

Pennsylvania

State Guide to Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Statutes

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to voter registration and voter list maintenance.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

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Who can I contact with election related questions?

[Link to Elections Official](#)

Chief Elections Office: Acting Secretary of State Leigh Chapman
Pennsylvania acting Secretary of State

Physical Address: 302 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3025

Phone Number: (717) 787-6458

Online Contact: ST-PRESS@pa.gov



How do I register to vote?

[Link to Register](#)

[Link to Statutes](#)

To register to vote, you must:

- be a citizen of the United States at least one month before the next election
- be a resident of Pennsylvania and your election district at least 30 days before the election
- be at least 18 years of age on the day of the next election

1301. Qualifications to register.

(a) Eligibility.--An individual who will be at least 18 years of age on the day of the next election, who has been a citizen of the United States for at least one month prior to the next election and who has resided in this Commonwealth and the election district where the individual offers to vote for at least 30 days prior to the next ensuing election and has not been confined in a penal institution for a conviction of a felony within the last five years shall be eligible to register as provided in this chapter.

(b) Effect.--No individual shall be permitted to vote at any election unless the individual is registered under this subsection, except as provided by law or by order of a court of common pleas. No registered elector shall be required to register again for any election while the elector continues to reside at the same address.

(c) Removal of residence.--Except as otherwise provided by this part, a registered elector who removes residence from one place to another outside the elector's last election district shall not be entitled to vote in the election district of the elector's last residence except pursuant to the provisions of this section and sections 1501(b) (relating to removal notices), 1502 (relating to transfer of registration) and 1902 (relating to procedure for voting following failure to return notification card).

How do I Cancel my Voter Registration?

[Link to Form](#)

[Link to Statutes](#)

You may voluntarily cancel your voter registration by completing this [form](#). Please mail or deliver to your county voter registration office. Mail the form to the [Pennsylvania county election office](#) where you live or used to live.

§ 1901. Removal of electors.

(a) Removal of elector's registration record.--Commissions shall institute a program to protect the integrity of the electoral process and to ensure the maintenance of accurate and current registration records. The program shall be uniform, nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 42 U.S.C. § 1973 et seq.). An elector's registration shall not be canceled except as follows:

- (1) At the request of the elector.
- (2) Upon the death of the elector under section 1505 (relating to death of registrant).
- (3) Upon confirmation that the elector has moved to a residence outside the county.
- (4) Under a voter removal program as provided for under subsection (b), and in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-31, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg et seq.).

How is Voter list Maintenance Handled?

1501. Removal notices.

(a) Form.--

- (1) A commission shall make removal notices available to electors who are registered in the county.
- (2) The notice shall be printed upon cards suitable for mailing, addressed to the office of the commission.

The notice shall provide the following information:

- (i) The address of present residence, including municipality.
 - (ii) The address of last registration, including municipality.
 - (iii) Date of removal to present residence.
 - (iv) Signature.
- (3) The notice shall contain a statement that the registered elector may, by filling out properly and signing a removal notice and returning it to the office of the commission, secure the transfer of registration effective as to elections at least 30 days after the date of removal into the new district.

1501. Cont.

(4) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered elector that the notice will not be accepted as an application for transfer of the elector's registration unless the signature thereon can be identified by the commission as the elector's signature as it appears on file with the commission.

(5) The notice shall contain a warning to the registered elector that the notice must be received by the commission not later than 30 days before an election. If mailed, the notice must be postmarked not later than the deadline for registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing postmark, received within five days of the close of registration.

(b) Use.--A registered elector who removes residence from one place to another within the same county must notify the commission by filing a removal notice under subsection (a) or a signed request for renewal that contains the information required in subsection (a) with the commission not later than the registration deadline before an election. If mailed, the notice or request must be postmarked not later than the deadline for registration or, in the case of an illegible or missing postmark, received within five days of the close of registration. The following apply:

(1) An official registration application of an elector who has registered by mail qualifies as a removal notice.

(2) A registered elector who removes residence from one place to another within the same county and who has not yet filed a removal notice with the commission shall be permitted to vote once at the elector's former polling place following removal if, at the time of signing the voter's certificate, the elector files with the judge of election a signed removal notice properly filled out. Removal notices under this paragraph shall be returned to the commission with the voting check list, and the commission shall proceed to transfer the registration of the elector under section 1502 (relating to transfer of registration) and shall promptly update information contained in its registration records. A registered elector may vote in the election district of the elector's former residence not more than one time following the elector's removal.

(3) A registered elector who removes residence from one county to another county and who is not registered to vote in the new county of residence shall be permitted to vote in the election district in the former county of residence if, at the time of signing the elector's certificate, the elector files with the judge of election a signed affirmation declaring the elector's new residence. A registered elector may vote in the election district of the elector's former residence not more than one time following the elector's removal. Affirmations made under this paragraph shall be returned to the commission of the elector's former county of residence with the voting checklist, and that commission shall proceed to transfer the registration of the elector under section 1502. Upon receipt of the transfer notice, the commission of the elector's new county of residence shall immediately process the transfer of the elector in accordance with section 1328 (relating to approval of registration applications). Both commissions shall promptly update information contained in their registration records.

1505. Death of registrant.

(a) Department of Health.--A commission shall cancel the registration of a registered elector reported dead by the Department of Health. The Department of Health shall, within 60 days of receiving notice of the death of an individual 18 years of age or older, send the name and address of residence of that individual to a commission in a manner and on a form prescribed by the department. The commission shall promptly update information contained in its registration records.

1505. Cont.

(b) Other sources.--A commission may also utilize published newspaper obituaries, letters testamentary or letters of administration issued by the office of the registrar of wills to cancel and remove the registration of an elector, provided that such removals are uniform, nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 42 U.S.C. § 1973 et seq.). The commission shall promptly update information contained in its registration records.

(c) Corrections.--An individual incorrectly reported deceased by the Department of Health or incorrectly removed by a commission for reason of death may appear in person before a commissioner, registrar or clerk at the office of the commission and prove identity. The commission, upon such proof, shall correct its registration records.

1506. Checkup of registers.

(a) General rule.--At any time prior to the 30th day preceding an election, a commission may mail to any qualified elector whose name appears in any district register a notice setting forth the elector's name and address as it appears in the register and requesting the elector in case of any error to present the notice within ten days at the office of the commission to have the error corrected and warning that any discrepancy between the qualified elector's actual name and address and his name and address as recorded in the original register will constitute ground for challenging the elector's vote. The notice shall contain on the outside "Do not forward, return to board of elections" and a request of the postal service to return it within five days if it cannot be delivered to the addressee at the address given.

(b) Checkup by postal service.--At any time prior to the 30th day preceding an election, the commission may cause a checkup to be made by the postal service of any qualified elector whose name appears in any district register.

(c) Quadrennial checkups.--At least once in each four years the commission may conduct a checkup of each registered elector by either of the methods provided for in subsections (a) and (b).

(d) Failure to deliver notice.--Upon the return by the postal service of any notice which it has been unable to deliver at the given address because the addressee cannot be found there or upon report by the postal service that any registered elector does not reside at the address given on the registration card, the commission shall do one of the following:

(1) Direct an authorized employee to visit in person the address of the qualified elector and, if the employee finds that the qualified elector does not reside at the address, to leave at the address the notice prescribed by subsection (e).

(2) Mail to the registered elector at the address given on the registration card the notice prescribed by subsection (e). The notice shall be sent as first class mail and shall contain on the outside a request to the postmaster to forward it if the addressee does not reside at the address given thereon.

1506. Cont.

(e) Communication with commission.--The notice stipulated by subsection (d) shall require the registered elector to communicate with the commission by a date designated by the commission, which shall be not less than ten days nor more than 30 days from the service or mailing of the notice and in any case not later than the 15th day preceding an election, and satisfy the commission of qualifications as a qualified elector. At the expiration of the time specified in the notice, the commission shall cancel the registration of a person who has not communicated with the commission and proved qualifications as a qualified elector, except that, if a registered elector who has been mailed the notice prescribed by this subsection communicates with the commission claiming the right to remain registered at the address to which the original notice was mailed, the commission shall investigate and, if not satisfied of the right of the registered elector to remain registered at the address, shall cancel the registration of the elector. Every elector whose registration is canceled under this section must register in the manner provided by this part in order to be eligible to vote at any election.

(f) Elector in military service.--The registration of a person in military service shall not be canceled by reason of the failure of the person to reside at the address appearing upon the district register if the person resided at the address on the date of entering military service.

1509. Petition to strike off names.

(a) Initiation.--At any time not later than the tenth day preceding an election, a qualified elector, including any watcher and any registrar or inspector of registration, may petition the commission to cancel or suspend the registration of a registered elector. The petition must set forth, under oath or affirmation, all of the following:

(1) Sufficient grounds for the cancellation or suspension.

(2) That:

(i) notice of the time and place when the petition would be presented has been given personally to the registered elector at least 24 hours prior to the presentation of the petition; or

(ii) the registered elector could not be found at the place given in the district register as residence and the person in charge of that place, whose name must be given in the petition, has declared that the person was well acquainted with the names of all individuals residing at the place and that the registered elector had never been or was no longer one of them or that no such individual is residing at the address.

(b) Action.--Upon receipt of a petition under subsection (a), the commission shall cancel or suspend the registration of the registered elector and amend accordingly the general and district registers and other records affected unless the registered elector so registered appears and shows cause why this action should not be taken.

1510. Failure to vote.

(a) Check of electors.--By April 1 of each year except in a year in which the commission conducts a check of electors under section 1506(c) (relating to checkup of registers), the commission shall examine all of the district registers.

1510. Cont.

(b) Suspension.--A qualified elector who has been registered for a period of at least two immediately preceding calendar years but who is not recorded as having voted at an election during that period is subject to suspension of registration in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) If a registered elector who has been registered for a period of at least two immediately preceding calendar years is not recorded as having voted at an election during that period, the commission shall send to the registered elector by mail, at the address appearing upon the registration card, a notice setting forth that the records of the commission indicate that the registered elector has not voted during the two immediately preceding calendar years and that the registered elector's registration will be canceled at the expiration of 30 days from the date of mailing the notice unless the registered elector, within that period, files with the commission either personally or by mail a written request for reinstatement of registration or a removal notice properly executed setting forth the registered elector's place of residence and signed by the registered elector.

(2) Within 30 days from the date of mailing of the notice under paragraph (1), the registered elector must file with the commission either personally or by mail a written request for reinstatement of registration or a properly executed removal notice which sets forth the registered elector's place of residence and which is signed by the registered elector. The official registration application card of a registered elector who has registered by mail qualifies as a request for reinstatement of registration or a removal notice under this paragraph.

(3) Within 30 days from the date of mailing of the notice under paragraph (1), the commission shall cancel the registration of a registered elector who has not complied with paragraph (2).

(c) Effect.--Cancellation of registration under this section shall not affect the right of a qualified elector to subsequently register in the manner provided by this part.

1329. Challenges.

(a) Standing.--An individual claiming the right to be registered may be challenged by a commissioner, registrar or clerk or by a qualified elector of the municipality.

(b) Complaint.--To make a challenge, a complainant must file a challenge affidavit in a form prescribed by the secretary containing the following information:

(1) Name of challenged individual.

(2) Address of challenged individual.

(3) Name of complainant.

(4) Address of complainant.

(5) Date of affidavit.

(6) Reason for challenge.

(c) Response.--An individual who is challenged must respond to the challenge affidavit as set forth in subsection (b) in a written statement sworn or affirmed by the individual. The challenged individual must produce such other evidence as may be required to satisfy the registrar or commissioner as to the individual's qualifications as a qualified elector.

(d) Resolution.--If the challenged individual establishes to the satisfaction of the commission the right to be registered as required by this part, the challenged individual shall be registered. If the challenged individual does not establish to the satisfaction of the commission the right to be registered as provided in this part, the challenged individual's registration, if any, shall be canceled, and the commission shall promptly update information contained in its registration records.

§ 1901. Removal of electors.

(a) Removal of elector's registration record.--Commissions shall institute a program to protect the integrity of the electoral process and to ensure the maintenance of accurate and current registration records. The program shall be uniform, nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 42 U.S.C. § 1973 et seq.). An elector's registration shall not be canceled except as follows:

- (1) At the request of the elector.
- (2) Upon the death of the elector under section 1505 (relating to death of registrant).
- (3) Upon confirmation that the elector has moved to a residence outside the county.
- (4) Under a voter removal program as provided for under subsection (b), and in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-31, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg et seq.).

(b) Voter removal program.--

(1) Each commission shall establish a program to identify registered electors whose address may have changed by establishing one of the following programs:

(i) National change of address. The secretary shall establish by regulation a program whereby information supplied by the United States Postal Service through its licensees is used on a periodic basis, but not less than once every calendar year, to identify registered electors who may have changed addresses. The information shall be incorporated in the SURE system and shall be forwarded to the commissions in a manner determined by the secretary by regulation.

(A) If it appears from the information provided through the United States Postal Service that a registered elector has moved to a different residence address within the same county as the elector is currently registered, the commission shall change the registration records to show the new address and shall send the elector, to the address recorded on the elector's registration, a notice of the change of address by forwardable mail and a postage prepaid, preaddressed return form by which the elector may verify or correct the address information.

(B) If it appears from the information provided through the United States Postal Service that a registered elector has moved to a different residence address outside the county, the commission shall use the notice procedure described in clause (A).

(ii) Confirmation mailing:

(A) A commission may establish a program by sending a direct, nonforwardable first class "return if undeliverable - address correction requested" mailing to all registered electors in the county.

(B) If this program is established, the commission shall use the notice procedure described in subparagraph (i)(A) for any registered elector whose mailing is returned undeliverable.

(2) In conjunction with and not as an alternative to a program established under paragraph (1), a commission may use a canvass as follows:

(i) The commission may, by commissioners or by inspectors of registration, verify the registration in an election district by visiting the building from which an elector is registered and other buildings as the commission deems necessary.

(ii) The commission shall make a record of the name and address of each registered elector who is found not to reside at the registered address or who for any other reason appears to be not qualified to vote in the registered election district.

§ 1901. Cont.

(iii) The commission shall leave at the address of each registered elector referred to in subparagraph (ii) a notice requiring him to communicate with the commission on or before a date which the commission shall designate, and which shall be not less than seven days and not more than 15 days from the date of the notice and in any case not later than the 15th day preceding the election next ensuing, and satisfy the commission of his qualifications as an elector. The commission shall cause a confirmation of each such notice to be sent by mail promptly to the registered elector at the address from which he is registered. The envelope containing such information is to be plainly marked that it is not to be forwarded. At the expiration of the time specified in the notice, the commission shall cancel the registration of the registered elector who has not communicated with the commission and proved his qualifications as a registered elector.

(iv) To facilitate the canvass under this section, a commission may, when necessary, appoint special inspectors of registration in number not exceeding double the number of election districts being canvassed.

(v) Special inspectors must be registered electors of the county. They shall be appointed without reference to residence in election districts or to political affiliations or beliefs. The commission shall instruct special inspectors in their duties. Special inspectors have the powers conferred by this part upon inspectors of registration.

(3) In conjunction with and not as an alternative to a program established under paragraph (1), a commission shall send a notice pursuant to subsection (d) to any registered elector who has not voted nor appeared to vote during the period beginning five years before the date of the notice and ending on the date of the notice and for whom the board of elections did not during that period in any other way receive any information that the elector still resides in the election district.

(4) A commission shall complete, not later than 90 days before each municipal or general election, at least once per year the voter removal programs under this section and shall promptly update information contained in its registration records. This paragraph shall not be construed to preclude any of the following:

(i) Cancellation of an elector's registration as provided for under subsection (a)(1) or (2).

(ii) Correction of registration records in accordance with this part.

(c) Identification of inactive electors.--A commission shall mark an "I" on the registration records of each registered elector who has been mailed a form under subsection (b)(1) or (3) and has failed to respond, which shall be included with all other registration records for that polling site and located at the elector's polling site on the day of the election. The commission shall promptly update the information contained in its registration records.

(d) Cancellation of registration.--

(1) A commission shall not cancel the registration of a registered elector on the ground that the registered elector has changed residence unless any of the following apply:

(i) The registered elector confirms in writing that the elector has changed residence to a location outside the county in which the elector is registered.

(ii) The registered elector:

(A) has failed to respond to a notice described in paragraph (2); and

§ 1901. Cont.

(B) has not voted nor appeared to vote and, if necessary, corrected the commission's record of the elector's address in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for Federal office that occurs after the date of the notice.

(2) A notice as required in paragraph (1)(ii) is acceptable if it is a postage prepaid and preaddressed return card, sent by forwardable mail, on which the registered elector may state the elector's current address, if it contains a notice as follows:

(i) The notice must state all of the following:

(A) If the registered elector did not change residence or changed residence but still resides in the county, the elector must return the card not later than 30 days prior to the next election. If the card is not returned, affirmation or confirmation of the elector's address may be required before the elector is permitted to vote in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for Federal office that occurs after the date of the notice. If the elector does not vote in an election during that period, the elector's registration shall be canceled.

(B) If the registered elector has changed residence to a place outside the county in which the elector is registered, information shall be provided concerning how the elector can register in the new county of residence.

(ii) The notice must state the date of the notice, the date of the next election and the date of the second general election for Federal office occurring after the date of the notice.

(3) The commission shall correct registration records in accordance with change of residence information obtained in conformance with this subsection. The commission shall also promptly update its registration records.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the "NVRA" and the "Motor Voter Act"), to enhance voting opportunities for every American. The Act has made it easier for all Americans to register to vote and to maintain their registration. Section 8 of the NVRA contains requirements with respect to the administration of voter registration by States and requires States to implement procedures to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists.

For more information about the NVRA, please visit the [Department of Justice website](#).

List of Voter Registration Status and their definitions

[Link to Statutes](#)

Registration Status	Statute
<p>Qualified elector - An applicant who possesses all of the qualifications for voting prescribed by the Constitution of Pennsylvania and the laws of this Commonwealth or who, being otherwise qualified by continued residence in the election district, obtains such qualifications before the next ensuing election. The term does not include a military elector.</p>	<p>PGA Title 25 § 1102</p>
<p>"Registrant" or "registered elector." - A qualified elector who is registered to vote in accordance with this part.</p>	<p>PGA Title 25 § 1102</p>
<p>Inactive electors - A commission shall mark an "I" on the registration records of each registered elector who has been mailed a form under subsection (b)(1) or (3) and has failed to respond, which shall be included with all other registration records for that polling site and located at the elector's polling site on the day of the election. The commission shall promptly update the information contained in its registration records.</p>	<p>PGA Title 25 § 1901</p>
<p>Suspended - (a) Suspension.--To the extent that the Secretary of the Commonwealth determines that the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-31, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg et seq.) prohibits the cancellation of registration for elections for Federal office because of a failure to vote as provided in section 1510 (relating to failure to vote), the provisions of sections 1506 (relating to checkup of registers) through 1512 (relating to correction of errors in cancellation or suspension) are suspended. The suspension shall become effective upon publication of notice of the determination in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.</p>	<p>PGA Title 25 § 1513</p>

Pennsylvania

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

How do I file a non-HAVA complaint?

[Link to Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Webform](#)

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State:	Leigh Chapman
Physical Address:	401 North Street, 210 North Office Building Harrisburg, PA 17120
Mailing Address:	401 North Street, 210 North Office Building Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone Number:	717-787-5280
Email Address:	RA-Elections@pa.gov
Website:	https://www.vote.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Attorney General:	Josh Shapiro
Physical Address:	16th Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120
Mailing Address:	16th Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone Number:	(717) 787-3391
Email Address:	https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/contact/
Website:	https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/