

Arizona

Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide

Provided by



Disclaimer: This is a guide to Arizona's laws relating to voter registration and voter list maintenance.

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Who can I contact with election related questions?

CHIEF STATE ELECTION OFFICER:
SECRETARY OF STATE

Physical Address:

Office of the Secretary of State
1700 W Washington St, Floor 7
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Mailing Address:

Division of Elections
1700 W Washington St, Floor 7
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2888

Phone Number:

602-542-8683

Email Address:

sosadmin@azsos.gov

Website:

<https://azsos.gov/elections>

How do I register to vote?

[Link to register to vote](#)

[A.R.S. § 16-101. Qualifications of registrant; definition](#)

- A. Every resident of this state is qualified to register to vote if the resident:
1. Is a citizen of the United States and has provided satisfactory evidence of citizenship as prescribed in section 16-166.
 2. Will be eighteen years of age or more on or before the date of the regular general election next following his registration.
 3. Is a resident of this state twenty-nine days next preceding the election, except as provided in section 16-126.
 4. Is able to write the resident's name or make the resident's mark, unless prevented from so doing by physical disability.
 5. Has not been convicted of treason or a felony, unless restored to civil rights.
 6. Has not been adjudicated an incapacitated person as defined in section 14-5101.

How do I cancel my voter registration?

If you wish to cancel your Arizona voter registration, [contact your local County Recorder's office](#) for instructions.

[A.R.S. § 16-165. Causes for cancellation; report](#)

- A. The county recorder shall cancel a registration:
1. At the request of the person registered.

How is voter list maintenance handled?

A.R.S. § 16-165. Causes for cancellation; report

A. The county recorder shall cancel a registration:

1. At the request of the person registered.
2. When the county recorder is informed and confirms that the person registered is dead.
3. If the person has been adjudicated an incapacitated person as defined in section 14-5101.
4. When the person registered has been convicted of a felony, and the judgment of conviction has not been reversed or set aside. The county recorder shall cancel the registration on receipt of notice of a felony conviction from the court or from the secretary of state or when reported by the elector on a signed juror questionnaire that is completed pursuant to section 21-314.
5. On production of a certified copy of a judgment directing a cancellation to be made.
6. Promptly after the election if the person registered has applied for a ballot pursuant to section 16-126.
7. When a person has been on the inactive voter list and has not voted during the time periods prescribed in section 16-166, subsection C.
8. When the county recorder receives written information from the person registered that the person has a change of residence within the county and the person does not complete and return a new registration form within twenty-nine days after the county recorder mails notification of the need to complete and return a new registration form with current information.
9. When the county recorder receives written information from the person registered that the person has a change of address outside the county, including when the county recorder either:
 - a. Receives a form from the person pursuant to subsection E of this section on which the person has confirmed that the person is not a resident of this state.
 - b. Receives a summary report from the jury commissioner or jury manager pursuant to section 21-314 indicating that the person has stated that the person is not a resident of the county. Before the county recorder cancels a registration pursuant to this subdivision, the county recorder shall send the person notice by forwardable mail and a postage prepaid preaddressed return form requesting the person confirm by signing under penalty of perjury that the person is a resident of the county and is not knowingly registered to vote in another county or another state.

A.R.S. § 16-165. CONTINUED

The notice shall inform the person that failure to return the form within thirty-five days will result in the person's registration being canceled. If the person fails to return the notice within thirty-five days the county recorder shall cancel the person's registration.

10. When the county recorder obtains information pursuant to this section and confirms that the person registered is not a United States citizen, including when the county recorder receives a summary report from the jury commissioner or jury manager pursuant to section 21-314 indicating that a person who is registered to vote has stated that the person is not a United States citizen. Before the county recorder cancels a registration pursuant to this paragraph, the county recorder shall send the person notice by forwardable mail that the person's registration will be canceled in thirty-five days unless the person provides satisfactory evidence of United States citizenship pursuant to section 16-166. The notice shall include a list of documents the person may provide and a postage prepaid preaddressed return envelope. If the person registered does not provide satisfactory evidence within thirty-five days, the county recorder shall cancel the registration and notify the county attorney and attorney general for possible investigation.

11. When the county recorder receives confirmation from another county recorder that the person registered has registered to vote in that other county.

B. If the county recorder receives credible information that a person has registered to vote in a different county, the county recorder shall confirm the person's voter registration with that other county and, on confirmation, shall cancel the person's registration pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 11 of this section.

C. If the county recorder cancels a registration pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 8 of this section, the county recorder shall send the person notice that the registration has been canceled and a registration form with the information described in section 16-131, subsection C attached to the form.

D. When proceedings in the superior court or the United States district court result in a person being declared incapable of taking care of himself and managing his property, and for whom a guardian of the person and estate is appointed, result in such person being committed as an insane person or result in a person being convicted of a felony, the clerk of the superior court in the county in which those proceedings occurred shall file with the secretary of state an official notice of that fact. The secretary of state shall notify the appropriate county recorder and the recorder shall cancel the name of the person on the register.

A.R.S. § 16-165. CONTINUED

Such a notice shall name the person covered, shall give the person's date and place of birth if available, the person's social security number, if available, the person's usual place of residence, the person's address and the date of the notice, and shall be filed with the recorder of the county where the person last resided.

E. Each month the department of health services shall transmit to the secretary of state without charge a record of the death of every resident of the state reported to the department within the preceding month. This record shall include only the name of the decedent, the decedent's date of birth, the decedent's date of death, the decedent's social security number, if available, the decedent's usual legal residence at the time of death and, if available, the decedent's father's name or mother's maiden name. The secretary of state shall use the record for the sole purpose of canceling the names of deceased persons from the statewide voter registration database. In addition, the department of health services shall annually provide to the secretary of state from the statewide electronic death registration system without charge a record of all deaths of residents of this state that are reported to the department of health services. The records transmitted by the department of health services shall include only the name of the decedent, the decedent's date of birth, the decedent's social security number, if available, the decedent's usual legal residence at the time of death and, if available, the decedent's father's name or mother's maiden name. The secretary of state shall compare the records of deaths with the statewide voter registration database. Public access to the records is prohibited. Use of information from the records for purposes other than those required by this section is prohibited. The name of each deceased person shall promptly be canceled from the statewide voter registration database and the secretary of state shall notify the appropriate county recorder and the recorder shall cancel the name of the person from the register.

F. Each month the department of transportation shall furnish to the secretary of state without charge a list of persons who the department has been notified have been issued a driver license or the equivalent of an Arizona nonoperating identification license in another state. Within ten days after receiving the list of persons from the department of transportation, the secretary of state shall provide to the appropriate county recorder a list of registered voters in that county who have been issued a driver license or the equivalent of an Arizona nonoperating identification license in another state.

A.R.S. § 16-165. CONTINUED

The county recorder shall promptly send notice by forwardable mail to each person who has obtained a driver license or the equivalent of an Arizona nonoperating identification license in another state and a postage prepaid preaddressed return form requesting the person confirm by signing under penalty of perjury that the person is a resident of this state and is not knowingly registered to vote in another state or confirm that the person is not a resident of this state. The notice shall inform the person that failure to return the form within ninety days will result in the person's registration being placed in inactive status. If the person returns the form within ninety days confirming that the person is a resident of this state, the county recorder shall maintain the registration in active status. If the person fails to return the form within ninety days, the county recorder shall place the person's registration in inactive status.

G. Each month the secretary of state shall compare the statewide voter registration database to the driver license database maintained by the department of transportation. The secretary of state shall notify the appropriate county recorder if a person who is registered to vote in that county has changed the person's residence address or is not a United States citizen.

H. To the extent practicable, each month the county recorder shall compare the county's voter registration database to the social security administration database.

I. To the extent practicable, each month the county recorder shall compare persons who are registered to vote in that county and who the county recorder has reason to believe are not United States citizens and persons who are registered to vote without satisfactory evidence of citizenship as prescribed by section 16-166 with the systematic alien verification for entitlements program maintained by the United States citizenship and immigration services to verify the citizenship status of the persons registered.

J. For persons who are registered to vote without satisfactory evidence of citizenship as prescribed in section 16-166, the county recorder shall compare the electronic verification of vital events system maintained by a national association for public health statistics and information systems, if accessible, with the information on the person's voter registration file.

K. To the extent practicable, the county recorder shall review relevant city, town, county, state and federal databases to which the county recorder has access to confirm information obtained that requires cancellation of registrations pursuant to this section.

A.R.S. § 16-165. CONTINUED

L. After canceling a registration pursuant to this section, the county recorder shall send a notice by forwardable mail informing the person that the person's registration has been canceled, the reason for cancellation, the qualifications of electors pursuant to section 16-101 and instructions on registering to vote if the person is qualified.

M. The secretary of state shall report the following information to the legislature at the end of each quarter:

1. The number of deaths reported to the secretary of state by the department of health services, the number of voter registration cancellation notices issued by the secretary of state to the county recorders as a result of those reports and the number of registrations canceled as a result of those notices.
2. The number of persons reported to the secretary of state who have been issued a driver license or the equivalent of an Arizona nonoperating identification license in another state, the number of notices sent pursuant to subsection E of this section and the number of voter registrations that have been placed in inactive status and the number of voter registrations that have been canceled as a result of those notices.
3. The number of persons who have stated on a jury questionnaire that the person is not a United States citizen, the number of notices sent pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 10 of this section and the number of registrations that have been canceled as a result of those notices.
4. The number of persons who have stated on a jury questionnaire that the person is not a resident of the county, the number of notices sent pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 9, subdivision (b) of this section and the number of registrations that have been canceled as a result of those notices.
5. The number of registrations on the inactive voter list that have been canceled pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 7 of this section.

A.R.S. § 16-166. Verification of registration

A. Except for the mailing of sample ballots, a county recorder who mails an item to any elector shall send the mailing by nonforwardable first class mail marked with the statement required by the postmaster to receive an address correction notification. If the item is returned undelivered, the county recorder shall send a follow-up notice to that elector within three weeks of receipt of the returned notice. The county recorder shall send the follow-up notice to the address that appears in the general county register or to the forwarding address provided by the United States postal service.

A.R.S. § 16-166. CONTINUED

The follow-up notice shall include an appropriate internet address for revising voter registration information or a registration form and the information prescribed by section 16-131, subsection C and shall state that if the elector does not complete and return a new registration form with current information to the county recorder or make changes to the elector's voter registration information that is maintained online within thirty-five days, the elector's registration status shall be changed from active to inactive.

B. If the elector provides the county recorder with a new registration form or otherwise revises the elector's information, the county recorder shall change the general register to reflect the changes indicated on the new registration. If the elector indicates a new residence address outside that county, the county recorder shall forward the voter registration form or revised information to the county recorder of the county in which the elector's address is located. If the elector provides a new residence address that is located outside this state, the county recorder shall cancel the elector's registration.

C. The county recorder shall maintain on the inactive voter list the names of electors who have been removed from the general register pursuant to subsection A or E of this section for a period of four years or through the date of the second general election for federal office following the date of the notice from the county recorder that is sent pursuant to subsection E of this section.

D. On notice that a government agency has changed the name of any street, route number, post office box number or other address designation, the county recorder shall revise the registration records and shall send a new verification of registration notice to the electors whose records were changed.

E. The county recorder on or before May 1 of each year preceding a state primary and general election or more frequently as the recorder deems necessary may use the change of address information supplied by the postal service through its licensees and the information provided by an electronic voter registration information center to identify registrants whose addresses may have changed. If it appears from information provided by the postal service or an electronic voter registration information center that a registrant has moved to a different residence address, the county recorder shall send the registrant a notice of the change by forwardable mail and a postage prepaid preaddressed return form or an appropriate internet address for revising voter registration information by which the registrant may verify or correct the registration information. If the registrant fails to revise the information or return the form postmarked not later than thirty-five days after the mailing of the notice, the elector's registration status shall be changed from active to inactive. If the notice sent by the recorder is not returned, the registrant may be required to provide affirmation or confirmation of the registrant's address in order to vote.

A.R.S. § 16-166. CONTINUED

If the registrant does not vote in an election during the period after the date of the notice from the recorder through the date of the second general election for federal office following the date of that notice, the registrant's name shall be removed from the list of inactive voters. If the registrant has changed residence to a new county, the county recorder shall provide information on how the registrant can continue to be eligible to vote.

F. The county recorder shall reject any application for registration that is not accompanied by satisfactory evidence of United States citizenship. Satisfactory evidence of citizenship shall include any of the following:

1. The number of the applicant's driver license or nonoperating identification license issued after October 1, 1996 by the department of transportation or the equivalent governmental agency of another state within the United States if the agency indicates on the applicant's driver license or nonoperating identification license that the person has provided satisfactory proof of United States citizenship.
2. A legible photocopy of the applicant's birth certificate that verifies citizenship to the satisfaction of the county recorder.
3. A legible photocopy of pertinent pages of the applicant's United States passport identifying the applicant and the applicant's passport number or presentation to the county recorder of the applicant's United States passport.
4. A presentation to the county recorder of the applicant's United States naturalization documents or the number of the certificate of naturalization. If only the number of the certificate of naturalization is provided, the applicant shall not be included in the registration rolls until the number of the certificate of naturalization is verified with the United States immigration and naturalization service by the county recorder.
5. Other documents or methods of proof that are established pursuant to the immigration reform and control act of 1986.
6. The applicant's bureau of Indian affairs card number, tribal treaty card number or tribal enrollment number.

G. Notwithstanding subsection F of this section, any person who is registered in this state on the effective date of this amendment to this section is deemed to have provided satisfactory evidence of citizenship and shall not be required to resubmit evidence of citizenship unless the person is changing voter registration from one county to another.

H. For the purposes of this section, proof of voter registration from another state or county is not satisfactory evidence of citizenship.

A.R.S. § 16-166. CONTINUED

I. A person who modifies voter registration records with a new residence ballot shall not be required to submit evidence of citizenship. After citizenship has been demonstrated to the county recorder, the person is not required to resubmit satisfactory evidence of citizenship in that county.

J. After a person has submitted satisfactory evidence of citizenship, the county recorder shall indicate this information in the person's permanent voter file. After two years the county recorder may destroy all documents that were submitted as evidence of citizenship.

Challenging an Elector

[A.R.S. § 16-591. Grounds for challenging an elector.](#)

Any qualified elector of the county may orally challenge a person offering to vote as not qualified under section 16-121.01 or on the ground that the person has voted before at that election.

[A.R.S. § 16-552. Early ballots; processing; challenges.](#)

D. An early ballot may be challenged on any grounds set forth in section 16-591. All challenges shall be made in writing with a brief statement of the grounds before the early ballot is placed in the ballot box. A record of all challenges and resulting proceedings shall be kept in substantially the same manner as provided in section 16-594. If an early ballot is challenged, it shall be set aside and retained in the possession of the early election board or other officer in charge of early ballot processing until a time that the early election board sets for determination of the challenge, subject to the procedure in subsection E of this section, at which time the early election board shall hear the grounds for the challenge and shall decide what disposition shall be made of the early ballot by majority vote. If the early ballot is not allowed, it shall be handled pursuant to subsection G of 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 [Department of Justice website](#).

List of voter registration statuses and their definitions

Registration Status	Statute
<p>Active - If the minimum requirements have been met, the form should be processed and the registrant should be entered into the voter registration database in an "active" status if they otherwise meet the requirements for registration.</p>	<p>Arizona Elections Procedures Manual; A.R.S. § 16-121.01(A)</p>
<p>Inactive - If it appears from information provided by the postal service or an electronic voter registration information center that a registrant has moved to a different residence address, the county recorder shall send the registrant a notice of the change ... If the registrant fails to revise the information or return the form postmarked not later than thirty-five days after the mailing of the notice, the elector's registration status shall be changed from active to inactive.</p>	<p>Arizona Elections Procedures Manual; A.R.S. § 16-166(E)</p>
<p>Canceled - After canceling a registration pursuant to this section, the county recorder shall send a notice by forwardable mail informing the person that the person's registration has been canceled, the reason for cancellation, the qualifications of electors pursuant to section 16-101 and instructions on registering to vote if the person is qualified.</p>	<p>A.R.S. § 16-165(L)</p>
<p>Suspense - The registration form is incomplete, but the County Recorder has information to contact the registrant to request the incomplete information.</p>	<p>Arizona Elections Procedures Manual</p>
<p>Not Registered - If the minimum requirements on a registration form have not been met and the County Recorder has no reasonable means to contact the registrant.</p>	<p>Arizona Elections Procedures Manual</p>
<p>Not Eligible - Registrant does not meet age / citizenship requirement to vote</p>	<p>Arizona Elections Procedures Manual</p>

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to HAVA Complaint Form](#)

Access the Election Administrative Complaint Form and type or print all information on the form. You may also indicate if you wish the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing on the record. The form must be notarized and returned within sixty days from the date of the alleged violation. Completed forms should be mailed to: Election Services Division, 1700 W. Washington, 7th Fl., Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to non-HAVA Election Complaint Process](#)

[Link to non-HAVA Election Complaint Form](#)

To expedite an investigation as much as possible, please provide as much specific information as you can about the alleged violations, such as the dates and times of events, the people present, and the content of any conversations; this should include the name and contact information for other witnesses who are willing to provide evidence about the alleged violations. Also, please include any documents, photographs, videos, or other evidence that support your allegations.

If you are one of a group of people interested in filing a complaint, please select one person to file a complaint and attach written statements from the remaining complainants.

If you do not have direct, first-hand evidence of a violation of Arizona election law, but would like to submit election-related comments or concerns to the Unit, or if you have a general elections-related inquiry, please send general concern emails to EIU@AZAG.gov.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State, Division of Elections

Physical Address:

Office of the Secretary of State
1700 W Washington St, Fl 7
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2808

Mailing Address:

Division of Elections
1700 W Washington St, Fl 7
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2808

Phone Number:

602-542-8683

Email Address:

elections@azsos.gov

Website:

<https://azsos.gov/elections>

Office of the Attorney General

Physical Address:

Arizona Attorney General
2005 N Central Avenue, 6th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Mailing Address:

Elections Integrity Unit
2005 N Central Avenue, Fl 6
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Phone Number:

602-542-5025

Email Address:

EIU@AZAG.gov

Online Address:

<https://www.azag.gov/complaints/election>