
Colorado

Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide

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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:	Jena Griswold, Secretary of State Elections Division
Physical Address:	1700 Broadway Suite 550 Denver, CO 80290
Mailing Address:	1700 Broadway, Suite 550 Denver, CO 80290
Phone Number:	303-894-2200
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Online Contact:	elections@coloradosos.gov

How do I register to vote?

[Link to Register](#)
[Link to Statutes](#)

§ 1-2-101 - Qualifications for registration - preregistration

You are eligible to register to vote if you:

- Are a United States citizen
- Are 16 years old, but you must be at least 18 to vote in an election
- Are a Colorado resident for at least 22 days immediately before the election you intend to vote in
- Are not currently serving a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction

How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Link to Cancel](#)
[Link to Statutes](#)

1-2-601. Withdrawal of registration.

At any time that registration is permitted in the county clerk and recorder's office, any person who desires to withdraw or cancel his or her own registration may do so by filing with the county clerk and recorder a self-affirmation of withdrawal of registration, and the self-affirmation shall be used as the record of evidence to cancel the elector's registration record.

How is voter list maintenance handled?

1-2-302. Maintenance of computerized statewide voter registration list - confidentiality.

(1) The secretary of state shall maintain the master list of registered electors of the entire state on as current a basis as is possible.

(1.5) The maintenance of the computerized statewide voter registration list by the secretary of state pursuant to section 1-2-301 (1) shall be conducted in a manner that ensures that:

(a) The name of each registered elector appears in the computerized statewide voter registration list;

(b) Only the names of voters who are not registered or who are not eligible to vote are removed from the computerized statewide voter registration list; and

(c) Duplicate names are removed from the computerized statewide voter registration list.

(3.5) (a) The secretary of state shall coordinate the computerized statewide voter registration list with state agency records on death. Upon being furnished with the report provided to him or her by the state registrar of vital statistics pursuant to section 1-2-602 (1), the secretary of state may electronically cancel the registration of deceased persons.

(b) The secretary of state shall coordinate the computerized statewide voter registration list with state agency records on felony status. Upon being furnished with information from the Colorado integrated criminal justice system that a particular registered elector has been convicted of a felony, the secretary of state may electronically cancel the registration of persons who have been convicted of a felony.

(6) The secretary of state shall determine and use other necessary means to maintain the master list of registered electors on a current basis. The department of state and the department of revenue shall allow for the exchange of information between the systems used by them to collect information on residence addresses, signatures, and party affiliation for all applicants for driver's licenses or state identification cards. No later than July 31, 2019, the department of state shall regularly provide the department of revenue with current voter registration information. The department of revenue must use the information to determine whether an individual is registered to vote at the time he or she applies to obtain, renew, or update a driver's license or state identification card. The department of state shall reimburse the department of revenue, through a one-time reimbursement, for any initial costs the department of revenue incurs in connection with updating Colorado DRIVES, as defined in section 42-1-102 (16.5), to allow the department of revenue to receive voter registration information and to use such information for the purposes described in this section. The department of revenue may exchange information on residence addresses in the driver's license database with the motor vehicle registration database, motorist insurance database, and the state income tax information systems.

(6.5) (a) At the earliest practical time, the secretary of state, acting on behalf of the department of state, and the executive director of the department of revenue, as the official responsible for the division of motor vehicles, shall enter into an agreement to match information in the database of the centralized statewide registration system with information in the database of the division of motor vehicles to the extent required to enable each department to verify the accuracy of the information provided on applications for voter registration in conformity with the requirements of section 1-2-301.

Section 1-2-302, Cont.

(b) At the earliest practical time, the secretary of state, acting on behalf of the department of state, shall enter into agreements with the executive directors of the department of public health and environment and the department of corrections to access information in the databases of the department of public health and environment and the department of corrections, to the extent required to enable the verification of the accuracy of the information provided on applications for voter registration in conformity with the requirements of section 1-2-301.

(c) At the earliest practical time, the secretary of state, acting on behalf of the department of state, shall enter into agreements with the executive directors of voter registration agencies as defined in section 1-2-504 (1)(a) and (1)(b) to the extent required to enable the transfer and verification of information for voter registration purposes in accordance with section 1-2-502.5.

(6.7) The department of revenue shall enter into an agreement with the federal commissioner of social security for the purpose of verifying applicable information in accordance with the requirements of section 303 (a)(5)(B)(ii) of the federal "Help America Vote Act of 2002", 52 U.S.C. sec. 20901 et seq.

(6.8) In accordance with subsections (6) and (6.5) of this section, the secretary of state may forward any information obtained from the division of motor vehicles in the department of revenue or voter registration agencies as defined in section 1-2-504 (1)(a) and (1)(b) to the appropriate county clerk and recorder. If the information meets the minimum matching criteria as specified in sections 1-2-603 and 1-2-604, the clerk shall then update the elector's voter registration record in the master list of registered electors.

1-2-302.5. Change of address search - rules.

(1) The secretary of state shall conduct a monthly national change of address search, using the national change of address database administered by the United States postal service, for all electors whose names appear in the statewide voter registration list.

(2) (a) The secretary of state shall transmit monthly to the appropriate county clerk and recorders the data obtained from the search conducted under subsection (1) of this section.

(b) If any search of the national change of address database administered by the United States postal service conducted under this section indicates an elector has permanently moved, the county clerk and recorder shall act as follows:

(I) (A) If the search indicates that the elector moved within the state, the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the elector's new address is located shall mark the elector's registration record as "Active" and update the elector's registration record with the elector's new address and send, to the elector's old address, notice of the change by forwardable mail and a postage pre-paid pre-addressed return form by which the registrant may verify or correct the address information.

(B) If the elector returns the return form sent pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (I) and indicates that he or she has not moved, the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the elector's old address is located shall immediately correct the elector's previously updated address in the statewide voter registration database.

(C) If the elector returns the return form confirming the new address, or if the elector does not return the return form, the county clerk and recorder shall leave the elector's new address and status as updated in the registration record pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (I).

Section 1-2-302.5 Cont.

(III) If the search indicates that the elector moved to a different state, the county clerk and recorder shall mark the elector's registration record "Inactive" and send a confirmation card and:

(A) If the elector returns the confirmation card and confirms the new address, the county clerk and recorder shall cancel the elector's registration record in the statewide voter registration database;

(B) If the elector does not return the confirmation card, the elector's registration record must remain "Inactive". If the inactive elector subsequently fails to vote in two consecutive general elections, the county clerk and recorder shall cancel the elector's registration record in accordance with section 1-2-605 (7).

(C) If the elector returns the confirmation card and indicates the elector has not moved, the county clerk and recorder shall immediately correct the elector's registration record in the statewide voter registration database and mark the voter "Active".

(c) A county clerk and recorder shall make corrections to address updates made pursuant to a national change of address search upon receiving additional information from the elector.

(4) If any search conducted pursuant to this section indicates that an elector has added or changed a post office box, the county clerk and recorder shall update the elector's registration record with the new post office box as the elector's mailing address and send him or her a confirmation card in accordance with section 1-2-605. The card must notify the elector of the change in mailing address and apprise the elector of his or her place of residence for voting purposes.

(5) In addition to the search conducted by the secretary of state pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a county clerk and recorder may conduct a national change of address search using the national change of address database administered by the United States postal service as frequently as he or she sees fit.

1-2-601. Withdrawal of registration.

At any time that registration is permitted in the county clerk and recorder's office, any person who desires to withdraw or cancel his or her own registration may do so by filing with the county clerk and recorder a self-affirmation of withdrawal of registration, and the self-affirmation shall be used as the record of evidence to cancel the elector's registration record.

1-2-602. Deceased electors.

(1) As soon as is practicable after the end of each month, the state registrar of vital statistics shall furnish the secretary of state with a report of all persons eighteen years of age or older who have died during the previous month. To the extent possible, persons on the report shall be identified by name, county of residence, date of birth, and social security number.

(2) The secretary of state shall forward to each county clerk and recorder monthly the information received from the state registrar of vital statistics concerning persons registered to vote in the county who have died.

(3) The county clerk and recorder shall cancel the registration of any elector who is deceased and of whose death the county clerk and recorder has received notice pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(3.5) The secretary of state may by electronic means cancel the registration of any elector who is deceased and of whose death the secretary has received notice pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The county clerk and recorder shall cancel the registration of any elector who is deceased when the county clerk and recorder receives written notice of the fact. The written notice shall be signed by a family member of the deceased. If the county clerk and recorder has sufficient proof that an elector is deceased, cancellation may be made without such written notice.

1-2-603. Notification that elector has moved and registered in different county.

(1) If the elector registers to vote in another county, the county clerk and recorder of the elector's new county of residence shall transfer the elector's registration record from the old county in accordance with the following requirements:

(a) If the elector provides a name, date of birth, and prior address and the county clerk and recorder can match the name, date of birth, and prior address to the elector's prior registration record, the elector's registration record shall be transferred from the old county.

(b) If the elector provides a name and date of birth but does not provide a prior address, the elector's registration record shall be transferred from the old county only if:

(I) The elector provides a driver's license or identification card number, and the county clerk and recorder of the new county of residence can match the name, date of birth, and driver's license or identification card number to the elector's prior registration record; or

(II) The elector provides a social security number, and the county clerk and recorder of the new county of residence can match the name, date of birth, and social security number to the elector's prior registration record.

(c) If the elector does not provide a prior address, driver's license number, or social security number, the registration record shall not be transferred from the old county unless the elector submits additional information that complies with the requirements of this subsection (1). The county clerk and recorder of the county of prior residence may send notice to the elector by forwardable mail to the elector's address of record. Any such notice shall have a returnable portion that has the return postage prepaid and is pre-addressed to the sending county clerk and recorder, and shall include an area for the elector to indicate if the elector has moved to another county and wishes to have his or her registration record transferred from the old county.

(2) If a county clerk and recorder receives a notice from the secretary of state or from an election official in another state that the elector has registered to vote in another state, the county clerk and recorder of the county of prior residence shall cancel the registration record if the name and birth date or the name and social security number of the elector match.

1-2-604. Cancellation of electors with multiple registrations.

(1) Based upon an examination of the secretary of state's master lists of registered electors, each county clerk and recorder shall generate a list containing the name of each elector who is registered in more than one precinct in the state and shall cancel from the county's master lists of registered electors the name of the elector wherever it appears, except where it corresponds to the elector's most recent date of registration.

(3) (a) The county clerk and recorder may not cancel the registration record pursuant to subsection (1) of this section unless there is a match in the county's registration records and the statewide voter registration database with respect to, at a minimum, the following types of identifying information:

(I) The elector's name, date of birth, and prior residence; or

(II) The elector's name, date of birth, and driver's license number or social security number.

(b) If the county clerk and recorder is not able to cancel the registration record pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (3), the county clerk and recorder shall send a notice to the elector whose record the clerk and recorder intends to cancel. The notice shall be sent to that elector's address of record, shall have a returnable portion that has the return postage prepaid and that is pre-addressed to the sending county clerk and recorder, and shall include an area for the elector to indicate if the elector has moved to another county and wishes to have his or her registration record transferred from the old county.

1-2-605. Canceling registration - procedures.

(1) (a) Correspondence by mail from the county clerk and recorder to a registered elector of a county must include, at a minimum, the elector's name and address.

(b) (I) Except as provided in subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b), if correspondence described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) is returned by the United States postal service as undeliverable, the county clerk and recorder shall mark the elector's registration record "Inactive" and mail the elector a confirmation card.

(II) If correspondence described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) is returned by the United States postal service as undeliverable and the elector's registration record is already marked "Inactive", the county clerk and recorder shall not modify the record and may not mail the elector a confirmation card.

(c) If an elector's confirmation card is not returned to the county clerk and recorder as undeliverable, the county clerk and recorder shall not change the elector's registration record.

(3) Any registered elector whose registration record is marked "Inactive" is eligible to vote in any election where registration is required if the elector meets all other requirements.

(4) A county clerk and recorder shall mark an "Inactive" elector's registration record as "Active" if:

(a) The elector updates his or her registration information; or

(b) The elector votes in an election conducted by a county clerk and recorder or an election for which the registration information has been provided to the clerk and recorder; or

(c) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2013.)

(d) The elector completes, signs, and returns a confirmation card or change of address card.

(5) If an active elector's mail ballot is returned to the county clerk and recorder by the United States postal service as undeliverable, the county clerk and recorder shall mark the elector's registration record "Inactive" and send to the elector a confirmation card by which the elector may verify or correct the address information. If the elector verifies that he or she has moved within the state, the county clerk and recorder shall forward the address information to the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the voter resides to update the elector's registration record with the new address. If the elector verifies that he or she has moved outside the state, the county clerk and recorder shall cancel the elector's registration record. If the elector fails to respond, the county clerk and recorder shall leave the registration record of that elector marked "Inactive".

(7) If an elector whose registration record is marked "Inactive" fails to update his or her registration record, fails to respond to any confirmation card, and fails to vote in any election conducted by the county clerk and recorder during the time period that includes two consecutive general elections since the elector's registration record was marked "Inactive", the county clerk and recorder shall cancel the elector's registration record. Nothing in this section allows an elector's registration record to be canceled solely for failure to vote.

(8) No later than ninety days following any general election, the county clerk and recorder shall furnish to the county chairperson of each major political party a list containing the names, addresses, precinct numbers, and party affiliations of the electors whose registration records were canceled pursuant to this section.

1-2-606. Cancellation by reason of criminal conviction in federal court.

(1) If an elector whose residence is in the state of Colorado is convicted of a felony in a district court of the United States, the United States attorney shall give written notice of the conviction to the secretary of state of Colorado. The notice shall include the name of the offender, the offender's age and residence address, the date of entry of the judgment, a description of the offenses of which the offender was convicted, and the sentence imposed by the court. The United States attorney shall additionally give the secretary of state written notice of the vacation of the judgment if the conviction is overturned.

(2) The secretary of state shall forward the information received pursuant to this section to the applicable county clerk and recorder of the county in which the offender resides.

(3) The county clerk and recorder shall cancel the registration of the elector as of the date of receipt of the information from the secretary of state, and the registration shall remain canceled until the offender reregisters to vote.

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 statuses and their definitions

Registration Status	Statute
Active - A person becomes an active voter upon completion of the necessary voter registration information. If the clerk or recorder is notified the voter has moved within the state, their address will be updated and their status will be "active".	1-2-302.5 1-2-605
Inactive - If the search indicates that the elector moved to a different state, the county clerk and recorder shall mark the elector's registration record "Inactive" and send a confirmation card and: (A) If the elector returns the confirmation card and confirms the new address, the county clerk and recorder shall cancel the elector's registration record in the statewide voter registration database; (B) If the elector does not return the confirmation card, the elector's registration record must remain "Inactive". If the inactive elector subsequently fails to vote in two consecutive general elections, the county clerk and recorder shall cancel the elector's registration record in accordance with section 1-2-605 (7).	1-2-302.5 1-2-605

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

The Secretary of State has sole jurisdiction to adjudicate alleged violations of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). [Section 1-1.5-105, C.R.S.] Any person who believes a violation of Title III of HAVA that has occurred, is occurring, or that is about to occur, may file a complaint. In order to initiate the complaint process, you must file a sworn, written, signed and notarized complaint with the Secretary of State no later than one year from the date of either the occurrence of the alleged violation or of the election giving rise to the complaint, whichever is later. The complaint must allege the violation with particularity, contain a reference to the section of HAVA alleged to have been violated, and name the person or entity responsible for the violation. This complaint will be investigated and adjudicated without a hearing unless you request one on this form. You may always withdraw your request for a hearing at a later time.

NOTICE: This complaint is not confidential and, once filed with the Department of State, will be treated as a public record.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Election Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

The Secretary of State has independent authority to inspect and review the practices and procedures of county clerk and recorders, their employees, and other election officials in the conduct of primary, general, and congressional vacancy elections and the registration of electors in this state, with or without the filing of a complaint by any person. [Section 1-1-107(2)(b), C.R.S.]

NOTICE: This complaint is not confidential and, once filed with the Department of State, will be treated as a public record.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State:	Jena Griswold
Physical Address:	1700 Broadway, Suite 550 Denver, CO 80290
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Phone Number:	303-894-2200
Email Address:	elections@coloradosos.gov
Online Contact:	https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/main.html

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