



Frequently Asked Questions

When Doing Voter Registration

How can I check my voter registration?

Most every state has a voter registration look-up tool online. It generally requires you to provide your birth date or other identifying information. Find your state's look-up tool using Nonprofit VOTE's Voting-in-Your-State guide at www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state. Or call your local election office.

Can people with a past felony conviction register and vote?

The answer is both "yes" and "it depends". Every state is different. Maine and Vermont have no restrictions. 14 states restore your right to vote immediately upon release from jail or prison. Many others only restore the right after have serving a "full sentence" – including probation and parole. See www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-as-an-ex-offender

How do homeless people register and vote?

We recommend using the address of a shelter or other nonprofit for their registration and mailing address. In most states, a person can also mark a cross street on the form to indicate the place where they usually sleep. See www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-and-homelessness

Can a survivor of domestic violence keep their current address private?

In most states, yes. Address Confidentiality Programs and Confidential Voter Listings are programs administered by the state that enable survivors of domestic violence to register while maintaining the confidentiality of their address. The National Network to End Domestic Violence provides a list of currently available programs. See www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-and-domestic-violence.

How do I know if my registration was accepted?

You will receive a registration acknowledgment card in the mail from your local election officials. In most states, you can also check your registration status online at your state's statewide voter registration portal. Use our Voting-in-Your-State guide to find yours: www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state

What ID do I need to vote?

About 30 states have voter ID laws of which half require a photo ID. The majority of photo ID states allow voters without the right ID to vote a provisional ballot or sign an affidavit and vote a regular ballot. Remember, most every state asks for some form of ID from first time voters who vote on Election Day at the polls. Use our Voting-in-Your-State guide to find your state's current voter ID law: www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state

How do I find my polling place or information about early, absentee or mail voting?

Most states have polling place look up tools. In some states you have to contact your local election office. Use our Voting-in-Your-State guide to find your polling place look up, information about early voting, absentee voting and vote by mail: www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state