

CONDUCTING A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN MAINE

 Fair Elections Center

 Nonprofit VOTE

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

- Applications submitted by mail or voter registration drive must be received by the local registrar by close of business 21 days before Election Day.
- Maine allows for in-person voter registration through the close of the polls on Election Day.

GETTING STARTED

Training Requirement: Maine does not require training for registration drives.

Notification and Registration Requirements: Maine does not have notification requirements for registration drives.

Compensation Restrictions: Do not pay registration drive participants based on how many registrations they collect. Do not offer an applicant any incentive of monetary value to register to vote.

OBTAINING APPLICATIONS

State Form: Maine registration cards can be obtained at no cost by requesting them from the Maine Office of Elections by completing the voter registration card request form available here: maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/voter-data

Statewide candidates and qualified parties may request up to 2,000 cards per week, and up to a total of 10,000 per election. Other individuals and organizations may request up to 1,000 per week, and up to a total of 5,000 per election. Anyone may use the current electronic version of the Voter Registration Card to print additional cards. If voter registration drives opt to print their own cards, the cards must be printed double-sided on 4" x 6" green card stock. The Secretary of State's Voter Registration Card Policy can be found here: maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/content/assets/Voter-20Registration-20Card-20Policy.pdf. Print your own cards here: <https://bit.ly/4cjvsya>

Federal Form: The federal mail-in voter registration application may be used in voter registration drives: eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form/

HANDLING APPLICATIONS

Distribution and Collection of Applications: Third parties may not distribute or collect voter registration applications inside the voting place or within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place.



Find more information about voting in Maine: bit.ly/fecmevote

Incomplete Applications: Do not fill in missing information without the applicant's express consent.

Identity and Residency Documents: Voters registering for the first time in Maine must provide documentation to prove their identity and their Maine residency. If a new Maine voter who mails a voter registration application or submits an application through a third party does not include with the application a photocopy of a document that satisfies the requirement, an election official will contact the person to arrange submission of the document. The voter must be allowed to cast a challenged ballot if they have not provided proof of identity or residency. For more information regarding proving Maine identity and residency, visit maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/registering-to-vote/maine-voting-residence-fact-sheet

Photocopying Completed Applications: A voter's full date of birth and any portion of a Social Security Number, driver's license number, or other ID number is considered highly sensitive personal information under Maine law and should not be retained.

Mailing Applications or Submitting Them Through a Third Party: Completed applications must be delivered by 21 days before Election Day.

The Secretary of State (SOS) recommends delivering completed voter registration cards as soon as possible to the appropriate municipal registrar. The SOS states that, if submitted to their office, completed registration cards must be received by the 30th day before an election so they can distribute them to the appropriate municipal registrar. They also request that submissions of voter registration cards from drives be bundled together and returned with the contact information of the organization or individual conducting the drive.

An applicant who attempts to register within 30 days of an election must be advised that the registrar might not receive the application before the deadline for mail or third-person registration, but that the applicant may register in person through the close of polls.

Fair Elections Center and its Campus Vote Project intend the information contained herein to be used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Maine legal professional.

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