



# Voter Registration

## In South Carolina



## Who Can Register to Vote?

You must be registered to be eligible to vote in South Carolina elections. To register you **MUST**:

- > be a United States citizen;
- > be at least 18 years old on or before the next election;
- > be a resident of South Carolina in the county & precinct in which you are registering;
- > not be under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent;
- > not be confined in any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime;
- > have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws OR if previously convicted, have served the entire sentence, including probation or parole, or have received a pardon for the conviction.

## When Can I Register?

There is no length of residency requirement in South Carolina in order to register to vote. You can register at any time.

You must be registered at least 30 days prior to any election in order to vote in that election.

Registration by mail applications must be postmarked at least 30 days prior to that particular election to be eligible. If the deadline falls on a Sunday or U.S. Postal Service holiday, the postmark deadline is extended to the next day that is not a Sunday or holiday.

## How Can I Register?

### Online at [scVOTES.gov](https://scVOTES.gov)

- > Requires a DMV Driver's License or DMV ID.
- > If you have moved, you must first update your address with the DMV.

### By mail

- > Download an application at [scVOTES.gov](https://scVOTES.gov) or use the form on the back of your current voter registration card.
- > Sign & return the form to your county voter registration office.

### In person

- > Visit your county voter registration office.
- > Register while receiving services at these agencies:
  - Armed Forces Recruiting Stations
  - Commission for the Blind
  - Department of Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Services
  - Department of Disabilities & Special Needs
  - Department of Health & Environmental Control
  - Department of Health & Human Services
  - Department of Mental Health
  - Department of Motor Vehicles
  - Department of Social Services
  - Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Find contact information from your county voter registration & elections office at [scVOTES.gov](https://scVOTES.gov). Once your application is processed, you will receive a voter registration notification in the mail.



## Student Registration?

Citizens who are not yet 18-years-old but will turn 18 before the next ensuing General Election, & who otherwise qualify to vote, can register to vote.

Students may register to vote where they reside while attending college. This could be at an address in the college community (e.g., a dormitory) or at an address you intend to return to while not in the college community (e.g., family home).

## ID Required to Register

If registering to vote by mail or in person, provide a copy of one of the following items:

- > Any current, valid Photo ID; or
- > A utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or government document showing your name & address in your county.

If registering Voters who are age 65 & over, voters with disabilities, members of the U.S. Uniformed Services or Merchant Marines & their families, & U.S. Citizens residing outside the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.

## Voter Registration is Permanent

When a person registers to vote, the person remains registered until disqualified for one of the following reasons:

- > Moving outside their county.
- > Being convicted of a disqualifying crime.
- > Being ruled mentally incompetent by a court.
- > Requesting their name be removed from the list.
- > Death.

All voter records remain in the statewide voter registration system database permanently.

## Make sure your address is up to date at least 30 days prior to any election!

Check your registration before the 30-day deadline to make sure it is current. It only takes a few minutes & will help ensure a smooth process when it comes time to cast your ballot.

- > Visit [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov), provide your name, county & date of birth as it appears on your voter registration card to view your information.
- > If you have moved from one county to another, you MUST register in your new county by the deadline to be eligible to vote.
- > If you've moved within your county or changed your name recently, update your information prior to election day to help ensure a smoother voting process.

## For More Information

Visit [scVOTES.gov](https://scvotes.gov) or contact your county voter registration office for more information.

**See our other voter education brochures:**

- > [Absentee Voting in South Carolina](#)
- > [Access for All Voters in South Carolina](#)
- > [South Carolina's Paper-Based Voting System](#)
- > [Voting in South Carolina](#)
- > [Photo ID Requirements](#)

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**South Carolina Election Commission**

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803.734.9060

