

The Rx: Vote Campaign

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS

Adapted from “You Don’t Need a Home to Vote, 2007-2008”, Voter Registration Manual
National Coalition for the Homeless.

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/vote/acknowledgements.html>

Am I eligible to register and to vote?

Yes, if you are:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of your state
 - At least 18 years old by Election Day (November 4th, 2008)
- Not in prison. (Note: For those on probation, on parole, or who have committed a felony, eligibility will vary state-to-state. Review the [Felony Voting Rights](#) chart at www.RxVote.org and check eligibility with your City/County Elections Office or your [Secretary of State](#))
- Not declared mentally incompetent by a court (varies, check with your City/County Elections Office or your [Secretary of State](#))

Do I have to be 18 years old to register?

No. As long as you will be 18 on the day of the upcoming election then you may register to vote.

Must I read or write English in order to register or vote?

No. You may register and vote even if you cannot read or write. You may take to the voting booth a literate and registered individual who can assist you in the voting process, but not actually vote for you.

How can I register?

The Rx: Vote Campaign has partnered with Rock the Vote to provide an online link to the [National Voter Registration Form](#). If you need help, a Rx: Vote Campaign volunteer can help you complete this form.

(Note: North Dakota, New Hampshire and Wyoming don't accept the National Voter Registration Application form. If you live in one of these states, contact your Secretary of State's office.)

After filling out a voter registration form, the Rx: Vote Campaign will mail it to your local county election office. You may also register to vote on your own at your local elections office.

Where can I find the registration form myself?

Voter registration forms are available at post offices, libraries, fire stations, Departments of Motor Vehicles, welfare departments, Registrars of Voters, and City/County Elections offices. In addition, voter registration forms are available [online](#) at the www.RxVote.org

When can I register?

You may register anytime, but do it by your state's deadline if you want to vote in the upcoming election. Click [here](#) or visit www.RxVote.org to review [Voter Registration Deadlines](#), which vary from state to state.

Does it cost anything to register?

No. Registration is free.

Am I registered once I fill out and mail the registration form?

No. You cannot be sure you are registered until you get a voter notification card from the county. If the notification card does not arrive within three weeks of mailing your registration, call your Registrar of Voters or City/County Elections Office and ask if you are registered.

Do I ever have to re-register?

Yes. If you move, change your name, want to change your political party, or have completed all conditions of a felony charge, you must register again. Please check with your City/County Elections Office or your [Secretary of State](#) as the rules governing re-registration vary from state to state. To re-register, fill out a [new registration form](#) with the correct information. The Rx: Vote Campaign can help send it to the local elections office for you or you can send it yourself.

What if I move right before the election?

You may vote by returning to your former precinct or by requesting an absentee ballot.

Will I remain a registered voter even if I fail to vote?

Yes. However, if you move, the state may send you a voter eligibility

verification notice by mail to confirm your current eligibility. If you fail to respond to that notice and do not vote in two consecutive federal elections, the state may remove you from the voter list.

Can I register for someone else?

No. You can only register for yourself. However, you may help others fill out a form, but they must sign the form.

Do I have to choose a political party in order to register and to vote?

No. You may check the “decline to state” or independent box on the form if you do not wish to belong to a political party.

What is a political party?

A political party is a group of individuals who try to determine public policy by organizing to win elections and operate government.

How do I join a political party?

It is as simple as checking the box for the political party of your choice on the registration form. There are no requirements to join a political party.

If I declare a party of preference when I register, can I change later?

Yes, you just have to re-register.

Am I required to work for the party or contribute money to it?

No.

What is a Sample Ballot?

In some states, before each election, each registered voter receives a packet of information including a Sample Ballot, which is a replica of the ballot the voter will see at the polls. The packet also gives the time and date of the election, the location of your polling place, and an application to vote-by-mail.

What if I do not receive a Sample Ballot?

If it does not arrive two weeks before the election, call and request one from the Registrar of Voters or your City/County Elections Office.

Where will I vote?

Your polling place will be in your neighborhood. Click on this link to find your [polling place](#). If you receive a Sample Ballot, the exact address will be

shown on the back. Otherwise, the address will be on your registration card. Both should show whether the polling location is accessible to people with disabilities. Polling places may change from one election to another. It is important to go to the correct [polling place](#) because your name will not be on the roster of voters anywhere else.

What if my polling place is not accessible to the people with disabilities?

The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act requires polling places to be accessible to persons with disabilities whenever possible for federal elections. Where no accessible locations are available as polling places, states must provide other means for persons with disabilities to vote. In most states, you may vote by absentee ballot, and many states provide voting aids such as telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD's). Check with your local City/County Elections office to learn what you should do. If you prefer to vote in person, find out if curbside voting is available. If it is, get as close to your polling place as you can and a precinct board member will bring you a ballot for you to cast.

When are the polls open?

The hours that polling places are open on Election Day varies by state. However, usual hours are from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Can I vote by mail?

Contact your City/County Elections Office for information on obtaining an absentee ballot and about deadlines.

Do I need identification documents when I go to vote or register?

When registering by mail, a driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number will be needed. If you are unable to supply either, you will be given a voter ID number and will be required to show some sort of ID when you go to vote on Election Day (the form of ID varies from state to state). Many states have further identification requirements so it is important to check with your local elections offices.

What if I need help in marking my ballot?

Ask Elections Officials at the polling place.

How long may I stay in the polling booth?

Take your time. Some states limit voting to ten minutes, but will extend that time if no other voters are waiting. You may take your pre-marked Sample

Ballot into the polling place with you.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

You may request another one.

Can someone help me when I go to vote?

Yes, you may bring a friend, a relative, a teacher, a parent or anyone else. This person can help you read the ballot or use the voting booth to vote.

What will I be voting on?

You will either be voting on propositions, which are ballot measures that change local or state laws, or on candidates running for elective office. You do not have to vote on everything; you can just vote on the things you care about.

How do I vote?

- Sign your name on a list of all the voters in your area.
- A ballot will be given to you and you will then enter the voting booth.
- You will put the ballot in the voting machine and mark your choices.

Officials at the polling place will provide directions on voting procedures.