

OREGON

VOTER REGISTRATION

These resources are current as of 4/14/09: We do our best to periodically update these resources and welcome any comments or questions regarding new developments in the law. Please email us at advocacy@afj.org.

This guide summarizes key aspects of laws governing voter registration on the state level. It is not intended to provide legal advice or to serve as a substitute for legal advice

In some jurisdictions, city and/or county regulations may also apply to certain political activities. Check with the appropriate local jurisdiction before undertaking any activity.

VOTE BY MAIL

Oregon does not have any polling places. All ballots are cast by mail. It is therefore particularly important that voter registration information is current in order to receive a ballot in the mail. Oregon maintains relatively current voter registration records. Electors who have moved, changed their name or not voted in the last five years may be deemed “inactive” and need to update their registration in order to vote. However, any elector can go to a county elections office and request a ballot if they have not received a ballot and are otherwise qualified to vote.

DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION

- **Deadline for registering**
 - A qualified person must register by the 21st day before the election in order to vote in that election.
 - Already registered voters can update their registrations at any time, including through Election Day.

- **Does state offer Election Day registration?**
 - No, there is no Election Day registration in Oregon.

- **Does state allow by-mail registration?**
 - Yes. A qualified person registers by completing a voter registration card and either delivering it in person or by mail to any county clerk, the Secretary of State, or the Department of Transportation (generally, an office of the Department of Motor Vehicles). Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.012.

- **May voter register before turning 18?**
 - Yes. A person may register to vote when they are 17 years of age, but may not actually vote unless they are 18 years of age on the date of the election. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.016.
 - Whenever a person 17 years of age or older applies for a new or renewed driver's license, the DMV employee must ask whether the person also wants to register to vote by completing an application attached to the license application. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.017.

VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

- **Required for registration? If so, what kinds of ID?**
 - An elector registering to vote in Oregon for the first time must provide either their current, valid Oregon DMV driver's license or identification number or the last four digits of their Social Security number.
 - If a person is registering by mail and does not have one of those forms of identification, then he or she must provide a copy of one of the following:
 - valid photo identification paycheck stub;
 - a utility bill;
 - a bank statement;
 - government document showing the person's name and address; or
 - proof of eligibility under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UACAVA) or the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEH)

- **Required for voting? If so, what kinds of ID?**
 - No.

- **Requirement to provide proof of citizenship to register and/or vote?**
 - No. A person must indicate that they are a U.S. citizen to register to vote, but is not required to provide proof of citizenship. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.171(3)(e).

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

- **Does state accept National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) registration forms? Any restrictions?**
 - Yes, without restrictions. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.171

- **May groups “cage” completed registration forms (i.e. asks voters to mail them back to the group, which will then send them to the appropriate elections registrar(s))? If so, may they copy the forms or any of the data included on them? If so, any deadlines for sending the completed forms to the state or to local officials?**
 - Yes. The person or group who receives the voter registration card must forward it to the county clerk or Secretary of State not later than the fifth day after receiving the card. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.012(2).
 - Voter registration cards are generally public records. It is unlawful to make a copy of the actual signature. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.973. However, it is permissible to make copies of the other voter information for purposes of building a database. Signatures may also be inspected at the offices of the Secretary of State or any county clerk.

- **May a group “pre-fill” some or all of the form before sending/giving it to a would-be registrant?**
 - A group may pre-fill only the federal registration form. If a group wishes to pre-fill portions of the state registration form, it must first apply in writing to the Secretary of State for permission to do so. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.171(1).

- **May voter registration drive workers assist a voter in completing their registration form?**
 - Yes, persons can fill in portions of the voter registration card for registrants.

- **Does state require training of voter registration workers?**
 - No.

- **Does state require registration of voter registration drives? If so, for by-mail drives, too?**
 - No. However, note that a group that wishes to “print, copy or otherwise prepare and distribute the registration cards designed by the Secretary of State” must first apply in writing to the Secretary of State for permission to do so. Or. Rev. Stat. § 247.171(1).

- **Any requirement that a group must provide information to voters about how they may contact the group to determine the status of their registration?**
 - No.
- **May a group pay voter registration drive workers? If so, is it permissible to pay on a per-voter-registered basis?**
 - Yes, it is lawful to pay persons to register voters. However, it is illegal to pay on a per-signature basis. Or. Rev. Stat. § 260.569.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

State agencies:

Oregon Secretary of State
Elections Division
255 Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 501
Salem, Oregon 97310
Email: elections.sos@state.or.us
Phone: (503) 986-1518
Fax: (503) 373-7414
www.oregonvotes.org
www.sos.state.or.us/elections

Local agencies:

Listing of County Elections Offices:
<http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/clerk.htm>

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FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

For assistance regarding these resources or for more information about federal law, please contact our attorney one-on-one counseling service:

**Email: Advocacy@afj.org
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(675-6229)**

For assistance regarding state law in Oregon, please contact:

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