Voter Registration Guide

www.lss-sw.org/vote

#LSS VOTES
Introduction

Voting is extremely important to improving our community. Our voices are not being heard and the people we serve are no being heard. Statistics show that the percentage of low income voters, ethnic minorities, and young voters are considerably lower than the rest of the population. It is our responsibility to vote for candidates who will put into place policies to help our communities. Despite the impression that our voices do not matter, research tells us that elected officials are receptive to the views of people who vote. Of course, people cannot vote until they are registered. This guide will assist you as you register others to vote. To download extra materials from Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, visit www.lss-sw.org/vote.

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Being Nonpartisan

Like all election activities, 501(c)(3) nonprofits must carry out voter registration on a nonpartisan basis. This means, not supporting one political party or group over another. Being nonpartisan will benefit your voter engagement work. Nonpartisanship reinforces your organizational status as a trusted community institution that is respectful of the personal views of your clients and constituents. New and infrequent voters are often wary of partisan politics. Your nonpartisanship allows you to have conversations with your community that bring politics back to the real issues affecting their lives. Be prepared for people to attempt to engage you in a partisan discussion.

Common Mistakes

- Forgetting to sign the form
- Entering today’s date and the registrant’s birthday in the wrong place
- Failing to provide a full driver’s license or the last four digits of a Social Security number

Tips

- Make sure to ask if they are registered to vote at their current address. Everyone has to re-register when they move
- Encourage them to check the Permanent Early Voting List box. PEVL means you can receive a ballot up to 27 days prior to the specified election, and it will be mailed to the voters on that list!
- Check the form twice
- Have fun, ask questions, and celebrate
How to Return Completed Registration Forms

1. Plan to collect the completed registration form from the voter you are registering, and return it to the appropriate location. Turn in forms promptly.
2. Designate a staff person to return completed registration forms to the registrant’s County Recorder’s Office in person. You can find the address of each county on the registration form.
3. Turn the completed voter registration forms to the elections office within 24 hours.
4. After you have successfully submitted the registration form, new registrants will receive a voter registration card in the mail within 4-6 weeks.

Or

Find a computer and complete the form online!
Registration FAQ

What forms are required to prove citizenship when registering to vote?

If you have an Arizona driver license or non-operating identification card issued after October 1, 1996 you will need only to provide the license number on box 9 of the voter registration form.

If you do not have an Arizona license you may include a photocopy of one of the following documents:

- A legible photocopy of a birth certificate that verifies citizenship and supporting legal documentation (i.e. marriage certificate) if the name on the birth certificate is not the same as your current legal name
- A legible photocopy of the pertinent pages of your passport
- Presentation to the County Recorder of U.S. naturalization documents or fill in your Alien Registration Number in box 11
- Your Indian Census Number, Bureau of Indian Affairs Card Number, Tribal Treaty Card Number, or Tribal Enrollment Number in box 10
- A legible photocopy of your Tribal Certificate of Indian Blood or Tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs Affidavit of Birth.

How do I know if I need to update my voter information?

You can visit the secretary of state website to view your current registration information. You should update your voter information if any of the following apply:

- You recently moved to a new address
- Your name has been legally changed
- You would like to change your political party affiliation
How do I request an early ballot or vote by mail?

An early ballot may be requested from your County Recorder’s office. To have your name placed on the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL), complete a new voter registration form and check the box marked “YES, I want to automatically receive an early ballot for each election for which I am eligible.” Or you can log in to Service Arizona and complete this request online.

I live in the same state but have moved to a different address than the address that is on my current voter registration. Do I need to re-register?

Yes. Each part of the state has its own unique candidates and measures on the ballot. When you vote at your assigned polling place you will have the opportunity to vote on the candidates and issues that most directly affect you and your neighbors. When you send in your new voter registration form indicate that you are changing your address. You will get a voter registration card in the mail within a month that will tell you where your precinct’s polling place is located. You do not have to “unregister” your previous registration.

What is the definition of a resident, for voting purposes?

A resident is an individual who has an actual physical presence in the state and the intent to remain in the state. A temporary absence does not result in a loss of residence if the individual intends to return. A person may register to vote using any address he or she considers to be his or her legal residence.

Can someone who is homeless register and vote?

Yes. Homeless voters should use the street address of a homeless shelter that will accept mail for them. Homeless voters in Arizona can also name an intersection.
What about victims of domestic violence?

Yes. The Arizona Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is a program that helps victims of domestic violence, sexual offenses, and/or stalking from being located by the perpetrator through public records. The program provides a substitute address and confidential mail forwarding services to individuals and families across Arizona.

Participants enrolled in the program use the substitute address instead of their real address. The substitute address is to be used instead of a person’s home, work or school address. State and local government agencies must accept the substitute address issued by the ACP - Secretary of State’s office.

Find out if you are eligible at azsos.gov/services/acp/eligibility-enrollment

What if I registered but didn’t receive anything in the mail from the Secretary of State?

You should receive a card to confirm your registration within a few weeks of registering. If you do not, you should call your board of elections office and ask them to check if your registration was accepted. Many states now allow you to check your registration status online.

How do I know where my voting location is?

You can log onto the AZ Secretary of State website voter.azsos.gov/VoterView/PollingPlaceSearch.do and search for polling place, and submit your personal information.
Conclusion

Generally, an average volunteer collects three to five voter registration forms in an hour at a heavily trafficked place. Sometimes less. Not only is that perfectly okay, but it is a huge deal! People fight wars and die for that right and you are giving that opportunity to others.

Helpful Links

www.lss-sw.org/vote

www.azsos.gov/elections - For more information on the registration and voting options

voter.azsos.gov/VoterView/Home.do - To determine your voter registration status and voting location