

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

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

There are several ways to get a voter registration form. The form can be found at your local county clerk's office, by contacting the Secretary of State Election Division at 1-800-247-3312, or at http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/elections_pdfs/voter/voter_reg_ap_ar.pdf

Voter registration agencies shall distribute mail voter registration applications, provide assistance to applicants in completing voter registration application forms, unless the applicant refuses assistance, and accept completed voter registration application forms for transmittal to the appropriate permanent registrar via the Secretary of State. Voter registration agencies include the following:

- The Office of Driver Services of the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration and all State Revenue Offices
- Public assistance agencies, which shall mean those agencies that provide services under the Food Stamps, Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs
- Disabilities agencies, which shall mean agencies that offer state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities
- Public libraries
- The Arkansas National Guard

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

Photocopies of the Arkansas Voter Registration Application are accepted, provided that the signature on the application is original or authorized. See **questions 13-16**.

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

The National Voter Registration Form can be used in Arkansas. See <http://www.eac.gov/voter/Register%20to%20Vote>.

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

Yes. The use of voter registration lists are for the election officials. The precinct voter registration lists shall contain the name, address, including zip code, and date of birth of each registered voter within the precinct, including those who have been designated inactive, the precinct number and county wherein the precinct is located, the name and date of the election, and a space for the voter's signature. Upon request every county clerk who maintains on computer the list of registered voters within the county shall provide the list on computer disk or tape. The list shall include at least the names,

addresses, and precinct numbers of the voters. If a printed list is requested, the cost of the list may be no more than two cents (2¢) per name and address.

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

No. However, the State Board of Election's office advises against applicants using pre-filled registration forms. Any inconsistent information on registration forms, such as an incorrect county or zip code, may delay the registration process. See **Question #11**.

COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

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

You must reside in Arkansas at least 31 days prior to the first election in which you will vote. The registration books will be closed 30 days before each election and will remain closed until after the election. If the voter has submitted her/his registration application close to the registration deadline, the voter should follow up on the application by calling her/his County Clerk. See http://www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elections.html#voter_info.

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

A person may register to vote using any address he or she considers to be his or her voting residence. "Voting residence" shall be a voter's domicile. The domicile of a person is that place in which his or her habitation is fixed to which he or she has the intention to return whenever he or she is absent. A change of domicile is made only by the act of abandonment, together with the intent to remain in another place. A person can have only one domicile at any given time, but does not lose his or her domicile if he or she temporarily leaves his or her home and goes to another country, state, or place in this state with the intent of returning. The place where a person's family resides is presumed to be his or her place of domicile, but a person may acquire a separate residence if he or she takes another abode with the intention of remaining there. An actual address is not needed for registration, as long as you are able to notate the physical location on the map provided on the voter registration card.

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

Yes, if you establish a voting residence in Arkansas. See **Question 7** above. A change of domicile is only made by an act of abandonment, so those leaving the state temporarily may still register to vote. Use of a college address in the state is permissible provided that you consider your college address to be your legal residence. However, if you are claimed as a dependent on your parents' income tax return, their address is probably your legal residence.

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

If you register to vote by mail you must provide either your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number on your Arkansas Voter Registration Application, or indicate on the application that you do not possess either a driver's license or Social Security number.

If you indicate on the application that you do not possess either a driver's license or Social Security number, you may be required to vote a Provisional Ballot when you vote for the first time unless you submit a photocopy of one of the following with your mail-in application or at the time of voting: current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that shows your name and address, or another government document that shows your name and address. See http://www.votenaturally.org/all_about_voting.html

10) Are there any identification requirements in order to vote?

Election officials at the polls must **ASK** all voters to provide one of the following forms of identification:

- A current and valid photo identification (such as a driver's license),
- A copy of a current utility bill showing the voter's name and address,
- A copy of a bank statement showing the voter's name and address,
- A copy of a government check or paycheck showing the voter's name and address, or
- A copy of a government document showing the voter's name and address.

If you're unable to provide ID, the election official will note it on the Precinct Voter Registration List, and you may vote a regular ballot.

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

The treatment of incomplete or illegible registration forms depends on the type of information that is missing or illegible. If an applicant for voter registration fails to provide any of the information required, the permanent registrar shall notify the applicant of the failure and provide the applicant with an opportunity to complete the form in a timely manner to allow for its completion before the next election for federal office.

12) Can a person whose name has changed since registering vote on Election Day?

Yes. If a voter's name is not the same as that on the precinct voter registration list, the election official will request that the voter complete a voter registration application form for the purposes of updating the county voter registration files. Once the voter has completed the application, the voter will be permitted to vote.

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

13) What are the laws regarding third-party registration?

Arkansas law requires organizers of voter registration drives to submit registration applications within 21 days of the drive or no later than 30 days prior to an election. A person who provides voter registration assistance through any voter registration agency shall not seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration, display any such political preference or party allegiance, make any statement to an applicant or take any action to the purpose or effect of discouraging the applicant from registering to vote, make any statement to an applicant or take any action to the purpose or effect of leading the applicant to believe that a decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits, or disclose any applicant's voter registration information, except as necessary for the administration of voter registration.

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

No. There are no express provisions prohibiting the submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation.

15) Is training required for voter registration drives?

No. There is no express training requirement under the Arkansas General Provisions Code. There is however, a suggestion under the candidates election's handbook, that organizations or individuals planning a voter registration drive train those assisting in the drive to ensure they know who is eligible to vote and how to fill out the voter registration cards correctly.

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

No, they are not.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

17) What is the deadline to register to vote?

You must submit your application to an official voter registration agency or mail it no later than 30 days prior to an election in which you wish to vote. The postmark on a mail-in application will be considered the submission date. If you completed your application at a voter registration drive, the organizers must submit it to the county clerk or Secretary of State's office within 21 days of the date on the application or no later than 30 days prior to the next election. If you submit your application close to an election registration deadline, you are strongly advised to follow up on your registration status with your county clerk before Election Day.

If an election deadline is looming, there is one method of application that will ensure your eligibility; apply in person with your county clerk. If you have not received verification from your county clerk, be sure to confirm your registration BEFORE Election Day.

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

Yes. According to the Office of the Secretary of State, voter registration drive groups must submit completed applications to the County Clerk or Secretary of State's office within 21 days of the date on the application and no later than 30 days before the next election. "Conducting a Voter Registration Guide," http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/elections_pdfs/voter/voter_registration_guide.pdf.

19) Is Election Day registration allowed?

Individuals who register to vote on Election Day will not be permitted to vote in that election. For the registration deadline see **Question 17**.

20) Does state election law allow for early or absentee voting?

Yes, early voting is permitted. To cast an early vote in a preferential primary or the general election, a voter may apply to the county clerk's designated early voting location beginning fifteen days before the primary or election between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Early voting will end at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the election.

To cast an early vote in all other elections, including a presidential preferential primary, general primary, or general runoff election, a voter may apply to the county clerk's designated early voting location beginning seven days before the election during regular business hours. Early voting will end on the day before the election at the time the county clerk's office normally closes.

Yes, absentee voting is permitted. A person who qualifies to vote may cast an absentee ballot in any election if he/she will be unavoidably absent from his or her voting place on the day of the election or if he/she will be unable to attend the polls on election day because of illness or physical disability.

An absentee ballot must be requested from the county clerk's office. The county clerk will make an absentee ballot form accessible to voters at least sixty days before the election. Otherwise an applicant can request an absentee by mail if the request is received not later than seven days before the election, or an applicant can transmit a written request for an absentee ballot over the telephone lines.

Under the provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) also provides a “back-up” ballot, called the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, or FWAB. The FWAB serves as an emergency ballot to be used by a uniformed services voter who is absent from his or her voting jurisdiction or by a citizen residing outside the United States who did not receive his or her regular ballot. If you complete the Federal Write-In Ballot and later receive a standard ballot, you should complete the standard ballot as well. In the event the election commission in your home county receives both ballots from you, they will only count the standard ballot.

VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1; SJR 4-2007 Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution; provides that all persons may vote who are citizens of the United States, residents of the State, at least 18 years of age, and lawfully registered to vote; repeals the requirement that the right to vote shall not be made to depend on any previous registration or an elector's name; provides that certain persons shall not be entitled to the privileges of an elector; relates to election dates and times. This amendment will be on the 11/04/2008 Ballot. 2008 Bill Tracking AR V. 5

22) What applicable statutes are possibly affected?

If you would like to read the statutes that generally apply to voter registration, they are under Title 7, chapter, of Arkansas code, specifically:

- § 7-1-101 on elections generally;
- § 7-5-201 on voter registration; and
- § 7-5-401 to 7-5-417 on absentee voting.

23) Are there any helpful elections official contacts?

For more information, contact the

State Board of Election Commissioners

Susie Stormes, Director
State Capitol, Room 024
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-682-1834

Arkansas Ethics Commission

Graham Sloan, Director
910 West Second, Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-324-9600

24) What web resources are available?

The Arkansas Secretary of State has a website dedicated to providing information on the voter registration process: <http://www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elections.html>. This site includes resources such as frequently asked questions, absentee ballots, and special provisions for military officers.

The National Campaign for Fair Elections is another resource:
<http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/arkansas>.