# Oklahoma

Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide

Provided by



### 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>	Oklahoma State Election Board <u>Elections Division</u>	
Physical Address:	2300 N Lincoln Blvd, Roo G28 State Capitol Building Oklahoma City, OK 73105	
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 53156 Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3156	
Phone Number:	405-521-2391	
Fax Number:	405-521-6457	
Online Contact:	info@elections.ok.gov	
County Election Boards:	County Election Board Email Addresses and Phone Numbers	

### How do I register to vote?

## Link to Register Link to Statutes

#### Section Article 3 section 1 - Qualifications of electors

Subject to such exceptions as the Legislature may prescribe, all citizens of the United States, over the age of eighteen (18) years, who are bona fide residents of this state, are qualified electors of this state.

#### Section 4-101 - Persons Entitled to Become Registered Voters

Every person who is a qualified elector as defined by Section 1 of Article III of the Oklahoma Constitution shall be entitled to become a registered voter in the precinct of his or her residence, with the following conditions:

- 1. Persons convicted of a felony shall be eligible to register to vote when they have fully served their sentence of court-mandated calendar days, including any term of incarceration, parole or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; and
- 2. Any person who has been adjudged to be an incapacitated person as such term is defined by Section 1-111 of Title 30 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be ineligible to register to vote. When such incapacitated person has been adjudged to be no longer incapacitated such person shall be eligible to become a registered voter. The provisions of this paragraph shall not prohibit any person adjudged to be a partially incapacitated person as such term is defined by Section 1-111 of Title 30 of the Oklahoma Statutes from being eligible to register to vote unless the order adjudging the person to be partially incapacitated restricts such person from being eligible to register to vote.

## How do I cancel my voter registration?

### **Link to Form Election Boards**

#### §26-4-120.1. Voluntary cancellation of registration.

- A. A registered voter may have his or her name removed from the voter registration database by executing a written notice for same to the Secretary of the State Election Board or any county election board. Such written notice shall be personally signed by the voter and either shall be notarized or shall be witnessed by two persons whose names and addresses shall be included on the notice.
- B. Any voter who voluntarily cancels his or her voter registration as provided in this section shall be eligible to submit a new voter registration application in the same county when sixty (60) or more calendar days have passed since the submission of the request for cancellation.

## How is voter list maintenance handled?

#### Section 4-118 - Change of Residence to Another County

Any registered voter who changes his or her residence to another county may apply for registration as an initial registrant in such other county. Such person shall indicate his or her prior registration information, including name, residence address and county and political affiliation, as appropriate, on the voter registration application. The secretary of the election board of the second county shall immediately notify the Secretary of the State Election Board of such transaction. Any change in political affiliation shall be subject to the requirements of Section 4-119 of this title.

#### Section 4-118.1 - United States Postal Service Change of Address Dataset - Sharing - Use of Records

A. Any state agency that purchases, subscribes to, or is an authorized or licensed user of the United States Postal Service's National Change of Address dataset is authorized to share the records from the dataset with the State Election Board.

B. The Secretary of the State Election Board is authorized to utilize records from the United States Postal Service's National Change of Address dataset to determine if a registered voter in the State of Oklahoma has changed his or her address of residence.

C. Subject to available funding, the Secretary of the State Election Board is authorized to mail a notice to any registered voter whose records in the National Change of Address dataset indicate he or she may have changed his or her address of residence. Such notice shall advise the voter of the requirement to be registered at the voter's address of residence, and shall include information and forms necessary to enable the voter to transfer his or her voter registration to a new address of residence.

D. For the purposes of this section, "National Change of Address dataset" shall refer to any dataset of change-of-address records consisting of the names and addresses of individuals, families and businesses who have filed a change-of-address with the United States Postal Service.

#### **Section 4-120 - Cancellation of Registrations**

- A. The registration of any registered voter shall be canceled only for one of the following reasons:
- 1. Written notice from the voter pursuant to Section 4-120.1 of this title;
- 2. Death:
- 3. Conviction of a felony;
- 4. Judicial determination of mental incapacitation under Title 30 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 5. Registration in another county or state;
- 6. Failure to respond to a confirmation of address mailing and failure to vote as prescribed in Section 4-120.2 of this title;
- 7. The surrendering of the voter's Oklahoma driver license to Service Oklahoma upon being issued a driver license in another state; or
- 8. Being excused from jury duty for not being a citizen of the United States.
- B. For purposes of this section, paragraphs 5 and 7 of subsection A of this section shall constitute confirmation from the voter to cancel his or her voter registration due to a change of residence.
- C. A list of voter registrations that were canceled during the previous twenty-four (24) months, and the reason for the cancellation, shall be made available to the public.

#### **Section 4-120.2 - Inactive Voters**

A. No later than June 1 of each odd-numbered year, any voter identified within the previous twenty-four (24) months as subject to the provisions of this subsection shall be sent an address confirmation mailing prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board and paid for by the state. The following shall be subject to the provisions of this subsection:

- 1. Any voter for whom a first-class mailing from the county election board or the State Election Board was returned;
- 2. Any voter identified by the Secretary of the State Election Board as a potential duplicate voter in another county in this state or in another state;
- 3. Any voter identified in subsection C of Section 4-118.1 of this title who has not updated his or her voter registration;
- 4. Any registered voter identified in subsection F of Section 4-120.3 of this title whose voter registration has not been canceled;
- 5. Any active registered voter who did not vote in the second previous general election or any election conducted by a county election board since the second previous general election and who has initiated no voter registration change; and
- 6. Any registered voter who was sent a notice and application to update a voter registration address as required by subsection B of Section 4-109.3 of this title, but whose voter registration address has not been updated or canceled.; and
- 7. Any voter who is registered to vote and has the same address of residence as five or more other registered voters. "Same address of residence" means the same street name, same street direction, same street type, same street post direction, same street number, same building or apartment number, and same ZIP code.

Voters who do not respond to the confirmation mailing or whose mailing is returned as nonforwardable or undeliverable as addressed shall be designated as inactive sixty (60) days after the mailing.

- B. An inactive voter's status shall be changed to active under the following conditions:
- 1. With any registration change initiated by the voter; or
- 2. By voting in any election conducted by a county election board. An inactive voter who does not vote in any election conducted by a county election board during the period beginning on the date of the confirmation mailing and ending on the day after the date of the second successive general election for federal office shall be removed as a registered voter and all the information on that voter shall be destroyed. Each county election board secretary shall maintain a list of the names and addresses of all persons sent a confirmation mailing as described in this section and information on whether each such person has responded to the notice. The list shall be maintained for twenty-four (24) months following the date of the second successive federal general election after the date of the confirmation mailing.
- C. The secretary of each county election board shall cause all inactive voters in a precinct to be identified on the precinct registry.
- D. No later than June 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Secretary of the State Election Board shall identify duplicate voter registrations in the state and shall direct appropriate county election board secretaries to cancel the voter registration of all but the latest registration of duplicate voter registrations. Each county election board secretary shall maintain for twenty-four (24) months a list of the names and addresses of all canceled duplicate voter registrations. For the purposes of this subsection, duplicate voter registrations are those registrations which contain the following identical information on more than one registration:
- 1. First name, middle name or initial, last name, and date of birth;
- 2. Driver license number and date of birth; or
- 3. Last name, date of birth, and the last four digits of the Social Security number.

#### Section 4-120.3 - Deceased Persons - Cancellation of Registration

A. The State Department of Health shall each month transmit to the Secretary of the State Election Board a certified list of all deaths of residents that have occurred within the state for the immediately preceding month to include only the personal identifiers needed to compare such information against the state's voter registration database including, but not limited to, the decedent's name, date of death, and date of birth. The list shall include the last four digits of the decedent's Social Security number and driver license number or state identification card number for each decedent if such information was provided to the State Department of Health. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall transmit such list to the secretary of the county election board who shall then use the list to ascertain those voters who are deceased, and shall remove such deceased person's name from the central registry and voter registration database within thirty (30) days from the date the list was received by the county election board. Such list shall be used only for the purposes described in this subsection. The State Election Board and county election boards shall not release information, data, or records received from the State Department of Health for the purpose of identifying deceased voters in response to an Oklahoma Open Records Act request and shall protect the integrity of the vital records data to the extent required of the State Department of Health by Section 1-323 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. The registration of a deceased voter shall be canceled by the secretary of a county election board upon the receipt of a certified copy of a death certificate from any person or upon the execution by the next of kin of such deceased voter of a form and upon the nature of proof of the fact thereof as prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board. Such form must be executed in person by the deceased voter's next of kin at the county election board office, in which case it shall be witnessed by the secretary or other designated employees, at the deceased voter's precinct polling place or at the next of kin's precinct polling place in the same county on the day of any election, in which case it shall be witnessed by the inspector of such precinct, or the form may be personally signed by the next of kin, such signature to be notarized by a notary public or witnessed by two persons whose signatures and addresses shall appear on the form, and returned to the county election board.

C. The administrator of a nursing facility, as defined in Section 1-1902 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or the administrator of a State Veterans Home established pursuant to Title 72 of the Oklahoma Statutes, also may execute a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board to notify the secretary of the county election board of the death of a nursing facility resident who is a registered voter. The administrator's signature on such form shall be witnessed by a member of the nursing home absentee voting board, shall be notarized or shall be witnessed by two persons whose signatures and addresses shall appear on the form.

D. A funeral director, as defined in Section 396.2 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, may execute a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board to notify the secretary of the county election board of the death of a resident of the county. The funeral director's signature on such form either shall be notarized or shall be witnessed by two persons whose signatures and addresses shall appear on the form. Upon receipt of such form or any notice setting forth substantially the same facts and witnessed or notarized as provided in this section, the secretary of the county election board shall be authorized to cancel the voter registration of such deceased person.

E. The registration of a deceased voter who was a member of the Oklahoma National Guard or the Armed Forces of

the United States and who died in the line of duty may be canceled by the secretary of a county election board upon the receipt of notification of the voter's death from the Oklahoma National Guard or the Armed Forces of the United States. The Secretary of the State Election Board may prescribe the forms of such notification to be accepted by the county election board in order to cause the registration of the voter to be canceled. The Secretary shall further request the Oklahoma National Guard and the Armed Forces of the United States to provide notifications to the county election board as provided for in this section.

#### Section 4-120.3 Cont.

F.

- 1. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall obtain official death records from the Social Security Administration. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall compare such death records against the state's voter registration database. Any possible match of a death record to a registered voter shall be transmitted to the secretary of the county election board in the county in which the voter is registered. The secretary of the county election board shall ascertain any voter who is deceased, and shall remove such deceased person's name from the central registry and voter registration database.
- 2. The Secretary of the State Election Board is authorized to obtain official death records from other states. If such data is obtained, the Secretary of the State Election Board shall compare such death records against the state's voter registration database. Any possible match of a death record to a registered voter shall be transmitted to the secretary of the county election board in the county in which the voter is registered. The secretary of the county election board shall ascertain any voter who is deceased, and shall remove such deceased person's name from the central registry and voter registration database.
- 3. The State Election Board and county election boards shall not release the official death records described in this subsection in response to an Oklahoma Open Records Act request, and shall protect the integrity of the data to the extent required by federal and state law.

#### Section 4-120.4 - Convicted Felons - Cancellation of Registration

A. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall accept written notice from the United States Attorney of persons convicted of felonies in a district court of the United States. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall cause the voter registrations of persons listed in the written notice to be cancelled in the county of the person's residence and shall notify the secretary of the appropriate county election board of the cancellation.

B. The court clerk in each county shall prepare a list monthly of all persons convicted in the county of a felony and shall transmit the list to the secretary of the county election board. The list shall include information necessary to identify a person on the list as a registered voter prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board. The secretary shall cancel the registration of registered voters in the county included on the list. The secretary of the county election board shall forward the names of any persons on the list who are not residents of the county to the Secretary of the State Election Board. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall cause the voter registrations of persons from a list who are forwarded to the Secretary to be cancelled in the county of the person's residence.

C. The Secretary of the State Election Board, secretaries of county election boards, and their agents and employees shall not be held civilly liable for any action taken based upon information concerning felony convictions received from a United States Attorney or a county court clerk pursuant to subsections A and B of this section if a reasonable effort was made to make an accurate match of the information provided with voter registration records before canceling any voter's registration.

#### <u>Section 4-120.5 - Cancellation of Registration - Incapacitated Persons - Persons Excused</u> From Jury Duty For Not Being a Citizen of the United States

A. The court clerk in each county shall prepare each month a list of all persons who have been adjudged incapacitated and provide the list to the secretary of the county election board. The secretary shall cancel the registration of each registered voter included on the list, and the person shall be ineligible for registration until he or she has been adjudged no longer incapacitated by a court of competent jurisdiction.

B. The court clerk in each county shall prepare each month a list of all persons who were excused from jury duty for not being a citizen of the United States and provide the list to the secretary of the county election board. The secretary shall cancel the registration of each registered voter included on the list, and shall report the person or persons to the district attorney and the United States attorney for the county.

#### Section 4-120.6 - Registration in Another County or State - Cancellation of Registration

The secretary of each county election board shall cancel the registration of all registered voters who have registered in another county in Oklahoma, or in another state, upon receipt of notice of same.

#### Section 4-120.7 - Registration Forms - Removal From Registries Destruction

The registration application of registered voters whose registration has been canceled, upon written notice of the voter, death, conviction of a felony, judicial determination of mental incapacitation or registration in another county or state in the manner hereinbefore provided, shall be removed from the central registry and maintained separately for a period of twenty-four (24) months by the secretary of each county election board. Reason for cancellation and date of said cancellation shall be noted on said registration application. After twenty-four (24) months, the registration application shall be destroyed.

#### Section 4-120.8 - Reregistration of Cancelled Voter

A person whose registration has been cancelled according to law shall be required to register again in the manner provided by law for initial registrations before he can vote in an election for which registration is required.

#### Section 4-120.11 - More than Ten Registered Individuals at the Same Residential Address

- A. No later than June 1 of each year, the State Election Board shall perform a query of the entire voter registration database to determine how many individuals are registered at the same residential address.
- B. If more than ten registered voters share a single residential address, the State Election Board shall provide a list of said voters to the secretary of the county election board, who shall immediately notify the district attorney for that county.
- C. Upon receipt of such notification, the district attorney, or a member of law enforcement designated by the district attorney, shall investigate any possible criminal violation of the law related to the voter registration.
- D. Provided, this section shall not apply to registered voters sharing a residential address at a facility licensed or certified by this state, if required by law, such as an assisted living facility, residential care facility, nursing home, veterans center, medical facility, multiunit housing, installations of the Armed Forces of the United States where uniformed or overseas voters, as defined by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, are stationed, or other locations authorized in writing by the Secretary of the State Election Board.

#### Section 4-121 - Multistate Voter List Maintenance Organizations - Secretary of the State Election Board

A. The Secretary of the State Election Board may join the State of Oklahoma as a member in one or more multistate voter list maintenance organizations. The Secretary is authorized to expend funds as available for membership fees, dues and other expenses related to such membership or to an agreement as described in subsection H of this section. Prior to the State of Oklahoma joining a multistate voter list maintenance organization, the organization shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the State Election Board that membership in the organization meets the requirements of this section.

B. Upon membership in an organization as provided in subsection A of this section, the Secretary of the State Election Board may provide voter registration data to the organization and Service Oklahoma may provide motor vehicle license data to the organization if such data is required to be provided as a condition of membership. The voter registration data and motor vehicle license data described in this subsection may include a person's name, address, date of birth, driver license or state identification number, last four digits of a Social Security number or any other data required by the organization. Motor vehicle license data shall not be provided for persons who are identified as not being citizens of the United States. The transmission and storage of such data shall be done in a secure manner.

C. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall not join a multistate voter list maintenance organization if any of the following requirements are a condition of membership in the organization:

- 1. A notification is required to be sent to persons who are eligible to vote but not yet registered to vote;
- 2. Membership in the organization includes any person or entity other than a state or territory of the United States;
- 3. The governing board of the organization includes any member or ex officio member who is not a representative of a state or territory of the United States; or
- 4. The organization provides or releases voter registration data or motor vehicle license data received from this state to any party other than a state or territory of the United States that is a member of the organization.

#### Section 4-121 - Cont.

D.

- 1. If a multistate voter list maintenance organization of which this state is a member provides United States Postal Service National Change of Address data regarding registered voters who have changed their address of residence within the state, the Secretary of the State Election Board may use the data pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-118.1, 4-120.2 or 7-115.1 of this title or the federal National Voter Registration Act of 1993.
- 2. If a multistate voter list maintenance organization of which this state is a member provides Social Security Administration death records matching data regarding voters who are deceased, the Secretary of the State Election Board may use the data as authorized pursuant to Section 4-120.3 of this title.
- E. If a multistate voter list maintenance organization of which this state is a member provides or releases any voter registration data or motor vehicle license data received from this state to any party other than a state or territory that is a member of the organization, or if the data from this state is used by any member of the organization for a purpose other than voter list maintenance, the State of Oklahoma shall immediately withdraw as a member of the organization.
- F. The Oklahoma Attorney General shall have the authority to bring a civil action against the multistate voter list maintenance organization in a district court of this state for damages caused by the sharing of the data of this state as described in paragraph 4 of subsection C of this section. If the Attorney General declines to pursue action, the Secretary of the State Election Board, or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives jointly, may bring such civil action.

G.

- 1. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall cause to be published annually on the website of the State Election Board the following costs associated with membership in a multistate voter list maintenance organization: a. annual membership dues, if any, and b. any other costs directly attributable to the state's membership in the organization.
- 2. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall cause to be published annually on the website of the State Election Board the following statistical information: a. the number of voter registrations by county that are canceled on the basis of information received from the multistate voter list maintenance organization, and the reason for the cancellation, and b. such other statistical information deemed appropriate by the Secretary of the State Election Board.
- H. The Secretary of the State Election Board may enter into an agreement with the chief state election official of one or more states or territories of the United States to share or cross-check voter registration data in a manner consistent with the requirements for membership in a multistate voter list maintenance organization described in this section.

#### **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 <u>Department of Justice website</u>.

## List of voter registration statuses and their definitions

Registration Statuses		
<b>Active</b> - Voters who maintain an updated voter registration record and vote.	<u>Section 4-101</u>	
<b>Inactive</b> - voters who are registered but failed to respond to an Address Confirmation Notice within 60 days and has had no further voter activity since that time. "Inactive" voters still retain voting privileges and may automatically reverse their status by voting or updating their voter registration information. "Inactive" voters who do not have any voter activity (i.e. voting, updating registration) through the next two federal, general elections are required by law to be removed from the voter rolls.	Section 4-120.2	
<b>Canceled</b> - Voter has been removed from the voter rolls. A person whose registration has been cancelled according to law shall be required to register again in the manner provided by law for initial registrations before he can vote in an election for which registration is required.	Section 4-120 Section 4-120.8	

### How do I file a HAVA complaint?

### **Link to Administrative Rules**

#### 230:35-9-22. Complaints

Any person who believes that a violation of Title III of HAVA has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur, may file a complaint with the Secretary of the State Election Board. Any such complaint shall be in writing, shall be notarized, and shall be signed and sworn by the complainant. A complaint shall include at least the following information.

- (1) Complainant's name and mailing address
- (2) The nature of the complaint and specific facts describing the alleged violation
- (3) The specific citation of Title III of HAVA under which the complaint is being brought
- (4) A request for a hearing on the record, if desired (A hearing shall be required only if requested in the complaint, and only if the complaint includes allegations that, if true would constitute a bona fide violation of Title III of HAVA), and
- (5) Any additional information pertinent to the complaint, including the nature of the solution sought.

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

### <u>Link to Statutes</u> <u>Link to Complaint Form</u>

#### <u>Section 16-123 - Documentation of Possible Voter Registration or Voting Crimes</u>

- A. The Secretary of the State Election Board or any county election board who has documents that appear to be evidence of voter registration or voting crimes shall notify the district attorney for the county or counties involved.
- B. When presented with documentation of possible voter registration or voting crimes by the Secretary of the State Election Board or any county election board, a district attorney shall investigate and, within thirty (30) days and each thirty (30) days thereafter following receipt of such documentation, report in writing to the Secretary of the State Election Board or county election board the status of the investigation until charges are filed or the district attorney declines to file charges.

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

Oklahoma State Election Board	
Physical Address:	2300 N. Lincoln Blvd, Room G28 State Capitol Building Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Mailing Address:	Oklahoma State Election Board P.O. Box 53156 Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3156
<b>Phone Number:</b>	405-521-2391
Fax Number:	405-521-6457
Email:	info@elections.ok.gov
Webform:	https://oklahoma.gov/elections/about-us/ contact-us.html