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Sandoval County Clerk

Voter Registration FAQ's

How do I register to vote in New Mexico?

- If you have a current or expired New Mexico state I.D. or driver's license, you can register or update your registration online with our Online Voter Registration

System: <https://portal.sos.state.nm.us/OVR/WebPages/InstructionsStep1.aspx>

- A voter can use the paper application found here: ([English](#) / [Español](#)) and mail it to your to your [County Clerk's Office](#)
- A voter may request a copy of the paper application be mailed to them by contacting your [County Clerk's Office](#)
- You may also register with a Third-Party Registration Agent (see below).

What do I need to provide when I register to vote by mail?

- If you are registering for the first time in New Mexico, and you submit the registration form by mail, then you must submit with the form a copy of (1) a current and valid photo identification; or (2) a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card or other government document, including identification issued by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that shows your name and current address. If you do not submit one of these forms of identification with your mailed-in, first time registration, then you will be required to present one of the forms of identification when voting in person or absentee.
- Once the county clerk has accepted the form for filing, individuals or groups may make a public records request. However, the day and month of birth and the Social Security number on the form is always privacy protected.

How do I check whether I am registered in New Mexico?

- You can check your registration status using the Secretary of State's online Voter Services, available [here](#).

I recently moved to New Mexico and do not have a New Mexico state I.D. nor driver's license, can I register to vote?

- Yes! You do not need a New Mexico MVD issued I.D. or driver's license to vote. MVD issued forms of identification are only required for online registration and online absentee ballot requests.
- You can use the paper application found here: ([English](#) / [Español](#)) to register to vote. Your out-of-state I.D. or driver's license in combination with a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card or other government document, including identification issued by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that shows your name and current address to meet the identification requirement. (Section 1-4-5.1(I) NMSA 1978).

Do I need to register for every election?

- No, registration is permanent in New Mexico. If you have moved and not voted in several years, it is possible your name may be removed from the voter rolls in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act (see National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Questions, below). Check your voter registration status to make sure you are registered and all your information is correct at <https://voterportal.servis.sos.state.nm.us/WhereToVote.aspx>

Do I need to change my registration if I move? Even if I move to a different address in the same city?

- Yes, the content of your ballot including districted offices, bond questions, and other types of ballot contests is directly associated with the precinct of your physical address of registration.

Am I required to select a political party in order to complete the registration form?

- No. You can choose to select a political party affiliation if you wish, or you can decide to not be affiliated with any political party. The choice is yours to make and does not impact the validity of your registration form.
- **Any applicant may choose to check the “No Party” box on the application; however, New Mexico has a closed primary, so only those registered in a major political party may participate in the primary election. The major political parties in New Mexico are:**
 - Democratic Party
 - Republican Party
 - Libertarian Party
- Voters who are affiliated with all other political parties or voters who have no political party affiliation may not vote in primary elections in New Mexico. However, all voters regardless of political affiliation are invited to participate in all other elections.

I am 17 years old now but will be 18 before the next state general election. Can I complete a voter registration form now and will I then be able to sign petitions?

- You may complete the voter registration form now, but you may not sign any petition. 17 year olds who will be 18 by the general election may participate in the primary election. Voters must be 18 to participate in all other elections.
- By completing the voter registration form now, you are in essence pre-registering but you do not become an eligible voter until you have reached your 18th birthday. Only eligible voters may sign petitions or vote in an election.

A person on the street offered to help me register to vote. Is that valid?

State law allows for Third-Party Registration Agents to assist persons to register to vote (Section 1-4-49, NMSA 1978). These agents must attend a training and register with the Secretary of State's Office. They can prove the validity of their third party registration agent status by showing you their notarized 'Voter Registration Agent Identification Form.'

I have an unlisted phone number. Do I have to provide that information on the voter registration form?

- No, however, it does come in handy if the Secretary of State or County Clerk need to contact you in the event there is an issue concerning the processing of your registration. If you have an unlisted phone number and you are willing to provide that number, simply check "No" next to the phone number and we will not disclose that number to anyone else.

How do I know that my voter registration application form was received and processed?

- You can check your registration status at any time using our My Registration Information tool: <https://voterportal.servis.sos.state.nm.us/WhereToVote.aspx>
- Once the county clerk has processed your registration form, they will send confirmation of your registration by mail in the form of a voter information card. Once you receive the card, please review it to make certain there are no errors in the spelling of your name, your address or your political party affiliation. The time it takes to process your voter registration application varies from county to county and depends on whether the registration books are closed due to an upcoming election. Please contact your [county clerk](#) if you have any questions about your registration being processed.

Will I be notified if there is a problem with my registration form?

- Yes. If the form you submit is missing information that prevents your registration, you will be notified by a letter sent to the address on the registration form. That letter is sent within ten days or less from receipt of your form. The letter will specify what the problem with your registration form is and will include a new registration form or other instructions on how to correct the situation.

Can I register to vote if I have been convicted of a crime?

- If you have been convicted of a felony, you can register to vote once you have completed the court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction. This provision includes federal, state and out-of-state convictions. You may be asked to provide a certification or affidavit of completion from probation and parole or the court system in order for the County Clerk to determine that all sentencing requirements have been satisfied prior to processing the voter registration.

How can I determine if I qualify to have my voting rights restored following a felony conviction?

You should contact the Department of Corrections, Division of Parole and Probation (505.827.8830) or a comparable agency in the state in which you were convicted.

If your loved one passes away in another state and has a voter registration in NM will they be removed from the voter rolls?

No. Vital statistics records from every state do not automatically notify election registration offices and thus it is dependent on the family to provide the death certificate or official obituary to remove them from the voter rolls.

Recently married?

The newlyweds will need to provide the state-issued identification that reflects the name change to the Clerk's Office Bureau of Elections.