

**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

There are several ways to get a voter registration form. The form can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.state.al.us/Elections/GetRegForm.aspx>. Application forms also are available at the County Boards of Registrars, normally located in the county courthouse. They are also available at public libraries, and at state and local government agencies providing public assistance, such as the Department of Public Health Medicaid Agency, and the Department of Human Resources. Citizens can also register to voter when applying for or renewing their driver's licenses or state identification cards. Qualified can also submit a postcard registration by mail. The postcard application is available at the citizen's County Board of Registrars, driver's licensing office, public colleges and universities, and select libraries. The postcard may also be obtained on-line at: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/Elections/VoterRegistrationInfo.aspx>.

1) Are there restrictions on registering to vote using a photocopied voter registration form?

There are no laws or administrative regulations that prohibit copying voter registration forms. The form itself contains no statement that it is not to be copied. Furthermore, the form may be found online at the Secretary of State's website, which is available at: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/Elections/GetRegForm.aspx>

2) Are there restrictions on the use of the National Voter Registration Form?

While there are no specific prohibitions restricting the use of the National Voter Registration Form, Alabama has created three new programs to promote voter registration and conform with the National Voter Registration Act. These programs are (1) Motor Voter, which permits people to register to vote when they apply for state identification or a driver's license; (2) Agency-Based Voter Registration, which allows people to register to vote at selected government offices; and (3) Postcard Voter Registration, which allows voters to complete a form and return it to the appropriate location. This information may be found at the Secretary of State website, which is available at: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/Elections/NatVoterRegAct.aspx>.

3) Are there restrictions regarding the use of registration form information?

The Board of Registrars may access information provided in voter registration applications in order to evaluate the application, but the applications will not become part of a public record. However, political parties have access to all voter registration information except for voters' Social Security numbers and the month and day of their birth. The State does not give any other groups access to voter registration information.

4) Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling info on registration forms?

There are no restrictions in the Alabama Code, the Administrative rules, or case law prohibiting pre-filling out registration information.

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

5) How long must you live in a county before you are eligible to register to vote?

Alabama laws do not specify how long someone must live there to be eligible to vote there, but the law specifically states that a person must be registered to vote at least ten days before the election. People must vote in the county and voting place that corresponds with where their permanent address.

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

The voter registration application provides a section for the applicant's permanent address and a mailing address; therefore applicants may list a P.O. Box, college campus address, or dorm address. Nevertheless, applicants must include their permanent address on the voter registration form. See State of Alabama Mail-In Voter Registration Form, available online at: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/downloads/election/vr/nvra-2.pdf>.

7) If I enter or leave a state for work or school, can I register to vote?

Yes. Voters may only register to vote in the county of their domicile. Domicile is defined as a place where someone lives and intends to remain permanently.

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8) Are there any I.D. requirements to register to vote?

No. Voters may register by mail without identification, but they must provide the ID requirements listed in question 9 when they come to the voting polls or with their absentee ballot.

9) Are there any I.D. requirements in order to vote?

Yes. Before voting in person, a voter must present identification. The requirement can be fulfilled through a photo ID (defined as any government issued photo IDs, employee ID cards, and college-level or higher student ID cards), or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or "other government document." The government documents must contain both the name and address of the voter, and are defined using a list that is non-exhaustive but includes: (a) a government ID card issued by any state or federal branch or agency, (b) a passport, (c) an Alabama hunting or fishing license, (d) an Alabama handgun permit, (e) a pilot's license, (f) a military ID card, (g) a certified copy of a birth certificate, (h) a Social Security Card, (i) a naturalization document, (j) certified court adoption or name

change records, or (k) a Medicaid, Medicare, or EBT card. If they have no identification, they may vote provisionally.

Absentee voters must submit a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document with the absentee ballot, unless they are exempt under federal law.

I0) What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?

If the omission results in a refusal of registration, the Board of Registrars must notify the registrant within ten days of the refusal, giving them a specific reason for the refusal. If the refusal was an innocent error, the registrant is permitted to re-submit the voter registration form. The registrant can also appeal the denial to probate court.

I1) If a person changes their name, can they have their new name reflected on their voter registration records by filling out a voter registration form?

Yes.

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

I2) What are the laws regarding third party registration?

In the Eleventh Circuit, the ability to conduct third party registration drives is a legally protected right. In Alabama, the Secretary of State must make voter registration forms available for use in registration drives. Non-profit institutions “which promote voter participation and registration for that purpose only” are entitled to voter registration lists, at the cost of reproduction, within 14 days of request. There is no comprehensive regulation of third party registration.

I3) Are there any laws regarding submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation?

There are no laws or regulations governing compensation of people submitting registration forms.

I4) Is training or registration with state required for registration drives?

Alabama requires training for official state voter registration agencies. However, no training or registration is necessary for registration drives conducted by private organizations; this was confirmed by the Secretary of State’s office.

I5) Are volunteers or staff of voter registration drives required to be county or state residents?

There is no residency requirement for participants in voter registration drives.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

I6) What is the deadline to register to vote?

Registration closes ten days before the election. Although Jefferson County (of which Birmingham is the seat) is exempt from the state-wide deadline based on a population provision, they too follow the ten days registration deadline.

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

No. There is no express regulation of third party registration.

18) Election Day registration?

Election Day registration is not permitted.

19) Does state election law allow for early voting?

To vote by absentee ballot, the voter must apply no later than five days before the election. A voter may only vote absentee if he or she is outside of the county on election day, ill or disabled, on a ten-hour shift that coincides with voting hours, is a student at a school outside of the county of his or her residence, is an election officer, or qualifies under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Emergency ballots are available under some circumstances. The ballot comes with an affidavit that the voter must sign in the presence of a notary public or two witnesses. Some applicants may be required at the discretion of an election officer to produce identification, even if already registered. In that case, they will have to mail a copy of the identification required at registration.

The absentee ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day, and arrive no later than noon on Election Day.

VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

20) Is there any pending legislation? If so, where is it in the legislative process?

There does not appear to be any pending legislation.

21) Applicable statutes?

The election code is located in Title 17 of the Alabama Code, Chapter 17-3 specifically deals with voter registration.

The Alabama Administrative Code, chapters 820-X and 820-2, contain election regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

22) Is there an elections official contact who is helpful?

For more information, contact the Alabama Secretary of State's Office at:

Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division
600 Dexter Ave, Suite E-208
Montgomery, AL 36130
1-800-274- VOTE (8683)

23) What web resources are available?

Secretary of State, Elections Division:
<http://www.sos.state.al.us/Elections/Default.aspx>

National Campaign for Fair Elections:
www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/alabama.

Project Vote Smart:
http://www.votesmart.org/voter_registration_resources.php?state_id=AL