

Voter Rolls and Voter Status Checks

Voter Rolls

A **voter roll** (or voter registration list) is a secure database maintained by election officials that contains the names and records of everyone eligible to vote in a jurisdiction.

- **What it includes:** It typically contains your name, residential address, mailing address, date of birth, and voting history (meaning *which* elections you voted in, not *how* you voted). Depending on the state, it may also list political party affiliation.
- **Why it matters:** When you show up to vote—either in person or by mail—election workers check your information against the voter roll to confirm your eligibility and hand you the correct ballot for your neighborhood.
- **How it stays accurate:** Officials regularly update or 'cleanse' these lists through a process called voter roll maintenance. This involves adding newly registered voters and removing people who have moved away, passed away, or otherwise become ineligible."

Texas Voter Roll Provide to the U.S. Department of Justice

Texas election officials have provided the state's voter registration records to the U.S. Department of Justice on December, 23, 2025, for database verification processes. While state leadership states that this action supports list maintenance and election administration, advocacy groups have raised questions regarding data privacy and the accuracy of automated matching systems."

Sources: NBC DFW, The Texas Tribune, Votebeat

Why It Matters

The law is clear that the DOJ does not have the authority to stockpile and share voters' sensitive personal data or purge them from state voter lists. The DOJ's demands not only run counter to states' authority to administer elections and maintain their voter rolls, they also risk voters' right to privacy and could subject millions of records to cyber threats.

Source: [Protect Democracy](#)

Voter Purging

What is a voter purge?

A voter purge is a routine cleanup of voter registration lists. By law, election officials must update these lists to remove people who have moved away, passed away, or become ineligible for other reasons.

Why does it matter to you?

Sometimes, these cleanups use flawed data or aggressive methods. This can cause **eligible, active voters** to be accidentally removed from the rolls without their knowledge. If you are purged, you may arrive at your polling place on Election Day only to find out you cannot cast a regular ballot.

How to protect your vote:

- **Check your status:** Regularly verify that you are actively registered to vote, especially as registration deadlines approach.
- **Update your info:** If you move or change your name, update your registration immediately.
- **Know your rights:** If you are told you aren't registered at the polls, ask for a provisional ballot and inquire about same-day registration options.

Key Reasons Why Knowing About Purges is Important

- **Preventing Election Day Surprises:** Discovering a registration issue at the polling place can lead to long delays or being turned away entirely. Checking early ensures time to fix errors.
- **Impact on Marginalized Communities:** Data shows that aggressive purges disproportionately affect low-income voters, students, mobile populations, and voters of color, who may move more frequently or share common surnames.
- **Strict Registration Deadlines:** Many states require voters to be registered weeks before an election. If a voter discovers they were mistakenly purged after the deadline, they may lose their right to vote in that election.

Voter Status Checks

Why You Should Check Your Voter Registration Status

Your voter registration is not always a permanent status. Election offices regularly update their voter rolls to maintain accuracy, and voters can occasionally be affected by administrative updates, name changes, or address changes. Checking your status in advance ensures that your information is accurate and helps prevent unexpected issues when you go to vote.

How Often to Check Your Status

As a general rule, it is good practice to check your voter registration status periodically. Additionally, it is recommended to check your status during these times:

- **Ahead of major elections:** Checking early gives you time to review your status well before upcoming deadlines.
- **Before registration deadlines:** Review your local guidelines for specific dates related to voter registration and updates in your area.

- **After moving or changing your name:** Updating your information promptly ensures your registration matches your current details and polling location.

Please check the official election authority website or contact your local election office for specific dates, registration deadlines, and guidance in your jurisdiction.

Check your voter registration status [HERE](#)