

# UNDERSTANDING VOTER REGISTRATION

A Practical Guide to the Voter Registration Process



# WHY REGISTRATION IS THE FRONTLINE



- You **can't vote** if you're **not registered**
- Every **state has different rules** = lots of confusion
- Millions of eligible Americans are **still unregistered**

# THE BASICS



- ✓ It's the process of signing up with your state to vote.
- ✓ Usually requires: name, DOB, address, ID (sometimes).
- ✓ You register with the **state**, not the federal government.

# WHO HAS TO REGISTER AND WHEN



- **First-time** voters
- If you've **moved** (even across town!)
- If your **name or political party** changed
- If you **haven't voted** in a while (purges happen!)

# HOW PEOPLE REGISTER

- ✓ Online (where available)
- ✓ Paper forms (DMV, voter drives)
- ✓ In person at county clerk or election offices
- ✓ Same Day Registration (Including Election Day)

# THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

- Limited national rules: **states make their own**
- **43 states + DC** have online registration
- **Deadlines vary** (some close weeks before Election Day)

# WHY PEOPLE DON'T REGISTER



- Don't know how or where to register
- Think they already are
- Don't know deadlines
- Language/internet access barriers
- Don't trust the system

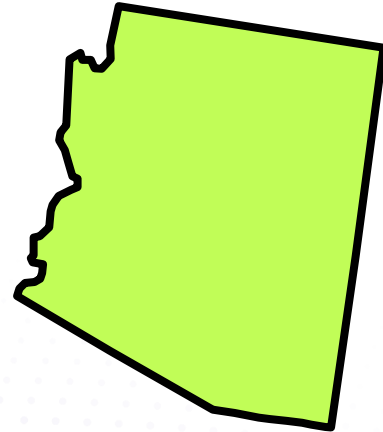
# EXAMPLES OF VOTER REGISTRATION RULES BY STATE

How registration rules can vary from state to state

# ARIZONA REGISTRATION DETAILS

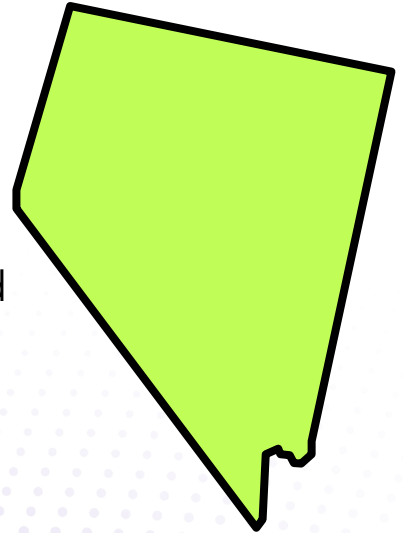
vote.  
ONLINE

- Registration Deadline: **29 days before the election**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In-Person
- ID Requirement: State ID or Driver's License number, or another form of proof
- Early Voting: Begins **27 days prior**



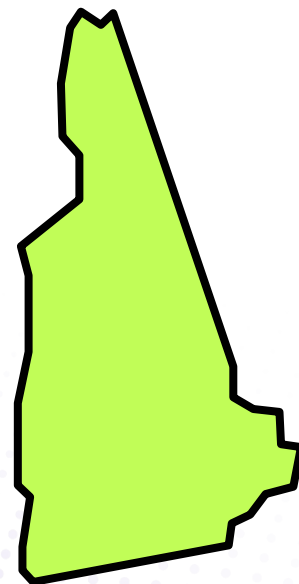
# NEVADA REGISTRATION DETAILS **vote.** **ONLINE**

- Registration Deadline: 29 days prior (online), **Same-Day Registration available**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In-Person
- ID Requirement: State ID or Social Security Number required
- Early Voting: **2 weeks prior**



# NEW HAMPSHIRE REGISTRATION DETAILS

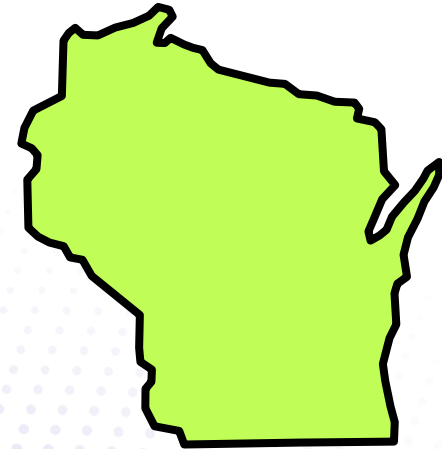
- Registration Deadline: **Same Day Registration available** (in person)
- Registration Methods: **In-Person Only**
- ID Requirement: Must show proof of identity, age, residency, citizenship
- Early Voting: **Not available**



# WISCONSIN REGISTRATION DETAILS



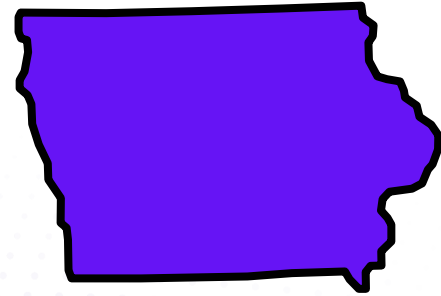
- Registration Deadline: 20 days prior online, **Same-Day Registration available in person**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In-Person
- ID Requirement: State ID required
- Early Voting: **Up to 14 days prior**



# IOWA REGISTRATION DETAILS



- Registration Deadline: **15–10 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person, Same-Day Registration available
- ID Requirement: State ID required



# MICHIGAN REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Registration Deadline: 15 days prior online,  
**Same-Day Registration available**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person
- ID Requirement: State ID required



# OHIO REGISTRATION DETAILS



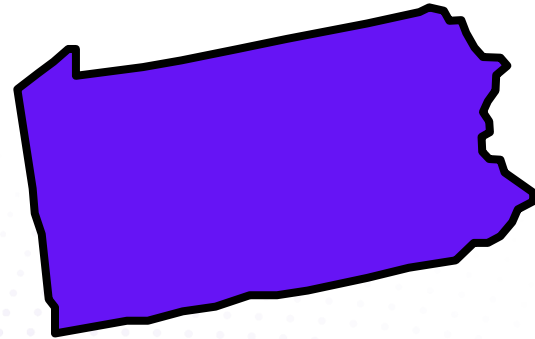
- Registration Deadline: **30 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person
- ID Requirement: State ID required
- Early Voting: **Available**



# PENNSYLVANIA REGISTRATION DETAILS



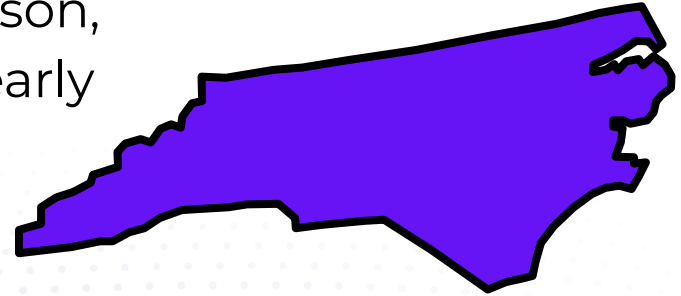
- Registration Deadline: **15 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person
- ID Requirement: State ID required
- Early/Absentee Voting: **Available**



# NORTH CAROLINA REGISTRATION DETAILS



- Registration Deadline: **25 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person, Same-Day Registration available during early voting
- ID Requirement: State ID required



# GEORGIA REGISTRATION DETAILS



- Registration Deadline: **29 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person
- ID Requirement: State ID required
- Early Voting: **17–19 days prior**



# CALIFORNIA REGISTRATION DETAILS



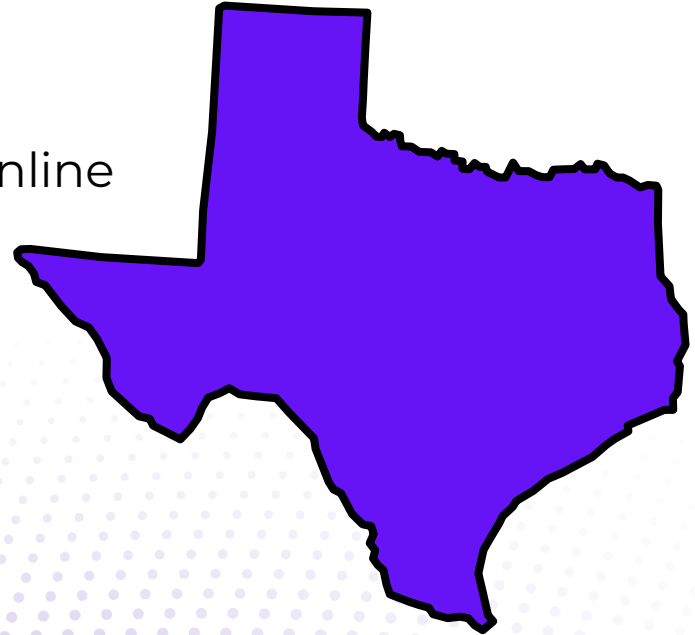
- Registration Deadline: **15 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person, Same-Day Registration available
- ID Requirement: Flexible—ID or last 4 of SSN can be used to register
- Early Voting: **Available, widespread mail-in access**



# TEXAS REGISTRATION DETAILS



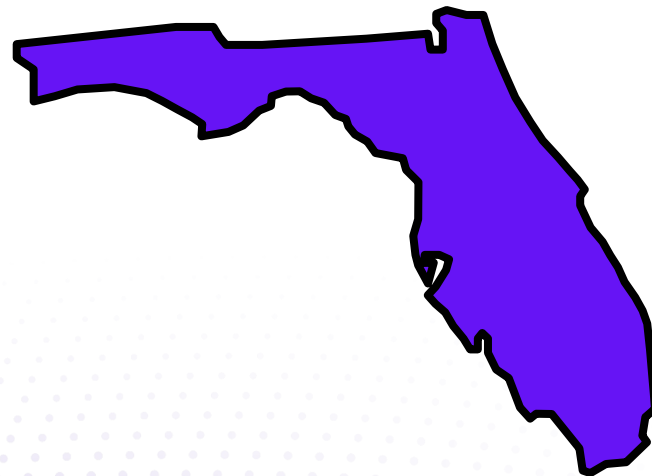
- Registration Deadline: **30 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Mail, In Person (no online registration)
- ID Requirement: State ID required
- Early Voting: **17-12 days prior**



# FLORIDA REGISTRATION DETAILS



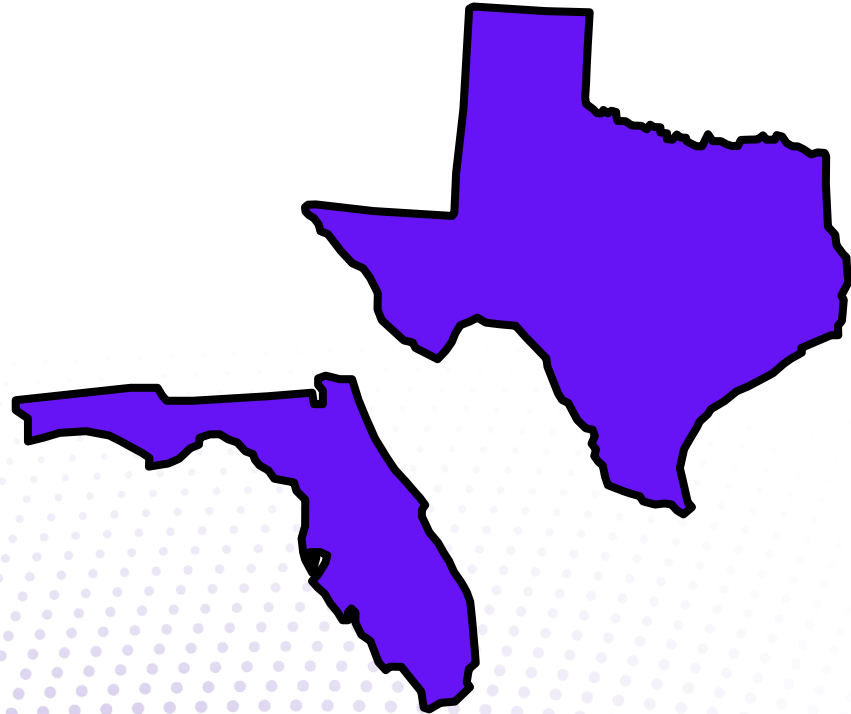
- Registration Deadline: **29 days prior**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In Person
- ID Requirement: State ID required
- Early Voting: **10–15 days prior**



# TEXAS & FLORIDA REGISTRARS

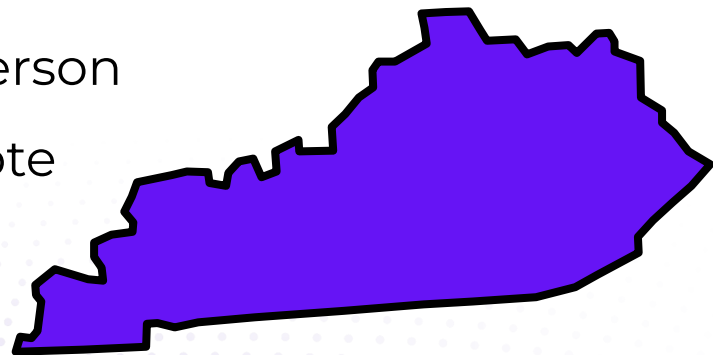


- In **Texas**, each **county** has a **Voter Registrar**, often the **Tax Assessor-Collector** or **Elections Administrator**.
- In **Florida**, it's typically handled by the **Supervisor of Elections** in each county.



# KENTUCKY REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Registration Deadline: **29 days before Election Day**
- Registration Methods: Online, Mail, In-Person
- ID Requirement: Photo ID required to vote
- Early Voting: **3 days of early voting + in-person absentee voting**



# BEST PRACTICES

Understanding the Rules that Apply in Most States

# COMMON NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS



- Must be **18** by the next general election
- Must be a U.S. citizen and resident of the state
- Felony status laws vary by state
- Some states allow pre-registration for **16-17 year olds**
- Online registration requires a valid state ID

# PRE-REGISTRATION 101

- Allows **16- and 17-year-olds** to register **before** they're eligible to vote
- They are automatically activated when they turn 18
- Helps build lifelong voting habits early
- Not available in all states — check your state's rules



# THE DO'S AND DON'TS

## DO'S

- ✓ Know your state's rules
- ✓ Follow 501(c)(3) guidelines
- ✓ Start early
- ✓ Communicate clearly and often
- ✓ Be ready for common challenges
- ✓ Stay nonpartisan
- ✓ Respect voting as a right

## DON'TS

- ✗ Don't incentivize voting
- ✗ Don't start unprepared
- ✗ Don't try to influence choices
- ✗ Don't wait until the deadline
- ✗ Don't assume everyone has the same process
- ✗ Don't register someone on their behalf — **this is fraud**
- ✗ Don't get involved in partisan activity
- ✗ Don't ignore someone's right to vote

# HOW IS EARLY VOTING DIFFERENT THAN ABSENTEE VOTING?



- Both early in-person voting and absentee voting allow voters to cast a ballot **prior to Election Day**
- Early voting allows voters to cast a ballot similar to how they would do so at a **polling place on Election Day**
- Absentee voting allows voters to **request a ballot by mail or in person at their local clerk's office**

# PAPER FORMS 101

The Rules, Responsibilities, and Real-World Impact  
Behind Paper Form Collection

# WHAT ARE PAPER VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS?



- Still widely used across the U.S.
- Especially common at in-person events
- Can be used when online registration isn't available
- Legal document – must be accurate and complete
- Errors or delays can prevent someone from voting

VISIT **VOTE.ONLINE**

 **New Jersey Voter Registration Application** 68

*Please print clearly in Ink. All information is required unless marked optional.*

<b>1</b> Check all boxes that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Political Party Affiliation <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Update <input type="checkbox"/> Vote By Mail				<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>
<b>2</b> Are you a U.S. Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(If No, DO NOT complete this form)</i>		<b>3</b> Are you at least 17 years of age? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(If No, DO NOT complete this form)</i>		
<b>4</b> Last Name First Name Middle Name or Initial Suffix (jr, sr, iv)				Clerk
<b>5</b> Date of Birth (MM / DD / YYYY) / / <b>6</b> Gender (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female				Registration #
<b>7</b> NJ Driver's License Number or MVC Non-driver ID Number <b>8</b> Home Address (DO NOT use PO Box) Apt. Municipality (City/Town) County State Zip Code <i>If you DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License or MVC Non-Driver ID, provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number.</i>				Office Time Stamp
<input type="checkbox"/> I swear or affirm that I DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License, MVC Non-driver ID or a Social Security Number.*				<input type="checkbox"/> by mail <input type="checkbox"/> in person
<b>9</b> Mailing Address (if different from Home Address) Apt. Municipality (City/Town) County State Zip Code				
<b>10</b> Last Address Registered to Vote (DO NOT use PO Box) Apt. Municipality (City/Town) County State Zip Code				Muni Code #
<b>11</b> Former Name if Making Name Change <b>12</b> Day Phone Number (Optional) E-Mail Address (Optional)				Party
<b>13</b> Do you wish to declare a political party affiliation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the party name is (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not wish to be affiliated with any political party.				Ward
<b>14</b> Request for Mail-In Ballot for all future elections (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a Mail-In Ballot for all future elections until I request otherwise in writing to the County Clerk's office. <input type="checkbox"/> Mail my ballot to the following address if different from Mailing Address above: Mailing Address if different from above Apt. Municipality (City/Town) State Zip Code				District
<b>Declaration - I swear or affirm that:</b> • I am a U.S. Citizen. • I live at the above home address. • I am at least 17 years old, and understand that I may not vote until reaching the age of 18. • I will have resided in the State and county at least 30 days before the next election. • I am not serving a sentence of incarceration as the result of a conviction of any indictable offense under the laws of this or another state or of the United States. • I understand that any false or fraudulent registration may subject me to a fine of up to \$15,000, imprisonment up to 5 years, or both pursuant to R.S. 19:24-1.				
Signature of Registrant: Sign or mark and date on lines below				If applicant is unable to complete this form, print the name and address of individual who completed this form. Name _____ Date (MM / DD / YYYY) / / _____ Address _____
x _____ Date (MM / DD / YYYY) / / _____				

X Instagram TikTok @VOTE

# LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN HANDLING FORMS



- Some states require forms to be submitted within strict timeframes (3-10 days)
- Mishandling or delaying forms can have legal consequences
- Never leave forms unattended or unaccounted for

# PAPER FORM DROP OFF & STATE RULES

- Each state has its own laws for drop-off
- Some allow mailing, others require in-person delivery
- Certain states limit who can turn in forms
- Deadlines vary — some as short as 3 days
- Always verify your state's process before collecting

# WHERE TO DROP OFF OR MAIL PAPER FORMS

- Most forms **MUST** be delivered to the county board of elections or voter registration office
- Some states allow drop-off at **DMVs or government offices**
- **Mailing** forms is allowed in many states (check deadlines!)
- Use **official addresses only** — never hand forms to unauthorized people
- Always keep a record of what you submitted and when



**THANK YOU!**

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