>	Example		● Grocery Store		Woodchuck Road	Public School ●
Example	● Grocery Store						
	Woodchuck Road						
Public School ●	X						

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

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Mail this application to the address provided for your State.



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www.nonprofitvote.org