



A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under South Carolina Law

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

In South Carolina, an individual may become a registered voter if she:

- Is a citizen of the United States.
- Is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election.
- Has resided in the municipality in which she offers to vote for thirty days next preceding the election. An individual who moves to another municipality within the 30 days before an election is not eligible to vote, as she must be registered before the book closing date.
- Is not mentally incompetent as adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- Is not serving a term of imprisonment resulting from a conviction of a crime; or is convicted of a felony or offenses against the election laws, but the disqualification has been removed by service of the sentence, including probation and parole time unless sooner pardoned.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION?¹

Without the following information an application will be rejected:

- Name
- Sex
- Race
- Social security number
- Date of birth
- Residence address
- Telephone number
- Location of prior voter registration is required for all previously registered voters. The applicant should fill in whatever information she knows about their location of previous registration, even if she cannot recall the entire address.
- The applicant must affirm that he is not under a court order declaring him mentally incompetent, confined in any public prison, has never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws, or if previously convicted that he has served his entire sentence, including probation and parole time, or has received a pardon for the conviction.
- Additionally, the applicant must take the following oath: "I, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States and that on the date of the next ensuing election, I will have attained the age of eighteen years and am a resident of South Carolina, this county, and of my precinct. I further swear (or affirm) that the present residence address listed herein is my sole legal place of residence and that I claim no other place as my legal residence."

The following information is optional:

- Mailing address (if the same as "address where you live")
- Diagram / inside city limits
- Pollworker information
- Date of application

The law requires any application to be rejected if:

- Any portion of the application is not complete
- Any portion of the application is illegible in the opinion of a member and the clerk of the board
- The board is unable to determine, from the address stated on the application, the precinct in which the voter should be assigned or the election districts in which he is entitled to vote. If a new voter provides a bad address their application will be rejected.

¹ Statute was clarified with insight from Chris Whitmire, Public Information Officer, SC Election Commission



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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?*
No.
- D. *Are there special rules requiring a third party to sign her name to the completed voter registration application?*
No.
- 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 work for a voter registration drive?*
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.
- B. *How may an applicant correct an incomplete application after it has been submitted to county election officials?*
Any person whose application is rejected must be notified of the rejection together with the reason for rejection. The applicant must further be informed that he still has a right to register by appearing in person before the board of registration or by submitting the information by mail necessary to correct his rejected application. The form for notifying applicants of rejection must be prescribed and provided by the State Election Commission pursuant to Section 7-5-180. The specific requirements for the applicant to complete that application vary according to county practices.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this document is for general guidance only. It should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional legal or other competent advisers. Project Vote is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from the use of this information.

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