



A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under Rhode Island Law

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

In Rhode Island, an individual may become a registered voter if she is:

- At least 18 years of age on the day of the election.
- A citizen of the United States for at least one month prior to the election.
- A resident of the of Rhode Island and the election district where she desires to vote for at least 30 days prior to the election.¹
- Not in jail or serving a sentence for conviction of any felony.²
- Not on parole or probation for conviction of any felony.
- Not under any suspended sentence, probation or parole – regardless of a nolo contendere plea – for any felony committed after November 5,1986. And
- Not presently judged “mentally incompetent” by a court of law.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION?

In Rhode Island, a complete voter registration application is judged against information that must be included on the federal voter registration form. As a result, at a minimum, the following information about the applicant must appear on the voter registration application in order for it to be processed:³

- Name
- Residence address
- Mailing address (if different from residence address)
- Date of birth
- Rhode Island Drivers License Number. If no Rhode Island Drivers License, then last four digits of social security number. If the voter has none of these ID numbers, she should check the “I do not have ID” box and the state will assign a unique ID number to the applicant)
- Signature or mark

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?

No.

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

No

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

Should not mark on the Registration Form itself because they are scanned. Can mark above the fold.

D. Are there special rules requiring a third party to sign her name to the completed voter registration application?

Yes. Every person who provides assistance in filling out the voter registration application must provide her name and address.⁴

¹ §17 – 1-3

² Article II of the Rhode Island Constitution limits felon rights

³ Instructions from Application

⁴ Instructions from Application



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- E. *Does the state require voter registration organizations to register or file other information detailing its voter registration activities?*
No.
- F. *Does the state require any training in order to conduct a voter registration drive?*
No
- G. *Does the state have restrictions on who may register voters?*
No.

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?*
Yes, so long as the registration worker has the applicant's consent to make the change.
- B. *How may an applicant correct an incomplete application after it has been submitted to county election officials?*
Can come into office or mail required information.

DISCLAIMER

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