



## Voter Registration FAQs

### **What do I need to register to vote? Am I eligible to vote?**

Each state has different requirements for voter ID and eligibility for voting. Visit [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) to look up voter ID and voting eligibility requirements in your state.

### **What are the early voting periods and locations in my state?**

Early voting varies by state and county. However, early voting is not an option for some states. Research whether early voting is an option in your state and county and the dates and locations available. Make sure that you vote early at a location where you are eligible based on the address on the file for your voter registration.

### **I have moved to a different state; do I need to cancel my voter registration in my old state?**

You may visit your local/state election website to observe the process of removing your name from the voter registration list. Removing your name from the previously lived state(s) is not required if you register to vote in your new state. It is election fraud to vote in a previously lived state if you are registered to vote in your current permanent address in a different state.

### **I am a college student. What are my options for voting?**

Every state has different residency laws you should research before registering to vote. Suppose you are moving to a new state or address within a state to attend your educational institution. In that case, you can register in the state where you attend school once you meet residency requirements. Visit state and local election office websites that correspond to your school.

To continue voting in your home state, check the mail-in/absentee voting requirements and deadlines in this document, [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org), or your state/local election office websites. If you are eligible to request a ballot, you can request the ballot to be mailed to a dorm/off-campus apartment.

### **What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a mail-in ballot?**

Absentee and mail-in ballots are sometimes used interchangeably. Some states with an absentee ballot voting system require a reason you cannot vote in person during early voting or Election Day. Some reasons may include having an illness or disability, being deployed in a different state as a member of the armed forces or being a college student attending school in a different



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state. Most states allow registered voters to request an absentee ballot with no excuses or reasons. If living in a different state temporarily, you must request where you want the ballot to be sent.

Mail-in ballots are available for any registered voter in the state to request, with some states mailing ballots to all registered voters.

### **What is a provisional ballot?**

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) establishes the right for a voter to cast a provisional ballot if a voter's name does not appear on the official list of registered voters or if an election official asserts that the voter is not eligible to vote. County election officials must first determine whether a voter is eligible to vote and whether their provisional ballot will count.

## **Voter registration deadlines and Mail/Absentee Voting Requirements by each state and the District of Columbia**

### **Alabama**

The state registration deadline is 15 days before Election Day

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. If you qualify to request an absentee ballot, you need to request your ballot either 5 days before the election if you're applying in person or 7 days before mailing your absentee ballot request. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on Alabama's Secretary of State website [here](#)

### **Alaska**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters; no excuse is required. The last day to request an absentee ballot is 10 days before the election, and the ballot must be postmarked by Election Day to be counted. To learn how to request an absentee ballot, visit Alaska's Division of Elections website [here](#).

### **Arizona**

The state registration deadline is 29 days before Election Day

Absentee/Mail-in voting is available to all registered voters; no excuse is required. The last day to request a mail-in ballot is 11 days before the election. Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. To receive access to a mail-in ballot visit Arizona's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Arkansas**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day. Online voter registration is not available; you may print out the form online to send by mail or return it in person. You may also request an application to be sent via USPS. All forms are available on the Arkansas Secretary of State's website [here](#).

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. To see if you can request an absentee ballot, how to request a ballot, and the deadlines for absentee ballot submission, visit Arkansas' Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **California**

The state registration deadline is 15 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day in person at a county elections office, or polling place before and on Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are sent to every registered voter 29 days before Election Day. To learn more about how to return your mail-in ballot and request a replacement ballot visit California's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Colorado**

The state registration deadline is 8 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day in person at a voter service and polling center in your county on and before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are sent to every registered voter no later than 18 days before Election Day. To learn more about deadlines and how to return your mail-in ballot visit Colorado's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Connecticut**

The state registration deadline is 18 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day in person at your town's same-day registration location on and before Election Day.

Absentee voting is based on criteria. Ballots must be received by Election Day to be counted. To learn more about whether you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one, visit Connecticut's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Delaware**

The state registration deadline is 24 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is based on criteria. Ballots must be received by Election Day to be counted. To learn more about whether you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one, visit Delaware's Department of Elections website [here](#).

### **District of Columbia**

The state registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day in person before and on Election Day with proof of residency.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to every registered voter. DC voters away from their DC residence during the election must request a mail-in ballot 15 days before Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day. To request a mail-in ballot, visit the District of Columbia's Board of Election's website [here](#).

### **Florida**

The state registration deadline is 29 days before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters. Mail-in ballots must be mailed no later than 5 p.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup> day before election day. Learn more about how to request a mail-in ballot, deadlines, and how to track your mail-in ballot on Florida's Division of Elections website [here](#).

## **Georgia**

The state registration deadline is 29 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters; no excuse is required. You may request an absentee ballot as early as 78 days before Election Day, with the final deadline to request a ballot being 11 days before Election Day. All absentee ballots must arrive at your county's election office by Election Day. Learn more about how to request a mail-in ballot, deadlines, and how to track your mail-in ballot on the official State of Georgia website [here](#).

## **Hawaii**

The state registration deadline is 10 days before Election Day. You may register in person and online until Election Day, but you may need to vote a provisional ballot (see FAQ).

Mail-in ballots are sent to every registered voter at least 18 days before the election. Voters away from their Hawaii residence can request a ballot at least 7 days before the election. To learn more about how to return your mail-in ballot visit Hawaii's Office of Elections website [here](#).

## **Idaho**

The state registration deadline is 25 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day in person at your local polling place before and on Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters; no excuse is required. Registered voters may request a ballot up to 11 days before an election. The ballot must be sent by mail, to an official election drop box, or to your county elections office by 8 p.m. on Election Day for your vote to be counted. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee process visit Idaho's Secretary of State website [here](#).

## **Illinois**

The state registration deadline is 28 days before Election Day if registering by mail and 16 days before registering online. You can still register in person on the same day at your local polling place during early voting and Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters. Requests for mail-in ballots can be submitted up to 90 days and 5 days before Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day to be counted. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee process visit Illinois's State Board of Elections website [here](#).

### **Indiana**

The state registration deadline is 29 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. Registered voters who meet the criteria to request an absentee ballot must do so 12 days before the election. Ballots must be received by 6 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on Indiana's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Iowa**

The state registration deadline is 15 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day in person at your local polling place during early voting and Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. Requests for an absentee ballot must be received no later than 5 p.m. 15 days before the election. Ballots must be mailed to be received before 8 p.m. on Election Day or hand-delivered to your county election office before 8 p.m. on Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee process visit Iowa's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Kansas**

State Registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is 7 days before the election. All ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee process visit Kansas's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Kentucky**

The state registration deadline is 29 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. If you meet the criteria, an absentee ballot must be requested 14 days before Election Day. Ballots must be mailed to or returned in person to the county clerk's office by 6 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one [here](#).

### **Louisiana**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day if registering by mail and 20 days if registering online.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. If you meet the criteria, an absentee ballot must be requested 4 days before Election Day. Ballots must be received by your parish registrar of voters by 4:30 p.m. the day before Election Day. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on Louisiana's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Maine**

The state registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day in person at your local polling place during early voting and on Election Day.

Absentee is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 days before Election Day. Ballots must be received by the municipal clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee process visit Maine's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Maryland**

The state registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day. You can still register same day in person at your local polling place during early voting and Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available for all registered voters. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is 14 days before Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. To request a mail-in ballot and learn more about the mail-in voting process visit Maryland's State Board of Elections website [here](#).

### **Massachusetts**

The state registration deadline is 10 days before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters. The state sends applications to all registered voters in Massachusetts 45 days before the election. If you do not receive your application in the mail, you can request a ballot online within 5 days of Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on Election Day and returned in person by 8 p.m. To learn more about the mail-in voting process visit Massachusetts's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Michigan**

The state registration deadline is 15 days before Election Day. You can still register the same day at your city or township clerk's office until Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. All voters must apply for an absentee ballot unless they are on the permanent mail ballot list. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day. Voters must be received by 5 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day if they apply by mail. Ballots must be received by the voter's local clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee voting process visit Michigan's Department of State website [here](#).

### **Minnesota**

The state registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day. You can still register same day in person at polling places during early voting or Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The last day to request an absentee ballot is 1 day before Election Day. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day by the election office that sent your ballot. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee voting process visit Minnesota's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Mississippi**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day. Online voter registration is not available. Online voter registration is unavailable; you may print the form online by mail or return it in person. You may also register in person at the Circuit Clerk's Office, Municipal Clerk's Office, or a Public Service Agency (like DPS). Mississippi's voter registration form can be found [here](#).

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. Absentee voting is available to vote in person and by mail. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 days before the election. Voted ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received up to 5 days after the election to be counted. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on Mississippi's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Missouri**

The state registration deadline is 27 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. Your local election authority must receive absent ballot requests by 5 p.m. on the second Wednesday before any election. Voters can do absentee voting in the office of the local election authority until 5 p.m. the night before the election. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on Missouri's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Montana**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day. Online voter registration is not available. Voter registration applications can be found [here](#) and returned via mail or in person. You can still register same day in person up until Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 1 day before Election Day, with applications becoming available 75 days before Election Day. Ballot applications can be picked up at your local election office, the Secretary of State's office, or you may call either office to mail the application to you. To learn more about the absentee voting process visit Montana's Secretary of State website [here](#).



### **Nebraska**

The state registration deadline is 18 days before Election Day. The in-person registration deadline is 11 days before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday before Election Day (unless that date is a state holiday, in which case the deadline is the following Monday). Ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day. To request a mail-in ballot and learn more about the mail-in voting process visit Nebraska's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Nevada**

The state voter registration deadline is 5 days before Election Day if you are registering online and 28 days before registering by mail. You can still register same day in person during early voting and on Election Day.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to all registered voters In Nevada. All ballots must be received by 7 p.m. or postmarked by Election Day. To learn more about the various ways to return your mail-in ballot and the mail-in ballot voting process [here](#).

### **New Hampshire**

The state registration deadline is 13 days before Election Day. Online voter registration is not available. You can still register to vote in person up until Election Day.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. Requests for a ballot must returned to your local county clerk. Absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on Election Day. To learn more about the absentee voting process visit New Hampshire's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **New Jersey**

The state registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters. The deadline to request a ballot via mail is 7 days before Election Day and 3 p.m. the day before Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day or received by the close of polls on Election Day if returned in person. To learn more about the mail-in ballot voting process visit New Jersey's official government website [here](#).

### **New Mexico**

The state registration deadline is 28 days before Election Day. You can still register in person during early voting and Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 14 days before Election Day. Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on

Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee voting process visit New Mexico's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **New York**

The state registration deadline is 10 days before the election.

Mail-in Ballots are available to all registered voters. The deadline to request a ballot is 10 days before Election Day. All ballots must be postmarked by Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the mail-in voting process visit New York's Board of Elections website [here](#).

### **North Carolina**

The state registration deadline is 25 days before Election Day. You can still register same day in person during early voting.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request a ballot is 7 days before Election Day. All ballots must be received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee voting process visit North Carolina's Board of Elections website [here](#).

### **North Dakota**

North Dakota is the ONLY state without a voter registration required; only a proper form of voter ID is required to vote.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request a ballot is 1 day before Election Day. All ballots must be postmarked before Election Day, and ballots must be returned in person by Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee voting process visit North Dakota's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Ohio**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request a ballot is 7 days before an election. The ballot must be postmarked the day before Election Day and returned in person before the close of the polls on Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee voting process visit Ohio's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Oklahoma**

The state registration deadline is 25 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 15 days before Election Day. All ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day. To request an absentee ballot and learn more about the absentee voting process visit Oklahoma's State Election Board website [here](#).

### **Oregon**

The state registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day.

Mail-in Ballots will be sent to all registered voters in Oregon 14 to 18 days before Election Day. All Ballots must be postmarked or received in person by 8 p.m. on Election Day. To learn more about how to return your mail-in ballot and the mail-in ballot voting process visit Oregon's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Pennsylvania**

The state registration deadline is 15 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting/mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request a ballot is 7 days before Election Day. Your county election office must receive all ballots by 8 p.m. on Election Day. To request a ballot and learn more about the mail-in ballot voting process visit Pennsylvania's official government website [here](#).

### **Rhode Island**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day.

Mail-in voting is available to all registered voters. The deadline to request a ballot is 21 days before Election Day. All ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. To request a ballot and learn more about the mail-in ballot voting process visit Rhode Island's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **South Carolina**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. If you meet any criteria, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 p.m., 11 days before Election Day. All ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on South Carolina's Election Commission website [here](#).

### **South Dakota**

The state registration deadline is 15 days before Election Day. Online voter registration is not available; must be completed by mail or in person.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 1 day before Election Day. Your voting precinct must receive all ballots before polls close on Election Day. To request a ballot and learn more about the mail-in ballot voting process visit South Dakota's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Tennessee**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day.

Absentee is available based on criteria. If you meet any criteria, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is 7 days before Election Day. All ballots must be received by the close of the election. Once you request an absentee ballot, you cannot vote in person. First-time voters cannot vote by an absentee ballot. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on Tennessee's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Texas**

The state registration deadline is 30 days before Election Day. Online registration is not available; registration must be completed by mail or in person.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. If you meet any criteria, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is 11 days before Election Day. Ballots must be received by your local election clerk by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one on Texas' Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Utah**

The state registration deadline is 11 days before Election Day. You may still register to vote in person after the deadline and on Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are sent to all registered voters before Election Day. All ballots must be postmarked the day before Election Day. To learn more about how to return your mail-in ballot and the mail-in ballot voting process, visit Utah's government website [here](#).

### **Vermont**

State offers online, in person, and mail voter registration up to and on Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request an absentee ballot must be submitted by 5 p.m. or close of the town's clerk's office on the day before Election Day. Ballots must be returned before the close of the clerk's office or to

the polling place before 7 p.m. To learn more about how to return your mail-in ballot and the mail-in ballot voting process visit Vermont's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **Virginia**

The state registration deadline is 22 days before Election Day. You may still register in person on Election Day.

Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request a ballot is by 5 p.m. 11 days before Election Day. All ballots must be postmarked by Election Day or returned in person to your local registrar's office, or a ballot drop box by 7 p.m. on Election Day. To request a ballot and learn more about the mail-in ballot voting process visit South Virginia's Department of Elections website [here](#).

### **Washington**

The state registration deadline is 8 days before Election Day. You may still register in person up to and on Election Day.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to all registered voters at least 18 days before Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked or received by Election Day. To learn more about how to return your mail-in ballot and the mail-in ballot voting process visit Washington's Secretary of State website [here](#).

### **West Virginia**

The state registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day.

Absentee voting is available based on criteria. If you meet any criteria, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is 6 days before Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day.

Learn more to see if you're eligible for an absentee ballot and how to request one [here](#).

### **Wisconsin**

The state registration deadline is 20 days before Election Day. You may still register in person up to and on Election Day.

Absentee voting is available to all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request a ballot is 5 days before Election Day. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Learn more about the various ways to return your mail-in ballot and the mail-in ballot voting process [here](#).



## **Wyoming**

The state registration deadline is 14 days before Election Day. Online voter registration is not available. You may register in person up to and on Election Day.

Absentee is available for all registered voters with no excuse required. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 1 day before Election Day. All ballots must be returned to the county clerk's office by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Learn more about the various ways to return your mail-in ballot and the mail-in ballot voting process on Wyoming's Secretary of State website [here](#).