
Maine

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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CONTENTS:

[Who can I contact with election related questions?](#)

[How do I register to vote?](#)

[How do I cancel my voter registration?](#)

[How is voter list maintenance handled?](#)

[List of Voter Registration Status and their definitions](#)

Who can I contact with election related questions?

[Link to Elections Official](#)

Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commissions	
Physical Address:	Burton Cross Building 111 Sewall St., 4th Floor Augusta, ME
Mailing Address:	101 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0101
Phone Number:	207-624-7736
Fax Numbers:	207-287-5428
E-mail:	cec.elections@maine.gov
Municipal Clerks:	https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html



How do I register to vote?

[Link to Register](#)

[Link to Statutes](#)

[21-A §111. General qualifications](#)

A person who meets the following requirements may vote in any election in a municipality, including a biennial municipal caucus held pursuant to section 311.

1. Citizenship. The person must be a citizen of the United States.
2. Age. The person must be at least 18 years of age, except that, to vote in a political party's primary election or municipal caucus, the person must be at least 18 years of age as of the date of the next general election.
3. Residence. The person must have established and maintain a voting residence in that municipality.
4. Registration. The person must be registered to vote in that municipality.



How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Link to Municipal Clerks](#)

[Link to Statutes](#)

Contact the municipal clerk to request cancellation of your voter registration.

How is voter list maintenance handled?

§161. Responsibilities of registrar

2-A. Maintenance of voter registration information. The registrar in each municipality shall keep the central voter registration system current at all times for the voters in the registrar's municipality. The Secretary of State is authorized to conduct maintenance of the central voter registration system. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules for conducting voter list maintenance required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 20A. A registrar may not cancel a voter's registration in the central voter registration system solely because the registered voter did not vote in previous elections. A voter's registration record in the central voter registration system must be cancelled by either the registrar for the voter's municipality or by the Secretary of State as follows:

A. When it is determined that a voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction in the State, the voter registration record from the former jurisdiction must be cancelled; and

B. When it is determined that the voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction outside of the State, the voter registration record in the State must be cancelled.

2-B. Information sharing with other states. The Secretary of State shall contract with a nonprofit corporation of member states for periodic sharing of voter registration information, including information on names and addresses of voters in member states. The Secretary of State shall periodically update the central voter registration system based on the information obtained from the nonprofit corporation of member states.

4. Proof of qualification is requested. If the registrar is in doubt as to the qualifications of a person to vote, the registrar shall fix a reasonable time and place for a hearing and give written notice of the hearing to the voter at the last known address provided by the voter at least 20 days in advance. The voter must have the opportunity to testify and to present witnesses and other evidence at the hearing. The voter may respond in person or in writing with proof of qualifications prior to the date of the hearing. After the hearing, the registrar shall determine whether the voter has met the voting qualifications and shall act accordingly. If the voter offers satisfactory proof of qualifications to the registrar, either prior to or at the hearing, the registrar may not cancel the voter's registration in the central voter registration system. If the voter fails to offer satisfactory proof of qualifications to the registrar, either prior to or at the hearing, the registrar may cancel the voter's registration in the central voter registration system. If the voter fails to appear at the hearing and the registrar has proof that the voter does not meet the qualifications, the registrar may cancel the voter's registration in the central voter registration system. The registrar shall notify the voter, in writing, of the action taken and advise the voter of the appropriate appeal authority as specified in this Title. If the registrar decides to cancel the voter's registration in the central voter registration system after the hearing and a municipal or state election occurs before the cancelled voter has exhausted all appeals, then the voter remains in the central voter registration system for the election and may cast a challenged ballot.

5. Record of names added and cancelled. The registrar shall keep a record of the names added to or the registrations cancelled in the central voter registration system and the date when the action was taken.

§162-A. Change of address confirmation notice

The following provisions govern the change of address confirmation notice and procedures for updating a voter's status in the central voter registration system.

1. Change of address confirmation notice. Except as provided in section 122, subsection 3, a registrar, or the Secretary of State when conducting maintenance of the central voter registration system, shall send by forwardable mail a change of address confirmation notice, with a postage prepaid and preaddressed return notice, to the last known place of residence of each person the registrar or the Secretary of State has identified as having a change of address. If a registrant has moved within the municipality's jurisdiction, a registrar shall change the voter's record to reflect the new address before sending the change of address confirmation notice. If a registrant has moved outside the municipality's jurisdiction, a registrar shall also include information on voter registration procedures in the new jurisdiction.
2. Change of voter's status. A voter's registration may be cancelled in the central voter registration system if the voter confirms that the voter has moved from the municipality's jurisdiction. If a voter fails to respond to the change of address confirmation notice, the voter must be designated on the incoming voting list and in the central voter registration system as inactive. A voter who has been designated as inactive and fails to vote for the next 2 general elections must be cancelled in the central voter registration system. If a voter who is designated as inactive votes at any election prior to cancellation in the central voter registration system, the inactive designation of the voter must be changed to active. Address verification may be requested at the polls before allowing a voter designated as inactive to vote. Cancellation of a voter's registration record in the central voter registration system pursuant to this subsection may be performed by either the registrar for the voter's municipality or the Secretary of State.

§152. Registration and enrollment procedure

3. Failure to qualify. The registrar of voters may investigate any application under this section and reject the voter's application for failure to meet a voting qualification under this Title, after written notice to the voter to the last known address provided by the voter.

[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 Statuses	
Active - the registration application has been accepted and the voter’s information has been entered into the central voter registration system.	§122
Inactive - If a voter fails to respond to the change of address confirmation notice, the voter must be designated on the incoming voting list and in the central voter registration system as inactive. Address verification may be requested at the polls before allowing a voter designated as inactive to vote.	§162-A.
Canceled - If the registrar is in doubt as to the qualifications of a person to vote, the registrar shall fix a reasonable time and place for a hearing and give written notice of the hearing to the voter at the last known address provided by the voter at least 20 days in advance. If the voter fails to offer satisfactory proof of qualifications to the registrar, either prior to or at the hearing, the registrar may cancel the voter's registration in the central voter registration system.	§161

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

In compliance with section 402 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the Secretary of State has also established an administrative complaint procedure to resolve alleged violations of Title III of HAVA. The new process established by rule is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the more expedient process of resolving election complaints informally by communicating directly with local or state election officials. Individuals wishing to file a complaint under the administrative complaint procedure must complete the [Administrative Complaint Procedure Complaint Form](#).

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Process](#)

Any individual with a question regarding the conduct of elections in Maine, may contact the clerk or registrar of voters in their municipality to either obtain election information or make a complaint about an election issue. Many questions or complaints are resolved at the local level. Individuals may also direct inquiries and complaints to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office at cec.elections@maine.gov or 207-624-7650.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Department of the Secretary of State	
Physical Address:	Elections Division Department of the Secretary of State Burton M. Cross Building 111 Sewall Street, 4th Floor Augusta, ME 04333
Mailing Address:	Elections Division Department of the Secretary of State 101 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0101
Phone Number:	207-624-7650
Fax Number:	207-287-5428
E-mail:	cec.elections@maine.gov
Municipal Clerks:	https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/

Office of the Maine Attorney General	
Mailing Address:	6 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333
Phone Number:	207-626-8800
E-mail:	attorney.general@maine.gov