

# How to Register

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A citizen who wishes to register to vote may:

- **[REGISTER ONLINE](#)**
  - Requires S.C. Driver's License or DMV ID
  - The online application will allow you to register at your DMV residence address
  - If you have moved, you must first [update your residence address with DMV](#)
- Register in person at their county board of voter registration, or
- [Download a form](#), complete it, and mail it to their county board of voter registration, or
- [Download a form](#), complete it, and fax it to their county board of voter registration, or
- [Download a form](#), complete it, scan it, and email it as a file attachment to their county voter registration office.

Voter registration closes 30 days prior to any election. For example, the voter registration deadline for a November 5th election would be October 5th.

- Online applications must be submitted on or before the deadline to be valid for any specific election. Online voter registration does not "turn off" at the deadline. Applications submitted after the deadline will be processed but will not be valid for that particular election.
- Fax and email applications must be received by the voter registration office by the deadline to be valid for a particular election. Applications received after the deadline will be processed but will not be valid for that particular election.
- Mail-in applications must be postmarked by the deadline. Most registration deadlines fall on a Saturday. Check with your local post office about receiving a Saturday postmark.

## **[County Boards of Voter Registration Contact Information](#)**

## **[Download a Voter Registration Application](#)**

# Who Can Register?

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In order to vote, South Carolina law requires one must first register to vote at least 30 days prior to the election. To be eligible to register in South Carolina you MUST:

- be a United States citizen -be at least eighteen years old on or before the next election
- be a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct
- 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.

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.

## Check Your Voter Registration Information

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**Note:** When checking your voter registration information, you must provide your name, county and date of birth as it appears on your voter registration card in order to view your information.

[Check Your Voter Registration](#)

## Update Your Voter Registration Information

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If you have a S.C. Driver's License or DMV ID card, you can update your address using the online voter registration application. If you haven't updated your DMV address, you must do that first:

1. [Update your address with DMV](#)
2. [Update your voter registration address](#)

If your voter registration information has changed (name, address, etc.), and you still live within the same county, you may [update your voter registration information using this form](#). If you have moved to a different county, you will need to re-register in your new county (see How to Register above).

# South Carolina Voting Information Page

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## How to Vote

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Beginning January 1, 2013, you will be asked to show one of the following Photo IDs at your polling place:

- S.C. Driver's License
- ID Card issued by S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- Federal Military ID
- U.S. Passport

## How to Get a Photo ID

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If you do not currently have one of the Photo IDs above, you can make your voting experience as fast and easy as possible by getting one free of charge:

- Registered voters can get a voter registration card with a photo from their county voter registration and elections office by simply providing their date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security Number. [Click here to learn how to register to vote.](#)
- Get a DMV ID card at a local DMV office. Check with DMV or [scdmvonline.com](http://scdmvonline.com) for required documents.

## If You Do Not Have a Photo ID on Election Day

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If you have a reasonable impediment to obtaining Photo ID, you may vote a provisional ballot after showing your non-photo voter registration card. A reasonable impediment is any valid reason, beyond your control, which created an obstacle to obtaining Photo ID. Some examples include:

- Religious objection to being photographed
- Disability or illness
- Work schedule
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of birth certificate
- Family responsibilities
- Election within short time frame of implementation of Photo ID law (January 1, 2013)
- Any other obstacle you find reasonable

To vote under the reasonable impediment exception:

1. Present your current, non-photo registration card at the polling place
2. Sign an affidavit stating why you could not obtain a Photo ID
3. Cast a provisional ballot that will be counted unless the county election commission has reason to believe your affidavit is false.

If you do NOT have Photo ID and do NOT have a reasonable impediment to obtaining one, or you simply forgot to bring it with you to the polls, you may still vote a provisional ballot. However, for your vote to be counted, you must provide one of the Photo IDs to the county election commission prior to certification of the election (usually Thursday or Friday after the election).

[Click here to learn more about photo ID required at the polling place.](#)

## When to Vote

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Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Anyone in line at 7:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

## Absentee Voting

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Qualified voters can vote absentee in person or by mail. Photo ID is required to vote absentee in person. Photo ID is not required to vote absentee by mail.

[Click here for information on absentee voting.](#)