

CONDUCTING A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN OHIO



✓ VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Applications must be received or postmarked 30 days before Election Day. If the voter registration deadline falls on a day when the office of the Secretary of State and county board of elections are closed, the deadline is extended to the next business day when the office is open.

- A specific turnaround time applies to voter registration drives turning in applications they collect. See below.

GETTING STARTED

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

Notification and Registration Requirements: Ohio does not have notification requirements for registration drives. To contact a local election official, see here: ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/

Compensation Restrictions: Do not pay registration drive participants based on how many registrations they collect. Paying participants based on number of registrations or volume is a felony in Ohio. Do not offer an applicant any incentive of monetary value to register to vote.

OBTAINING APPLICATIONS

State Form: State registration forms (Form 4010) can be downloaded and printed from the Secretary of State's website at ohiosos.gov/elections/register-to-vote

Individuals or organizations may request fewer than 25 forms online here: sosforms.ohiosos.gov/Forms/Publications/order-voterregins. More than 25 registration applications can be requested by calling the Secretary of State's publication request line at (614)-466-3613.

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

Photocopying Blank Forms: Blank applications may be photocopied and used in voter registration drives.

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 Ohio legal professional.

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Find more information on voting in Ohio: bit.ly/fecohvote

HANDLING APPLICATIONS

Incomplete Applications / Application Assistance: It is against Ohio law to complete a voter registration form on behalf of another person unless the registrant requires assistance due to disability, illiteracy or blindness. Anyone completing a voter registration form on behalf of another must check the box. If the applicant requested assistance with registering to vote or updating their name or residence, due to disability, illiteracy or blindness and is unable to sign the form, the assister must sign the form instead and attest that the applicant desire to register to vote.

The Ohio voter registration form published in February 2026 contains a "compensation attestation" which has spaces for persons who "register an applicant" and are paid "to do so" by their employer to provide their name, personal address, signature, and employer. A federal court previously ordered that a provision of Ohio law containing this same disclosure requirement could not be enforced. Fair Elections Center cannot provide legal advice; if you need legal advice, please contact an Ohio-licensed attorney.

Providing Filled Out or Pre-Printed Forms: It is against Ohio law to provide pre-printed forms to the applicant.

Photocopying Completed Applications: There is no law or rule prohibiting photocopying or retaining information from completed registration applications. As a best practice, a voter's full or partial Social Security number and/or driver's license number should not be retained.

Submitting Completed Applications: Completed registration applications collected during a drive must be returned to the Secretary of State's office or a county board of elections within 10 days of when the forms were completed or by the registration deadline if the registration form has been signed more than 24 hours before the registration deadline for the next election, whichever is earlier. Failure to follow these deadlines is a criminal offense. Fair Elections Center recommends that drive volunteers submit forms so they are received by election officials within 10 days after the forms were completed or by the voter registration deadline, whichever is earlier.