



A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under Ohio Law

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

- In Ohio, an individual may become a registered voter if she is:
- A United States citizen and resident of Ohio at least 30 days before the election.
- At least 18 years of age on the day of a general election,
- Not a convicted felon (or, if so, has civil rights restored);
- Not under a judgment of mental incompetence;
- Not claiming a right to vote in another state;
- Registered in the precinct in which she desires to vote;
- Registered at least 30 days before the election;
- Has the qualifications of an elector and may vote at all elections in the precinct in which the citizen resides.

Registration closes 30 days before the election to seven days after.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION?

In Ohio, the registration application is designed by the State Board of Elections and distributed to the county boards. A complete registration application contains the following voter information:

- Name;
- Complete residential address, including county;
- Date of birth.
- Driver's license number
- If no driver's license, the State ID number or the last four digits of Social Security Number;
- If registrant has none of above numbers, must write "none" in appropriate box,
- Signature or mark attesting to voter's eligibility.

WHAT ARE THE STATE RULES GOVERNING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES?

A. *Are there restrictions on copying completed voter registration applications prior to submitting them to the registrar?*

Yes, third party registration agents are required to return completed voter registration applications to any county board of elections or the secretary of state within 10 days of receipts.

State laws required third party registration agents to register with the secretary of state, undergo online training, and put their organization's name and their personal name and address on the registration application are not enforced because they have been enjoined by the United District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Felony penalties for breaking these laws have also been enjoined from enforcement.

B. *Are voter registration groups subject to time limits for submitting the voter registration applications they have collected?*

Yes, they must return completed registration forms to the secretary of state or ANY county board of elections within 10 days. They do not have to be returned to the county board of elections in which the applicant resides.

C. *Are voter registration groups prohibited from putting identifying marks on completed voter registration applications?*

No restrictions in Ohio laws or administrative rules.



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- D. Are there special rules requiring a third party to sign her name to the completed voter registration application?**
No, the Ohio law requiring a signature is subject to a court injunction against enforcement. If the applicant signs the registration application with a mark, it must be witnessed by two people.
- E. Does the state require voter registration organizations to register or file other information detailing its voter registration activities?**
No. State law requiring registration is under a court injunction against enforcement.
- F. Does the state require any training in order to conduct a voter registration drive?**
No, State law requiring training is under a court injunction against enforcement.
- G. Does the state have restrictions on who may register voters?**
Yes, Ohio prohibits former felons from assisting others to register.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR CORRECTING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS?

- A. If a voter registration application is incomplete, may the voter registration drive write the missing information on the application with the consent of the applicant?**
There is no state law, rule or directive prohibiting a third party registration agent from filling out the information, although some county boards claim you may not change the form with consent from voter over the phone.

If the applicant is disabled and cannot fill out the form, the third party registration agent can fill it out for her at her request.
- B. How may an applicant correct an incomplete application after it has been submitted?**
The County Clerk's office will contact the applicant and request any missing information.

County Clerks send notice of the disposition of applications. If the application is not accepted because it is incomplete, the applicant can contact the County Clerk to provide any missing information. Counties also make telephone calls to applicants to fill in incomplete or illegible information. Ohio laws and administrative rules do not specifically address completing incomplete applications.

Disclaimer

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