

**I-866-OUR-VOTE
(1-866-687-8683)****Disclaimer:**

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**1. Where can voter registration forms be obtained?**

The form can be downloaded from the Division of Elections website at www.elections.state.ak.us/forms/c03.pdf. Application forms are also available at the Division of Elections as well as at designated voter registration agencies (including DMV locations, Health and Social Services offices, Community and Economic Development offices and Armed Forces Recruitment Offices).

2. Are there restrictions on registering to vote using a photocopied voter registration form?

Implicit in its policy of allowing residents to fax registration forms, Alaska accepts photocopied voter registration forms.

3. Are there restrictions on the use of the National Voter Registration Form?

The National Voter Registration Form can be used in Alaska. If using the National Voter Registration Form in Alaska, the political party affiliation and race/ethnicity fields may be left blank. One of the following identification numbers must be provided: Alaska Driver's License or Alaska State Identification Card Number. If a person does not have either of those, he/she must provide the last four digits of his/her social security number. If a person does not have any of those identification numbers, he or she must write "NONE" on the form and a unique identifying number will be assigned to him or her for voter registration purposes.

4. Are there restrictions regarding the use of registration form information?

Yes. Portions of the voter record are confidential, including the voter's voter identification number, social security number, date of birth, place of birth, signature and driver's license number. If a voter provides a separate mailing address, a voter could elect to keep the residential address confidential, subject to disclosure of the residential address in all cases to certain election officials. Similarly, all information made confidential may be released to government bodies and agencies. Party preference is public information and is printed on all voter lists.

5. Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling information on registration forms?

Applicants are to complete their own registration application unless the applicant needs assistance due to a disability. A registrar may assist those who are unable to read or write the English language by

translating the required information and the oath appearing on the registration form or by completing the application

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

6. How long must you live in a county before you are able to register to vote?

If you are in Alaska, you can register to vote as soon as you arrive as long as you intend to remain there and have the intent to return when you leave. However, a person must have been a resident of Alaska and of the election district in which the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election in order to vote in that election. The voter may not be registered in another state. The 30-day residency requirement does not apply to presidential elections in the case of a voter that is otherwise qualified.

7. Are there any restrictions on registering to vote using a P.O. Box, college campus, or dorm address?

In general, a P.O. Box, including a campus P.O. Box, is not sufficient to establish residency. An applicant must provide sufficient information to determine the location of the residence of the voter.

8. If I enter or leave the state because of work or school, can I register to vote?

Use of a college address is permissible provided that you consider your college address your legal residence. Residence is defined as the place in which a person's habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever absent, the person intends to return. You can register to vote as soon as you arrive as long as you intend to remain there and have the intent to return when you leave. However, a person must have been a resident of Alaska and of the election district in which the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election in order to vote in that election. The voter may not be registered in another state.

9. Are there any identification requirements to register to vote?

Yes. When registering to vote in person, a voter's identity must be verified by a driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license. A registration official who knows the identity of the applicant may waive the identification requirement.

When registering to vote by mail or fax, a voter's identity must be verified either at the time of registration or at the polls by submitting a copy of a current and valid photo identification, driver's license, passport, state identification card or birth certificate.

9. Are there any identification requirements in order to vote?

Yes. Alaska voters must provide identification at the polling place in order to vote. Acceptable forms of identification include an official voter registration card, driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport or hunting or fishing license. In the alternative, the following documents are acceptable identification as long as they list the voter's current address and name: an original or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document.

A voter who cannot exhibit a required form of identification shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot.

10. What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?

The applicant must provide the following information: name; sex; State of Alaska driver's license number or State of Alaska identification card number, if issued, or the last four digits of the applicant's social security number; date of birth; Alaska residence address; statement of whether the applicant has been registered to vote in another jurisdiction and, if so, the jurisdiction and the address of the previous registration; a declaration that the applicant will be 18 or older within 90 days after the date of registration; declaration that the applicant is a citizen of the United States; the applicant's signature; any former name under which the applicant was registered to vote in Alaska; and other certification statements attesting to the veracity of information provided and understanding of potential criminal prosecution for violating sections of the Elections title.

An incomplete or inaccurate registration form may not be accepted. An application will not be processed if the residence address is missing, or if you provide a PO Box, HC No. and Box, PSC Box, Rural Route No., Commercial Address or Mail Stop Address. If the application is incomplete, the registrant will be notified in writing.

A person who submitted an incomplete or inaccurate registration form may register by reexecuting and resubmitting a registration form in person, by mail, or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the elections director.

11. Can a person whose name has changed since registering vote on Election Day?

A voter whose name is changed by marriage or court order may vote under the previous name. In order to vote under a name that has been legally changed, a voter must use the Voter Registration Application Register to perform a name change. In order for the change to be in effect for an election, the request must be received or postmarked 30 days before an election. A voter who wishes to vote under the new name, but has not re-registered at least 30 days before the election may vote a questioned ballot or an absentee ballot.

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

12. What are the laws regarding third-party registration?

According to Alaska law, a registration official shall be a qualified state voter and shall take an oath to honestly, faithfully, and promptly perform the duties of the office. Additionally, a registration official must transmit completed voter registration forms to the election supervisor within five days of completion.

A regional election supervisor may appoint registrars for the supervisor's region. A qualified voter who is interested in serving as a registrar may contact any regional office to obtain training in the proper conduct of a registrar and the proper procedures for voter registration. A registrar acting in an official capacity may not persuade or attempt to persuade the applicant to register with a political party or group; make any changes to a voter registration form or absentee ballot application while the applicant is not present; collect or store any information supplied on a voter registration form or absentee ballot application other than the information that is also available on a public voter registration list, or reproduce or store copies of completed voter registration forms or absentee ballot applications. In addition, a telephone number and an electronic mail address provided by the applicant when registering

to vote or applying for an absentee ballot must be treated as confidential information and may not be used for any other purpose by the registrar.

13. Are there any laws regarding submission of voter registration forms by individuals regarding compensation?

A registration official may not accept a fee from an applicant applying for registration. A person who violates this is guilty of a misdemeanor.

14. Is training required for voter registration drives?

Training for registration officials shall be provided by the director. On the completion of training, the director may require that officials demonstrate their competence by a test or other method.

A registrar may conduct a voter registration drive at any time. A qualified voter who wishes to become a registrar may contact any regional elections office to obtain training in the proper conduct of a registrar and the proper procedures for voter registration.

15. Are volunteers or staff of voter registration drives required to be county or state residents?

A voter registrar must be a qualified voter.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

16. What is the deadline to register to vote?

For the 2008 General Election, the deadline is October 5, 2008. Alaska requires voters to be registered 30 days before an election.

17. Must organizations or individuals engaged in voter registration drives submit their forms within a certain period of time?

No. Completed registration forms submitted by mail must be postmarked at least 30 days before the next election, and completed registration forms submitted by fax or other electronic transmission approved under Alaska Stat. § 15.07.050 must be received at least 30 days before the next election.

18. Is Election Day registration allowed?

Individuals who register to vote on Election Day will not be permitted to vote in that election.

19. Does state election law allow for early or absentee voting?

Yes. Early voting and absentee voting are permitted in Alaska. Absentee in person voting begins 15 days before an election and continues through election day at absentee voting sites throughout the state of Alaska.

A person residing outside the United States may register and vote absentee if that person was domiciled in Alaska immediately before leaving the United States, has not established a domicile in another state, territory or possession of the United States since leaving Alaska and is not registered to vote and has not voted in another state, territory or possession of the United States since leaving Alaska, has a valid

passport, card of identity and registration, or other identification issued under the authority of the United States Secretary of State, and identification complying with the requirements of this title. A person does not lose residence in Alaska by reason of absence while in the civil or military service of the state or of the United States or of absence because of marriage to a person engaged in the civil or military service of this state or the United States, while a student at an institution of learning, while in an institution or asylum at public expense, while confined in public prison, while engaged in the navigation of waters of this state or the United States or of the high seas, while residing upon an Indian or military reservation or while residing in the Alaska Pioneers' Home or the Alaska Veterans' Home. A person does not lose residence if the person goes to another country, state or place in Alaska for temporary purposes only.

VOTING REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

20. Is there any pending legislation that affects voter registration? If so, where is it in the legislative process?

The following are recent developments.

House Bill 277 would establish permanent absentee voting for qualified voters. As of April 1, 2008, it was scheduled but not heard.

Senate Bill 0007 would amend Alaska Stat. § 15.05.030 to allow a convicted felon to vote upon release from incarceration after having served time for a lower level felony. The bill has been held and heard before the judiciary.

Senate Bill 162 would amend Alaska Stat. § 15.07.130 to allow a general election to be conducted by mail. The bill has been referred to State Affairs.

21. What applicable statutes are possibly affected?

Alaska Statute Title 15 and Alaska Administrative Code Title 6 govern the election process.

22. Are there any helpful state elections official contacts?

For more information, contact the Alaska Division of Elections at:

Division of Elections

PO Box 110017

Juneau, AK 99811-0017

(907) 465-4611

elections@gov.state.ak.us

23. What web resources are available?

The Alaska Division of Elections: www.elections.alaska.gov. The site includes resources such as frequently asked questions and absentee ballots.

The National Campaign for Fair Elections is also a helpful resource:

www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/alaska.