



VOTER REGISTRATION:

PROCEDURE, SECURITY,
AND LIST MAINTENANCE – AN FAQ

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(775) 682-5083



info@guinncenter.org



guinncenter.org

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AUTHORS

Michael Stewart, Research Director, Guinn Center

Kimberly Marsh Guinasso, Senior Legal Analyst, Guinn Center

EDITORS & CONTRIBUTORS

Emma Peak, Research Assistant, Guinn Center

Megan Salcido, Project Coordinator, Guinn Center

Amy Vigen, Graphic Designer, Guinn Center

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Nevada provides several options for voter registration, making the process accessible and efficient. This policy brief reviews—in a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) format— Nevada’s voter registration provisions and outlines Nevada’s procedures and safeguards for maintaining accurate voter registration lists in accordance with state and federal laws.



Who is eligible to register to vote in Nevada?

To register to vote in Nevada, individuals must meet the following criteria:



US Citizenship: Must be a US citizen.



Residency: Must be a resident of Nevada and have continuously resided in Nevada and the county of registration for 30 days prior to the election and must have resided in the precinct of registration for 10 days.



Age: Must be at least 18 years old by Election Day. Those who are 17 may register if they turn 18 by the next election.



Mental Competency: Must not be declared mentally incompetent by a court of law.



Felony Conviction: Pursuant to [Nevada Revised Statutes \(NRS\) 213.157](#), a person convicted of a felony who is placed on probation, granted parole, or granted a pardon is immediately restored the right to vote. Moreover, a person who has served their sentence and has been released from prison is immediately restored the right to vote.

How can I register to vote in Nevada?

Nevada offers several options for voter registration:

Online Registration: Voters can register online through the [Nevada Secretary of State's website](#).



Mail-in Registration: Download a [voter registration form](#) from the Secretary of State's website, complete it, and mail it to your local election office.



Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV): When conducting business at the DMV (e.g., applying for or renewing a driver's license), eligible Nevadans are automatically registered to vote unless they opt out after receiving notice of their DMV registration from the local election office. For more information regarding AVR, please visit the [Nevada DMV website](#) and [NRS 293.5768](#) through [NRS 293.57699](#).



In-Person Registration: You can register at election offices and at polling places during early voting or on Election Day. Voters can also make changes to their current registration—address or signature updates, change in political party affiliation, etc.—during early voting or on Election Day.



What identification is required to register to vote?

It is important to note that Nevada does not require voters to present identification in all cases in order to vote at the polls. Rather, when registering to vote in Nevada, you need to provide official identification to prove who you are and determine whether you are eligible to register (age and residence). Your signature will also be captured during this process so election workers can compare it at the polls (on the [“Poll Pad” system](#)) or at the local election office (for mail ballots, using the “Total Vote” election software). This way, your voter registration can be verified and tied to you, the voter. Below are acceptable documents used in Nevada to identify voters and confirm residency during registration ([see Nevada Administrative Code \[NAC\] 293.395](#)):



Identification: Acceptable forms of official identification for purposes of voter registration include a current and valid: (1) Nevada driver’s license; (2) state identification (ID) card issued by the DMV; (3) Nevada DMV “interim document” (a temporary paper driver’s license or ID issued by the DMV for use while the official license or ID is being processed); (4) tribal ID card; (5) ID card issued by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; (6) ID card issued by a sheriff of a Nevada county to an employee as a condition of employment by certain business enterprises; (7) ID card issued by an agency of the State of Nevada or political subdivision thereof or the United States, including a public school, college or university; (8) student ID card from an accredited private school, college, or university; (9) United States passport; and (10) insurance plan ID card which the local election officer (LEO) determines to be a reliable indication of the true name and identity of the person.



Proof of Residence: Documents to determine residency include any of the forms of ID noted above that also show the physical address of the voter. Other acceptable forms to confirm residency include a: (1) utility bill; (2) property tax bill; (3) current motor vehicle registration; (4) bank or credit union statement; (5) paycheck; (6) income tax return; (7) statement concerning the mortgage, rental, or lease of a residence; and (8) document issued by a governmental agency that shows the voter’s residential address. Finally, proof of residence can be established through any other official article which the LEO determines to be a reliable indication of the true residential address of the person.

So why am I sometimes asked to show identification when I vote in person or by mail?

- » Nevada's secure ["Poll Pad" system](#) at the polling location will let election workers know if they need to ask you for ID when voting in person.
- » If you registered to vote by mail, online, or through the DMV and DID NOT supply the required ID at that time, you will need to: (1) show ID to the election worker when you vote in person; or (2) if you are voting by mail, include a legible photocopy of the required ID with your mail ballot.
- » A voter will also be flagged to show ID at the polling place if: (1) the data provided on the voter registration application did not match the data on file at the DMV or Social Security Administration; and (2) the voter did not respond to the letter that was sent notifying the voter of the discrepancy.
- » Election workers' primary method of identifying you at the polls is through your signature. Pursuant to [NRS 293.285](#), if the signature you provide at the polls does not match what is currently in your voting record, the election worker can establish your identity by: (1) asking you questions covering personal data included in the voter registration application; (2) requesting you to provide other personal data, verbally or in writing; or (3) asking you to provide other proof of ID separate from your voter registration card.
- » Please note that voters will be asked to update their signature in the event of a mismatch. For mail ballots, voters whose signature does not match the signature on file will be contacted by the local election office and asked to "cure" (correct or update) their signature.¹

1. Please see [NRS 293.269927](#) for more information regarding the procedure for checking signatures on mail ballots.

How does Nevada maintain accurate voter registration lists?

Nevada follows federal guidelines, including the [National Voter Registration Act of 1993 \(NVRA\)](#)² and the [Help America Vote Act of 2002 \(HAVA\)](#)³, to maintain up-to-date voter registration lists. Moreover, Nevada is one of 24 member states of the [Electronic Registration Information Center \(ERIC\)](#), which was established to improve the accuracy of voter registration lists. ERIC compares voter registration records with DMV records, Social Security data, and other states' voter rolls to identify individuals who are registered in multiple states, have moved, or are deceased. Finally, in 2024, Nevada's Office of the Secretary of State launched the [Voter Registration and Election Management Solution \(VREMS\)](#) project, which implements additional security measures for voter registration and voter information. Please see the Guinn Center's 2024 [FAQ on VREMS](#) for more information.



Deceased Voters: Local election officials regularly remove deceased voters from registration lists using data from the Department of Health, Social Security death index, and ERIC. Nevada law ([NRS 293.540](#)) allows the LEO to cancel the registration or preregistration of a voter if the LEO has personal knowledge of the death of the person or if an authenticated certificate of the death of the person is filed in the local elections office. For Nevada's statewide voter registration list, [NRS 293.675](#) requires the Secretary of State to compare, at least monthly, the records of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to identify voters who are deceased for purposes of voter list maintenance.



Change of Address: Nevada uses the [National Change of Address \(NCOA\)](#) system and other resources (such as DMV records) to identify voters who have moved. Voters who are identified through the NOCA system or have relocated within Nevada will have the opportunity to update their address, while those who move out of state or do not respond to notices will be removed from the voter rolls after a specific period. Voters may also update their address at the DMV through the AVR process.

2. Also see the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division's FAQ regarding the NVRA at: justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra. The NVRA requires states to make reasonable efforts to remove ineligible voters from the rolls, including those who are deceased or have moved. Nevada's voter registration list maintenance program adheres to the NVRA's guidelines by conducting regular updates and ensuring that all list maintenance efforts are uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

3. The HAVA also mandates regular updates to voter registration lists. Nevada reports its list maintenance efforts to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission every two years, including data on voter registration applications and list maintenance actions.



Department of Corrections: The Department provides a daily list of incarcerated felons that the Secretary of State’s office compares to the statewide voter registration list. When matches are made, the appropriate LEOs are notified. The LEOs review the information and cancel the felon’s registration when appropriate. Upon release, the felon’s rights are immediately restored.



Routine List Maintenance: Federal and state law prohibit the removal of voters from registration lists within 90 days of a federal election to help prevent maintenance procedures from disenfranchising eligible voters close to election time (see [NRS 293.503](#)).

To learn more about national trends in voter registration list maintenance, please see the National Conference of State Legislatures’ report, [Voter Registration List Maintenance](#) (updated October 1, 2025).

What provisions in Nevada law allow for voter registration list maintenance?

For decades, Nevada law has allowed LEOs to make needed changes to voter registration lists and rosters. Following passage of NVRA and HAVA, the Nevada Legislature adopted further conforming policies regarding voting list maintenance. Additional guidance since the passage of these Acts has also been adopted. Specific statutory authority for voter list maintenance is highlighted below:

[NRS 293.525](#)—In addition to allowing a voter with a new address to still vote, under certain circumstances, at the voter’s previous precinct, NRS 293.525 also requires the LEO to “use any information regarding the current address of the elector . . . to correct information in the statewide voter registration list and roster.”

[NRS 293.530](#)—Provides that the LEO “may use any reliable and reasonable means available to correct the portions of the statewide voter registration list which are relevant” to the LEOs. The process for notifying voters by postcard asking the voter to verify a new address and the circumstances that trigger a voter’s “inactive” status are covered in this provision.

[NRS 293.5303](#)—Allows an LEO to enter into an agreement with the United States Postal Service (USPS) to obtain data compiled by the USPS concerning address changes of its postal patrons. The LEO may use this information to correct relevant portions of the statewide voter registration list.

[NRS 293.5307](#)—Using the information collected as part of the agreement with the USPS, this provision specifies that the LEO must, before removing or correcting the roster information, mail the postcard notifications to the voter pursuant to [NRS 293.530](#).

[NRS 293.535](#)—Addresses challenges to the eligibility of a registered voter and circumstances, based on such a challenge, under which the registration of that voter may be cancelled.

[NRS 293.540](#) and [NRS 293.541](#)—Highlight additional circumstances in which the LEO must cancel a voter registration.

What is an “inactive voter”?

If the USPS returns the sample ballot, mail ballot, or voter registration card of a registered voter to the county election office because it is undeliverable, the LEO must send written notice to that registered voter and supply the voter with a postcard to respond to the LEO with the voter’s new address. If the voter fails to return the postcard within 30 days, the LEO must designate the voter as inactive. The LEO is not required to send a sample ballot to an inactive voter, but an inactive voter may vote in person at a polling place in the same manner as an active voter (see [NRS 293.530](#) and [NAC 293.412](#), [293.4125](#) and [293.413](#)).



What security measures are in place for voter registration in Nevada?

Nevada employs several security measures to protect the integrity of its voter registration process. Key provisions include:



[NAC 293.456](#) through [NAC 293.476](#)—These regulations address the Statewide Voter Registration List, issue guidance on the maintenance of a computerized database of registered voters, set forth procedures for verifying voter information, discuss a voter’s eligibility to cast a provisional ballot, and provide for the maintenance of a voter’s voting history. A provisional ballot is a ballot cast by a person whose registration to vote is subject to further verification by local election officials;



[NRS 293.558](#)—This provision prohibits the sharing of certain information found in a voter’s registration record and authorizes the voter to submit a written request to the [local election office](#) to have the voter’s address and telephone number withheld from the public;



ERIC Security Standards—As noted above, the Electronic Registration Information Center adheres to strict security protocols to ensure that the comparison of voter records across states is accurate and secure. ERIC uses data encryption and secure channels to transmit sensitive voter information; and



Washoe County’s [Project Plain Sight](#) program—This new voter registration security initiative is designed to strengthen the integrity, accountability, and transparency of the county’s voter rolls. The project creates regular snapshots of voter registration data and assigns each snapshot a unique cryptographic “hash,” or digital fingerprint, allowing the county and members of the public to verify that a published file has not been altered or corrupted. The county’s portal is updated with a new voter registration snapshot and hash, creating an independent record that can help identify unexpected changes to voter registration data. The project was developed with guidance from the [Center for Internet Security](#) and serves as an additional security and transparency layer for voter list maintenance on top of existing state-level voter roll security measures.

These legal and administrative frameworks are designed to secure Nevada’s voter registration system and protect data from unauthorized access or manipulation.

CONCLUSION

Nevada's voter registration process, including VREMS, helps our state maintain accessibility, security, and election integrity. The state's ongoing compliance with federal laws, its participation in ERIC, and its focus on automation and security help ensure that voter lists are accurate, up-to-date, and protected from unauthorized access.

The image shows a close-up of a "Voter Registration Application" form. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses is resting on the top half of the form, which features a grid of numbers (10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29) in blue and red. A red pen is visible in the bottom right corner, pointing towards the form. The form itself has the title "Voter Registration Application" in bold, followed by the instruction "Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions." The form is divided into several sections for personal information.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? ☐ Yes ☐ No		Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? ☐ Yes ☐ No		This space for office use
If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form. (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)				
1	☐ Mr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.	Last Name	First Name	
2	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town
	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			City/Town
	Telephone Number (optional)			ID Number

ABOUT THE GUINN CENTER

The Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities is a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy research center addressing key challenges faced by policymakers and all Nevadans.

Our staff researchers, together with academic partners and independent experts across the state, tackle policy issues that range from taxation to water use, healthcare to education, and everything in between. We identify and analyze the complex problems we face as a state and inform decision-makers about actionable, data-driven, and effective policy solutions.

We invite you to join us in creating a brighter future for the Silver State by supporting our mission, signing up for our newsletter, or getting in contact.

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Mailing Address:
1664 N. Virginia St.
M/S 0289
Reno, NV 89557

Physical Address:
190 E. Liberty St.
Reno, NV 89501



(775) 682-5083



info@guinncenter.org



guinncenter.org



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