



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Do I have to be registered to vote?**

- ❖ Yes, voter registration is required in Nebraska to be eligible to vote.
- ❖ The only exception is at a Presidential election for persons who have recently moved to Nebraska, or moved to another state after that state's registration deadline. They may vote a Presidential only ballot by contacting the county election official

## **What determines my eligibility to vote?**

To register to vote in Nebraska you must:

- ❖ Be a United States Citizen;
- ❖ Be at least 18 years of age on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November; (November 8, 2016)
- ❖ Live in the State of Nebraska;
- ❖ Have not been convicted of a felony, or if convicted, at least two (2) years have passed since the completion of your sentence for the felony including any parole term;
- ❖ Have not been officially found to be mentally incompetent.

## **Do I have to be a resident for a certain amount of time to register?**

- ❖ No, you may register to vote the same day you become a resident of the State of Nebraska.

### How is residence determined?

- ❖ By law, your residence is that place at which you have established a home, where you are habitually present, and to which, when you depart, you intend to return.
- ❖ Leaving for temporary purposes, such as military service, school attendance, hospital stays, or missions work need not result in a change of residence for voting purposes.
- ❖ However, any permanent change in your residence or address will require you to re-register to vote.

### How do I register to vote?

- ❖ You may register in person at the local County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office during normal business hours.
- ❖ You may also register by mail. A voter registration application filled in and printed at [www.sos.ne.gov/elec/pdf/vr-fillable.pdf](http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/pdf/vr-fillable.pdf) or [www.sos.ne.gov/elec/ele\\_forms.html](http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/ele_forms.html);
- ❖ If registering for the first time in Nebraska by mail, please provide a copy of a current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document which is dated within 60 days immediately prior to the date of presentation showing the same name and residence address provided on the voter registration application to avoid delays with your registration.
- ❖ In addition, you may register to vote through the state Department of Motor Vehicles when applying for or renewing your driver's license or at various other state agencies.
- ❖ You may also register through the state Department of Health and Human Services and State Department of Education at the time of application, review or change of address in connection with public programs.
- ❖ **You must sign your Voter Registration Application** before it is returned to your County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office.
- ❖ **\*\*NEW\*\*** Online Voter Registration at: [www.ne.gov/go/NEreg2vote](http://www.ne.gov/go/NEreg2vote)

### When is the last day to register to vote or make changes to my voter registration in order to vote this year?

- ❖ Mail-In voter registrations must be mailed and postmarked on or before the third Friday preceding an election. (**Primary**: April 22, 2016; **General**: October 21, 2016)
- ❖ Voter registrations delivered by personal messenger or personal agent must arrive on or before the third Friday preceding an election. (**Primary**: April 22, 2016; **General**: October 21, 2016)
- ❖ Individuals may register in person at the County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office prior to 6:00 P.M. on the second Friday preceding an election. (**Primary**: May 2, 2016; **General**: October 21, 2016)

### **Must I designate a party affiliation?**

- ❖ No, voters may choose from one of the four statewide parties currently recognized in Nebraska: Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian and or they may choose to not affiliate with any party by checking the non-partisan box on the application.
- ❖ If you wish to vote in the primary election, where parties choose their nominees for state and county offices, you need to declare your party affiliation.
- ❖ If you register without a political party affiliation, you will receive only the non-partisan ballots at a primary election.
- ❖ Non-partisans may designate a party preference at primary elections and receive partisan ballots for the Senate and House congressional races.
- ❖ Party designation has no bearing when voting a non-partisan ballot or in the general election.

### **Are there situations where I would need to re-register?**

You must re-register whenever you change:

- ❖ Your name,
- ❖ Your address, or
- ❖ Your political party affiliation.
- ❖ Failure to vote in a previous election does not require re-registration

### **Will I receive notice that my mail-in registration has been accepted and processed?**

- ❖ Yes, if you completed the form correctly and mailed it by the deadline (third Friday prior to the election), you will receive an acknowledgement from the election official that you are properly registered.
- ❖ If you are a first time registrant in Nebraska using the mail in application and did not provide copies of the ID requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> time mail in registrants, you will be notified of the need to do so.
- ❖ If you have questions on your registration, call you County Clerk/Election Commissioner at 1-308-534-4350 Ext 110.