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# Missouri

## *Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide*

*Provided by*

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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](#)

<b>Chief Elections Office:</b>	Secretary of State, John R. Ashcroft <a href="#">Elections Division</a>
<b>Physical Address:</b>	600 West Main Street Jefferson City, MO 65101
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Elections James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center PO Box 1767 Jefferson City, MO 65102-1767
<b>Phone Number:</b>	573-751-2301
<b>Fax Number:</b>	573-526-3242
<b>Online Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:elections@sos.mo.gov">elections@sos.mo.gov</a>

# How do I register to vote?

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

## [115.133. Qualifications of voters.](#)

1. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, any citizen of the United States who is a resident of the state of Missouri and seventeen years and six months of age or older shall be entitled to register and to vote in any election which is held on or after his eighteenth birthday.
2. No person who is adjudged incapacitated shall be entitled to register or vote. No person shall be entitled to vote:
  - (1) While confined under a sentence of imprisonment;
  - (2) While on probation or parole after conviction of a felony, until finally discharged from such probation or parole; or
  - (3) After conviction of a felony or misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage.
3. Except as provided in federal law or federal elections and in section 115.277, no person shall be entitled to vote if the person has not registered to vote in the jurisdiction of his or her residence prior to the deadline to register to vote.

# How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Link to Local Election Offices](#)  
[Link to Sample Form](#)

Contact your local [board of election commissioners](#) to request a form to cancel your voter registration.

# How is voter list maintenance handled?

## 28.960. Registered voter lists, audit of — authorized — requirements.

1. The secretary of state shall have the authority to, at his or her discretion, audit the list of registered voters for any local election authority to ensure accuracy.
2. Any audit conducted by the secretary of state shall, at least quarterly, determine whether the local election authority has performed the following voter registration list maintenance activities, as required by law:
  - (1) Sending verification notices in accordance with section 115.155; and
  - (2) Registering voters and removing names from the voter registration system in accordance with section 115.158.
3. After completing the audit, the secretary of state shall notify the local election authority in writing of any maintenance updates that are required and shall advise the local election authority they have ninety days to make required updates. If, after ninety days, the secretary of state determines that the local election authority has not performed the required maintenance of voter registration lists as required by law, the secretary of state's office may withhold transaction funds associated with maintenance of the voter registration lists from the local election authority.

## 115.179. Registration records to be canvassed, when.

1. The election authority shall have the registration records of all precincts in its jurisdiction canvassed every two years in accordance with subsection 3 of section 115.163 and that it be completed no later than ninety days prior to the date of a primary or general election for federal office. The election authority may utilize postal service contractors under the federal National Change of Address program to canvass the records.
2. In each jurisdiction without a board of election commissioners, the county clerk shall have the registration records of all precincts in its jurisdiction canvassed every two years in accordance with subsection 3 of section 115.163 and that it be completed no later than ninety days prior to the date of a primary or general election for federal office.

## 115.181. Canvass, how conducted.

1. In its discretion, the election authority may order all or any part of a canvass to be made house-to-house, through the United States Postal Service, or by both methods.
2. At the discretion of the election authority, the canvass may be made by including only those voters who did not vote at the last general election and those voters who registered since the last general election.

## 115.185. Canvassers, how selected — voter not at address, procedure followed — police protection, when.

1. Immediately before a house-to-house canvass, the election authority shall prepare two verification lists for each precinct to be canvassed.
2. For each precinct to be canvassed, the election authority shall appoint two registered voters from its jurisdiction, one from each major political party, to serve as canvassers of the precinct. The two canvassers, each having one of the verification lists, shall together call at each dwelling place in the precinct which is shown on the verification lists.
3. If the canvassers find that any registered voter does not live at the address shown on the verification lists, they shall immediately notify the election authority.
4. Whenever it deems necessary, the election authority may request that police protection be furnished canvassers while they perform their official duties. Such protection shall be promptly furnished by the appropriate authorities.

### **115.187. Canvassers report to election authority — notice, form.**

Immediately after calling at all dwelling places shown on the verification lists, the house-to-house canvassers shall report with the verification lists to the office of the election authority. The election authority shall as soon as possible prepare and mail a notice to each person who was not found to reside at the address shown on the verification lists. The election authority shall send notice by postage prepaid and preaddressed return card, sent by forwardable mail, on which the registered voter may state his or her current address together with a notice as prescribed by section 115.193.

### **115.189. Information supplied by postal service in lieu of house-to-house canvass.**

In lieu of a house-to-house canvass or postal service canvass, the election authority may establish a program by which change of address information is supplied by the postal service.

### **115.191. Investigative authorization of election authority.**

The election authority may investigate the residence or other qualifications of any voter at any time it deems necessary. The election authority shall investigate material affecting any voter's qualifications brought to its attention from any source, and such investigations shall be conducted in the manner it directs. The election authority may defer investigation of material brought to its attention within ten days of an election until after the election if it determines time does not permit an earlier investigation.

### **115.193. Name stricken from register, conditions — notice, method, contents — improper removal from records, may be permitted to vote — inactive voter designation.**

1. Upon completion of a canvass as provided for in this chapter, a registered voter's name shall not be removed from the list of registered voters on the ground that the voter has changed residence unless:
  - (1) The voter confirms in writing that the voter has changed residence to a place outside the election authority's jurisdiction in which the voter is registered; or
  - (2) The voter fails to respond to a notice described in this section and has not voted 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 that occurs after the date of the notice.
2. The notice referred to in subsection 1, subdivision (2) of this section shall contain a postage prepaid and preaddressed return card, sent by forwardable mail, on which the voter may state the voter's current address.
3. The notice shall also contain the following statements:

“(1) Any voter who has not changed his or her residence, or has changed residence but remained in the same election authority's jurisdiction, shall return the card not later than the fourth Wednesday prior to the next election. If the card is not returned by this date, oral or written affirmation of the voter's address may be required at the polling place before the voter will be 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 that occurs after the date of the notice. Any voter who does not vote in an election during that period, will have his or her name removed from the list of eligible voters;

(2) For additional information on registering to vote, contact the election authority located in the county of your current residence. If you reside in the City of St. Louis, contact the St. Louis City election board.”
4. If the election authority believes that the name of any voter was improperly removed from the registration records, it may, by telephone or in writing on election day, authorize election judges to permit the voter to vote. The voter may be required to execute an affidavit of qualification on a form prescribed by the election authority before being permitted to vote.

### **115.193. Cont.**

5. An election authority may designate any voter as an inactive voter if the election authority receives from the United States Postal Service notification that the voter no longer resides at the address last known to the election authority and no forwarding address is available, or the voter fails to respond to the notice authorized in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section within thirty days after the election authority sends such notice. Such voter may be designated as an inactive voter only until:

- (1) The voter returns such notice to the election authority;
- (2) The voter provides the election authority with his or her new address pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;
- (3) The voter provides a written affirmation that the voter has not changed residence; or
- (4) The election authority receives sufficient information to remove the voter from the list of registered voters pursuant to this section or section 115.165, or return the voter to the active list of registered voters in the jurisdiction.

6. An election authority may exclude inactive voters to determine only:

- (1) The number of ballots to be printed pursuant to section 115.247;
- (2) The proportional costs of elections; or
- (3) Mailing information to registered voters.

### **115.195. Death, felony, and misdemeanor convictions, persons adjudged incapacitated — records, when obtained.**

1. At least once each month, the state or local registrar of vital statistics shall provide to the election authority a list of the name and address, if known, of each person over eighteen years of age in its jurisdiction whose death has been reported to him or her and provide a copy of the list of any death reported in the state to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall notify the election authority of the jurisdiction in which the deceased resided of the information received pursuant to this subsection.

2. At least once each month, the clerk of the circuit court of each county and city not within a county shall provide to the election authority a list of the name and address, if known, of each person over eighteen years of age in the court's jurisdiction who has been convicted of any felony, or of a misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage. A copy of the list shall also be submitted to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall notify the election authority of the jurisdiction in which an offender resides of the information received pursuant to this subsection.

3. At least once each month, the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of each county and city not within a county shall provide to the election authority a list of the name and address, if known, of each person over eighteen years of age in the court's jurisdiction who has been adjudged incapacitated and has not been restored to capacity. A copy of the list shall also be submitted to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall notify the election authority of the jurisdiction in which such person resides of the information received pursuant to this subsection.

4. All state and local registrars and all clerks of probate divisions of the circuit courts and circuit courts shall provide the information specified in this section, without charge, to the election authority or the secretary of state.

**115.197. Governor to furnish list of persons pardoned.**

Not later than October tenth each year, the governor of this state shall provide to each election authority in the state, without charge, the name and address, if known, of each person pardoned by him during the preceding calendar year.

**115.199. Deceased and incompetents removed from register, when — persons convicted and pardoned, how handled.**

Each election authority shall remove from its registration records the names of voters reported dead or adjudged incapacitated and shall determine the voting qualifications of those reported convicted or pardoned.

**115.221. Voting records to be inspected annually.**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, each election authority may have the voting records inspected and may investigate the qualifications of any person who has not voted or transferred his registration within the four preceding calendar years.

**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

## [Link to Statutes](#)

Registration Statuses	
<b>Active</b> - Voter registration is current, no restrictions on voting.	<a href="#"><u>115.133.</u></a>
<b>Inactive</b> - An election authority may designate any voter as an inactive voter if the election authority receives from the United States Postal Service notification that the voter no longer resides at the address last known to the election authority and no forwarding address is available, or the voter fails to respond to the notice within thirty days after the election authority sends such notice.	<a href="#"><u>115.193.</u></a>
<b>Deleted</b> - Voter has been removed from the rolls (for one of various reasons). In order to be eligible to vote again they must re-register.	<a href="#"><u>115.133.</u></a>
<b>Disqualified</b> - Voter is currently serving a sentence connected with a felony conviction, they may be restored to Active status and vote again once the sentence is completed (including all probation/parole) UNLESS the offense was connected with the right of suffrage	<a href="#"><u>115.199.</u></a>
<b>Pending</b> - there is an issue with the registration information provided, citizen is not registered under this status and may not vote	<a href="#"><u>115.151</u></a>
<b>Pending—Active</b> - citizen registered at 17 1/2 years of age but has not yet reached 18, they will become Active upon their 18th birthday	<a href="#"><u>115.133.</u></a>
<b>Rejected</b> - Registrant was determined not to be a US citizen	<a href="#"><u>115.155.</u></a>

# **How do I file a HAVA complaint?**

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to HAVA Complaint Form](#)

For potential violations of the Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, please use the [HAVA Complaint Form](#). Mail this completed and notarized form to:

Elections Integrity  
600 W. Main St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

# **How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?**

[Link to Statutes](#)

[Link to Form](#)

A person may file a complaint with the Missouri Secretary of State's Elections Division if they believe there has been a violation of Missouri Election Laws or a violation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

MISSOURI LAW: If you have witnessed a violation of Missouri's Elections Laws, please utilize the [Election Complaint Form](#).

## Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

<b>Secretary of State, Elections Integrity Unit</b>	
<b>Physical Address:</b>	Secretary of State's Office Elections Division 600 W Main St. Jefferson City, MO 65101
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Missouri Secretary of State's Office Attn: Elections Division 600 W Main St. Jefferson City, MO 65101
<b>Phone Number:</b>	800-669-8683
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:elections@sos.mo.gov">elections@sos.mo.gov</a>