

Oklahoma Voter Registration



Frequently Asked Questions for Registrars

Prepared by YWCA Tulsa for the Voting is Power Coalition

Eligibility

To register, one must be:

- ✓ a citizen of the United States
- ✓ a resident of the State of Oklahoma
- ✓ at least 18 years old

People with Felony Convictions

- People with felony convictions may register to vote* after the time of original sentence, meaning completion of incarceration, probation, and parole.
- If they are released early, they cannot register until the time of their original sentence expires (e.g. if someone is sentenced to 10 years, but released after 5, they must wait another 5 years to register).
- If a court has issued a deferred sentence, they are eligible to register after serving the deferred sentence.
- If the person has been pardoned, they may register to vote at any time.
- If they were convicted of a felony in another state, they are subject to the same law as if they were convicted in an Oklahoma court.
- People convicted of a misdemeanor in Oklahoma can vote. If they are incarcerated they have to vote by absentee ballot.

* People with felony convictions must re-register when they are eligible to vote.

Students

In Oklahoma, voters decide where “home” is for them. College students living on campus may either vote absentee or update their registration to their on-campus address.

- Changing their registration enables them to vote in the district in which their on-campus address is located.
- Voting absentee allows them to vote at their permanent address. They must either complete a paper Absentee Ballot Application and turn it into their county or state election board, or request an absentee ballot online at <https://services.okelections.us/AbsenteeApplication>.

Homeless/Home Insecure Voters

- People who are homeless can register using a shelter as their mailing address and a place where they can be found (such as a bridge or street corner) as their street address. They may not be prosecuted for registering under these addresses.
- The street address will determine their voting district.

Minors

If the voter will turn 18 *before* the election, they may register to vote between 60 and 25 days prior to the election (even if they are still 17 at the time of registration).

People with Disabilities

A person with a physical or mental disability is eligible to register to vote. Only a court can determine that a person is not competent to vote.

Privacy Concerns

- Survivors of domestic violence or stalking who wish to keep their address private may register with the Oklahoma Address Confidentiality Program to keep their address private when registering to vote.
- Most domestic violence shelters have resources to register survivors in this program.

How do I register to vote in Oklahoma?

Just complete a voter registration form in blue or black ink and send it in.

Where to Register

- County Election Board offices
- Tag agencies (will mail in for you)
- Most post offices, public libraries and QuikTrip locations
- Online at https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Register_to_Vote/index.html

When to Register

- Eligible citizens may register to vote any time.
- In order to vote in a *specific* election, the deadline to register is 25 days prior to that election.
- The election board does not issue voter identification cards during the 24 days before an election. Applications received during that time will be sent a card after the election.
- Voters cannot vote until they have been issued a voter ID card.

Political Parties and Primaries

- Voters are not required select a political party when registering to vote, but selecting no party does affect which primaries they are able to vote in.
- Primaries are elections in which Democratic and Republican voters select their party's candidate for the general election.
- Oklahoma has a closed primary system with exceptions.
 - Only registered Republicans can vote in Republican primaries and runoffs.
 - Registered Democrats may vote in Democratic primaries and runoffs.
 - Registered Independents may vote in Democratic primaries and runoffs.
- People registering voters may not influence which party people register with. This includes giving out prizes (candy, stickers, etc.) to anyone who registers to vote under a certain political party, or wearing or displaying materials affiliated with a specific party.

When to update voter registration

- Voter registration does not expire.
- If a voter's information changes, they can update their voter registration at any time.
- They may change their party affiliation at any time.
- To make any changes to their voter registration, they have to send in a new voter registration application.
- They cannot make changes in their voter registration online or by telephone.

Change of address

- In Oklahoma, voters decide where “home” is for them. Voters can update their address whenever they like.
- Voting districts and polling places are determined by the address where they are registered.
- If voters move but prefer to remain registered at their old address, they can vote via absentee ballot.
- Newcomers to Oklahoma who don’t yet have an Oklahoma driver’s license may register using the last four digits of their Social Security number. If they don’t have a Social Security number, they may check the box that says “I do not have a driver’s license or social security number.”

Name changes

- The name on their voter registration should match the name on their driver’s license.
- They should update their voter registration any time they legally change their name.

Absentee Voting

- Anyone registered to vote may request an absentee ballot. They do not need a reason to vote absentee.
- Request forms are available at county election boards and at <https://services.okelections.us/AbsenteeApplication>.
- Voters can elect to vote absentee for a single election or for all elections during a calendar year.
- Absentee ballots requests must be turned in by 5pm on the Wednesday before an election.
- Completed absentee ballots must be notarized. Notaries cannot charge for this.
- Ballots must be mailed back and received by the county election board by 7 p.m. on Election Day.
- Voters who request an absentee ballot can still vote in person on Election Day, they will be just asked to sign an affidavit stating they did not return their absentee ballot.

Early Voting

- Voters can vote early at their county election board office from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. on the Thursday and Friday before Election Day.
- For state and federal elections only, early voting is also available from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday before the election.

Voter ID

- The county election board mails the voter an identification card when their application is approved.
- This card is proof of eligibility to vote and is all voters need to take with them to polls.
- Voters can also use a government-issued photo ID with an expiration date, including
 - Oklahoma driver license
 - Oklahoma ID card
 - United States Passport
 - United States Military ID
 - Tribal Membership Card
- Voters without an eligible ID can vote with a provisional ballot. On this ballot, they will sign an affidavit that states that they are the person voting, and they must give an explanation as to why they are casting the provisional ballot.

