

# General Instructions

## Who Can Use this Application

If you are a U.S. citizen who lives or has an address within the United States, you can use the application in this booklet to:

- Register to vote in your State,
- Report a change of name to your voter registration office,
- Report a change of address to your voter registration office, or
- Register with a political party.

## Exceptions

Please do not use this application if you live outside the United States and its territories and have no home (legal) address in this country, *or* if you are in the military stationed away from home. Use the Federal Postcard Application available to you from military bases, American embassies, or consular offices.

**New Hampshire** town and city clerks will accept this application only as a request for their own absentee voter mail-in registration form.

**North Dakota** does not have voter registration.

**Wyoming** law does not permit mail registration.

## How to Find Out If You Are Eligible to Register to Vote in Your State

Each State has its own laws about who may register and vote. Check the information under your State in the State Instructions.

*Note:* All States require that you be a United States citizen by birth or naturalization to register to vote in federal and State elections. Federal law makes it illegal to falsely claim U.S. citizenship to register to vote in any federal, State, or local election.

*Also Note:* You **cannot** be registered to vote in more than one place at a time.

## How to Fill Out this Application

Use both the Application Instructions and State Instructions to guide you in filling out the application.

First, read the Application Instructions. These instructions will give you important information that applies to everyone using this application.

Next, find your State under the State Instructions. Use these instructions to fill out Boxes 6, 7, and 8. Also refer to these instructions for information about voter eligibility and any oath required for Box 9.

## When to Register to Vote

Each State has its own deadline for registering to vote. Check the deadline for your State on the last page of this booklet.

## How to Submit Your Application

Mail your application to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. Or, deliver the application in person to your local voter registration office.

The remaining States that accept the national form will accept copies of the application printed from the computer image on regular paper stock, signed by the applicant, and mailed in an envelope with the correct postage.

## First Time Voters Who Register by Mail

If you are registering to vote for the first time in your jurisdiction and are mailing this registration application, you may be required to provide proof of identification the first time you vote.

Depending on the specific requirements of your State, you may avoid providing identification at the polls when you vote for the first time by mailing a copy of an identification document together with this application. The list of acceptable documents is included in the State Instructions.

**Do not include original documents with this application.**

**Please read the accompanying State Instructions to determine the voter identification requirements for your State.**

## If You Were Given this Application in a State Agency or Public Office

If you have been given this application in a State agency or public office, it is your choice to use the application or not.

If you decide to use this application to register to vote, you can fill it out and leave it with the State agency or public office. The application will be submitted for you. Or, you can take it with you to mail to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. You also may take it with you to deliver in person to your local voter registration office.

*Note:* The name and location of the State agency or public office where you received the application will remain confidential. It will not appear on your application. Also, if you decide not to use this application to register to vote, that decision will remain confidential. It will not affect the service you receive from the agency or office.

# Application Instructions

Before filling out the body of the form, please answer the questions on the top of the form as to whether you are a United States citizen and whether you will be 18 years old on or before election day. If you answer no to either of these questions, you may not use this form to register to vote. However, state specific instructions may provide additional information on eligibility to register to vote prior to age 18.

## Box 1 — Name

Put in this box your full name in this order — Last, First, Middle. Do not use nicknames or initials.

*Note:* If this application is for a change of name, please tell us in **Box A** (*on the bottom half of the form*) your full name before you changed it.

## Box 2 — Home Address

Put in this box your home address (legal address). Do **not** put your mailing address here if it is different from your home address. Do **not** use a post office box or rural route without a box number. Refer to state-specific instructions for rules regarding use of route numbers.

*Note:* If you were registered before *but* this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, please tell us in **Box B** (*on the bottom half of the form*) the address where you were registered before. Please give us as much of the address as you can remember.

*Also Note:* If you live in a rural area but do not have a street address, or if you have no address, please show where you live using the map in **Box C** (*at the bottom of the form*).

## Box 3 — Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address that is different from the address in Box 2, put your mailing address in this box.

*Note:* If you have no address in Box 2, you **must** write in Box 3 an address where you can be reached by mail.

## Box 4 — Date of Birth

Put in this box your date of birth in this order — Month, Day, Year. *Be careful not to use today's date!*

## Box 5 — Telephone Number

Most States ask for your telephone number in case there are questions about your application. However, you do **not** have to fill in this box.

## Box 6 — ID Number

Federal law requires that states collect from each registrant an identification number. You must refer to your state's specific instructions for item 6 regarding information on what number is acceptable for your state. If you have neither a drivers license nor a social security number, please indicate this on the form and a number will be assigned to you by your state.

## Box 7 — Choice of Party

In some States, you must register with a party if you want to take part in that party's primary election, caucus, or convention. To find out if your State requires this, see item 7 in the instructions under your State.

If you want to register with a party, print in the box the full name of the party of your choice.

If you do **not** want to register with a party, write "no party" or leave the box blank. Do **not** write in the word "independent" if you mean "no party," because this might be confused with the name of a political party in your State.

*Note:* If you do not register with a party, you can still vote in general elections and nonpartisan (nonparty) primary elections.

## Box 8 — Race or Ethnic Group

A few States ask for your race or ethnic group, in order to administer the Federal Voting Rights Act. To find out if your State asks for this information, see item 8 in the instructions under your State. If so, put in Box 8 the choice that best describes you from the list below:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black, *not of* Hispanic Origin
- Hispanic
- Multi-racial
- White, *not of* Hispanic Origin
- Other

## Box 9 — Signature

Review the information in item 9 in the instructions under your State. Before you sign or make your mark, make sure that:

- (1) You meet your State's requirements, and
- (2) You understand **all** of Box 9.

Finally, sign your **full** name or make your mark, and print today's date in this order — Month, Day, Year.

If the applicant is unable to sign, put in **Box D** the name, address, and telephone number (optional) of the person who helped the applicant.

# State Instructions

## California

**Registration Deadline** — 15 days before the election.

**6. ID Number** When you register to vote, you must provide your California driver's license or California identification card number, if you have one. If you do not have a driver's license or ID card, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN). If you do not include this information, you will be required to provide identification when you vote.

**7. Choice of Party.** Please enter the name of the political party with which you wish to register. If you do not wish to register with any party, enter "Decline to State" in the space provided.

California law allows voters who "decline to state" an affiliation with a qualified political party or who affiliate with a nonqualified political party to vote in the primary election of any qualified political party that files a notice with the Secretary of State allowing them to do so. You can call 1-800-345-VOTE or visit [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov) to learn which political parties are allowing nonaffiliated voters to participate in their primary election.

**8. Race or Ethnic Group.** Leave blank.

**9. Signature.** To register in California you must:

- be a citizen of the United States
  - be a resident of California
  - be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election
  - not be imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony
  - not currently be judged mentally incompetent by a court of law
- Signature is required. If you meet the requirements listed above, please sign and date the registration card in the space provided.

### Attention: Proof of Voter Identification

*(Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002)*

#### Voting in person:

- A first-time voter who registers by mail must present to the appropriate state or local election official:
  - 1) a current and valid photo identification; or

- 2) a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

#### Voting by mail:

- A first-time voter who registers by mail must submit a **COPY** of one of the following documents with his or her absentee ballot:

- 1) current and valid photo identification; **OR**
- 2) current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

#### For Those Who Register by Mail:

Persons who register to vote by mail and submit a driver's license number that the state or local election official can match with an existing state identification record will not be required to provide identification when they vote. Additionally, voters will not be required to provide identification when they vote if they are: (i) provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act; or (ii) entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other Federal law.

These identification requirements only apply to elections in which there is a federal office on the ballot. If you do not provide proof of identification, you may cast a provisional ballot.

#### Mailing address:

Secretary of State  
Elections Division  
1500 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

For faster processing mail this national voter registration form directly to your local county elections official.

[Click here for the address!](#)

# Voter Registration Application

**Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.**

|  |   |                                 |               |   |                                 |   |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br>Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><b>If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form.</b><br>(Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.) |   | This space for office use only. |               |   |                                 |   |
| <b>1</b>   | (Circle one)<br>Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.   | Last Name                       | First Name    | Middle Name(s)  | (Circle one)<br>Jr Sr II III IV |   |
| <b>2</b>   | Home Address  |                                 | Apt. or Lot # | City/Town   | State                           | Zip Code  |
| <b>3</b>   | Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above   |                                 |               | City/Town   | State                           | Zip Code  |
| <b>4</b>   | Date of Birth<br>____ / ____ / ____<br>Month Day Year   |                                 | <b>5</b>      | Telephone Number (optional)   |                                 | <b>6</b><br>ID Number - (See Item 6 in the instructions for your state) |
| <b>7</b>   | Choice of Party<br>(see item 7 in the instructions for your State)  |                                 | <b>8</b>      | Race or Ethnic Group<br>(see item 8 in the instructions for your State)         |                                 |   |
| <b>9</b>   | I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that:<br><input type="checkbox"/> I am a United States citizen<br><input type="checkbox"/> I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required.<br><input type="checkbox"/> The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States. |                                 |               | _____<br>Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲<br>Date: _____<br>Month Day Year |                                 |   |

**If you are registering to vote for the first time:** please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

## Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

|          |                   |           |            |                |                                 |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> | Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. | Last Name | First Name | Middle Name(s) | (Circle one)<br>Jr Sr II III IV |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------|

If you were **registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2**, what was your address where you were registered before?

|          |                                  |               |                  |       |          |
|----------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| <b>B</b> | Street (or route and box number) | Apt. or Lot # | City/Town/County | State | Zip Code |
|----------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------|----------|

If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

|                 |   |                 |          |                 |  |  |                |                 |  |   |  |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|----------|-----------------|--|--|----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| <b>C</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live.</li> <li>■ Draw an <b>X</b> to show where you live.</li> <li>■ Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.</li> </ul>  | NORTH ▲         |          |                 |  |  |                |                 |  |   |  |
|                 | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Example</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">Route #2</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">● Grocery Store</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Woodchuck Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Public School ●</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> </table> | Example         | Route #2 | ● Grocery Store |  |  | Woodchuck Road | Public School ● |  | X |  |
| Example         | Route #2  | ● Grocery Store |          |                 |  |  |                |                 |  |   |  |
|                 |   | Woodchuck Road  |          |                 |  |  |                |                 |  |   |  |
| Public School ● |   | X               |          |                 |  |  |                |                 |  |   |  |

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>D</b> |  |
|----------|--|

**Mail this application to the address provided for your State.**

