



Oregon

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:	Secretary of State, Elections Division
Physical Address:	Public Service Building Suite 126 255 Capitol St. NE Salem, OR 97310
Mailing Address:	Elections Division 255 Capitol St. NE, Suite 126 Salem, OR 97310
Phone Number:	503-986-1518
Fax Number:	503-373-7414
Online Contact:	elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov

How do I register to vote?

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

Article II, Section 2. Qualifications of electors.

(1) Every citizen of the United States is entitled to vote in all elections not otherwise provided for by this Constitution if such citizen:

- (a) Is 18 years of age or older;
- (b) Has resided in this state during the six months immediately preceding the election, except that provision may be made by law to permit a person who has resided in this state less than 30 days immediately preceding the election, but who is otherwise qualified under this subsection, to vote in the election for candidates for nomination or election for President or Vice President of the United States or elector of President and Vice President of the United States; and
- (c) Is registered not less than 20 calendar days immediately preceding any election in the manner provided by law.

Article II, Section 3. Rights of certain electors.

A person suffering from a mental handicap is entitled to the full rights of an elector, if otherwise qualified, unless the person has been adjudicated incompetent to vote as provided by law. The privilege of an elector, upon conviction of any crime which is punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary, shall be forfeited, unless otherwise provided by law.

How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Election Boards](#)

247.555 Cancellation of registration.

(1) A county clerk may cancel the registration of an elector:

- (a) At the request of the elector;
- (2) If the registration of an elector is canceled, the elector, in order to vote in an election, must register as provided in this chapter.

How is voter list maintenance handled?

[Link to Statutes](#)

247.275 Limits on considering registration of elector inactive; rules.

- (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of ORS chapters 246 to 260, the registration of an elector may not be considered inactive due to an elector not voting or updating the elector's registration for any period of time.
- (2) The registration of an elector shall be considered active if the only reason for the registration of an elector being considered inactive is that the elector neither voted nor updated the elector's registration for any period of time.
- (3) The Secretary of State may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

247.281 Notice to elector of inactive registration; contents.

- (1) The county clerk shall mail a notice to each elector:
 - (a) Whose registration is inactive as of the 75th day before the date of a primary election or general election;
 - (b) Whose registration is considered inactive due to a nonmatching signature under ORS 254.431 or a name change under ORS 254.411; and
 - (c) For whom the county clerk has a valid and current mailing address.
- (2) The notice sent under subsection (1) of this section must:
 - (a) Inform the elector that the elector's registration is currently inactive;
 - (b) State the reason for the inactivation;
 - (c) Contain information on how the elector can reactivate the elector's registration; and
 - (d) Be sent to the elector no earlier than 70 days and no later than 60 days before the election.
- (3) In addition to the notice required to be sent under subsection (1) of this section, the county clerk may mail a notice to each elector described in subsection (1)(b) of this section whose registration is inactive as of the 75th day before the date of an election other than a primary election or general election. Any notice the county clerk chooses to send under this subsection must comply with the requirements set forth in subsection (2) of this section.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall design a standard form to be used in all notifications sent by the county clerk under this section.

247.292 Update of registration of elector changing residence; procedure.

- (1) A county clerk shall update the registration of an elector in the county upon receiving evidence from:
 - (a) The elector indicating a residence or mailing address that is different from the residence or mailing address for the elector as contained in the records of the county clerk;
 - (b) The United States Postal Service indicating a residence address that is different from the residence address for the elector as contained in the records of the county clerk; or
 - (c) The Secretary of State as provided in ORS 247.017 or 247.295.
- (2) When a county clerk updates the registration of an elector under subsection (1) of this section, the clerk shall send a new voter notification card by nonforwardable mail to the elector as provided in ORS 247.181. The clerk shall include a notice stating that if the residence address or mailing address is not correct, the elector must notify the clerk.
- (3) An elector is not disqualified from voting due to any error relating to an update of registration made under this section.

247.295 Verification of addresses of electors; change of address service.

- (1) The Secretary of State shall subscribe to a change of address service that is approved or endorsed by the United States Postal Service and use the service to verify the accuracy of the addresses of electors contained in the centralized voter registration system.
- (2) If the secretary determines that the address of an elector is different from the address for the elector as contained in the records of the county clerk, the secretary shall provide the information obtained under this section to the county clerk of each affected county. Based on information received under this section, each county clerk shall update the registration of electors in the county if the clerk determines that an update is required.

247.296 Verification of addresses of electors; update of registration; notice; cancellation prohibited during certain periods.

- (1) The county clerk shall use records of the United States Postal Service relating to ballots issued by mail to verify the accuracy of addresses of electors contained in the registration file of the county clerk.
- (2) Based on information obtained under subsection (1) of this section, the county clerk shall automatically update the registration of an elector under ORS 247.292 or mail a notice described in ORS 247.563.
- (3) The registration of an elector shall not be canceled during the 90-day period prior to any primary or general election based on information obtained under this section.

247.298 Extension of time for automatic updates under ORS 247.292.

If there are fewer than 22 days between the date of an election and the registration deadline for the next succeeding election, the county clerk may update registrations as required under ORS 247.292 after the next succeeding election.

247.302 Effective date of registration automatically updated by county clerk.

- (1) The effective date of a voter registration updated under ORS 247.292 is the date on which the county clerk receives evidence of the change of residence or mailing address.
- (2) The effective date of a voter registration updated under ORS 247.296 is the date on which the county clerk changes the address information on the voter registration file.

247.303 Deadline for updating registration.

Notwithstanding ORS 247.025, an elector whose registration is active or inactive may update the registration at any time before 8 p.m. on the day of the election.

247.555 Cancellation of registration.

- (1) A county clerk may cancel the registration of an elector:
 - (a) At the request of the elector;
 - (b) Upon the death of the elector;
 - (c) If the county clerk receives written evidence that the elector has registered to vote in another state; or
 - (d) If the elector has not responded to a notice described in ORS 247.563 and has not voted or updated a registration during the period beginning on the date the notice is sent and ending on the day after the date of the second regular general election that occurs after the date the notice was sent.
- (2) If the registration of an elector is canceled, the elector, in order to vote in an election, must register as provided in this chapter.

247.563 Notice to elector whose registration appears invalid; contents; effect of notice; exceptions.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section and ORS 247.555, whenever it appears to the county clerk that an elector needs to update the elector's registration or that the elector has changed residence address to another county, the county clerk shall mail a notice to the elector.

(2) The notice shall be sent by forwardable mail and shall include a postage prepaid, preaddressed return card on which the elector may state the elector's current residence and mailing address. The notice shall advise the elector that:

(a) The elector should return the card promptly;

(b) If the card is not returned by the 21st calendar day immediately preceding an election, the elector may be required to complete a new registration card in order to vote in an election; and

(c) The elector's registration will be canceled if the elector neither votes nor updates the registration before two general elections have been held.

(3) When the county clerk mails a notice under this section, the registration of the elector shall be considered inactive until the elector updates the registration, the registration is canceled or the clerk determines that the registration should be considered active.

(4) This section does not apply when the county clerk receives written evidence from the elector or another county clerk indicating a change of residence or mailing address or from the United States Postal Service indicating a change of residence address and the registration of the elector is automatically updated by the county clerk under any provision of this chapter.

247.570 Notice of deaths to Secretary of State and county clerk; effect of notice.

(1) Not later than five business days after receiving a report of death under ORS 432.133, a county registrar designated under ORS 432.035 shall furnish to the county clerk of that county the name, age, date of birth and residence address of the person for whom the registrar has received the report of death. If the person was registered to vote in the county, the county clerk immediately shall cancel the registration of the person.

(2) Not later than five business days after receiving information from the county registrar under subsection (1) of this section, the county clerk shall furnish the information to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall furnish a copy of the appropriate names received under this subsection to each county clerk. Each county clerk immediately shall cancel the registrations of those persons.

(3) The Oregon Health Authority, during the last week of each month, shall furnish to the Secretary of State a list of the name, age, date of birth, county of residence and residence address of each resident of this state who has died during the preceding month and for whom a report of death was not submitted to a county registrar. The Secretary of State shall furnish a copy of the appropriate names to each county clerk. Each county clerk immediately shall cancel registrations of those persons.

247.195 Inquiry into validity of registration; hearing; cancellation.

(1) The county clerk, at any time, may inquire into the validity of the registration of any elector. The county clerk shall mail a written statement to the elector that describes the nature of the inquiry and provides a suitable form for reply.

(2) Not later than the 20th day after the date of mailing of the statement, the elector, in writing, may state that the information on the registration card is correct or may request a change in the information on the card. Upon receipt of the statement or request, the county clerk shall determine whether the information satisfies the inquiry. If the county clerk determines that the inquiry has not been satisfied, the county clerk shall schedule a hearing and shall notify the elector of the place and time of the hearing. The hearing shall be held not sooner than the second nor later than the 20th day after notice is given. At the hearing, the elector may present evidence of qualification. If the county clerk, upon the conclusion of the hearing, determines that the elector's registration is not valid, the county clerk shall cancel the registration.

[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	
Active - Registration has been verified. Elector will receive a ballot.	ORS 247.174
Inactive - Status between the time an elector is mailed a notice (because it appears that an elector needs to update their registration or that the elector has changed residence address to another county) and the elector updates the registration or is canceled. Elector will not receive a ballot while status is inactive.	ORS 247.563 ORS 247.013(7)
Canceled - If the registration of the voter is canceled, the elector, in order to vote in an election, must register.	ORS 247.555
Challenged - the registration has been identified as possibly invalid, registrant may need to supply additional information or attend a hearing to determine qualification. The result will either be active registration or cancellation.	ORS 247.174 ORS 247.195

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

State and county elections officials are encouraged to resolve HAVA complaints informally if possible. If informal resolution is not possible, and a person wishes to file a formal HAVA complaint under this procedure, the person shall use the HAVA complaint form (SEL 820). The complaint will be accepted and processed only if made in writing, signed under oath by the person filing the complaint, and notarized. The complaint form must be filed directly with the Secretary of State, Elections Division. If the complaint is submitted to a county elections office, the county elections official shall promptly forward the original complaint to the Elections Division. The complaint shall be considered filed on the day it is received at the office of the Elections Division.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Process](#)

[Link to Complaint Form](#)

The Secretary of State, Elections Division, is responsible for enforcing state election laws and rules. If you believe a violation of Oregon election law has occurred, you may want to file a formal investigation request with the Elections Division. Please review all of the following information before filing a request using the form below.

Anyone registered to vote in Oregon may file a formal investigation request. Anonymous requests will not be investigated. Many requests are subject to disclosure under public records laws. If the Elections Division receives an investigation request against a named person(s) and the Division determines there is sufficient evidence to open an investigation, we are required by law to inform the person(s) of the request.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State's Office—Elections Division	
Physical Address:	Public Service Building Suite 126 255 Capitol St. NE Salem, OR 97310
Mailing Address:	Elections Division 255 Capitol St. NE, Suite 126 Salem, OR 97310-1342
Phone Number:	503-986-1518
Fax Number:	503-373-7414
Email:	elections.sos@oregon.gov
Website:	https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/election-law-violation.aspx