



# VOTER REGISTRATION FAQS

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**1. I have always voted for candidates of a certain political party, but every time I go to vote in a Primary election, they tell me I am not eligible due to my party affiliation. Why?**

- In a General Election, you may vote for candidates of any party, no matter how you are registered. Delaware is a “Closed Primary” State. If you are Unaffiliated (AKA Independent), you are not able to vote in Primary Elections. If you are not registered with the party, Democrat or Republican, you are not able to vote in the party’s Primary Election. You may check your voter record to see how you’re registered and update your record at [iVote.de.gov](http://iVote.de.gov).

**2. At DMV, they put my party down incorrectly, so I am not registered with the party I want. What do I do?**

- You may update your record at [iVote.de.gov](https://iVote.de.gov).

### 3. When are the voter registration deadlines?

- The last day to register to vote is the fourth Saturday before a Primary or General Election. The last day to register before a Special Election is 10 days before the Special Election.

#### 4. When are the party change deadlines?

- **Presidential Primary:** 60 days before the Presidential Primary.
- **Primary Election:** The Friday before the last Saturday in May.

## 5. Do I have to be registered to vote in School Elections?

- No, but you do have to:
  - Be a citizen of the United States and the State of Delaware.
  - Live in the school district for which the election is being conducted.
  - Be 18 years of age on or before the day of the election.

## 6. Is there a deadline by which I must change my address or name before an election?

- No, you may update your name and address when you go to vote if you are already registered in Delaware, but we encourage you to update your record before election day, so your voting experience will be quicker and easier.

## 7. How old do you have to be to register to vote in the State of Delaware?

- 18 by the date of the next General Election.

## 8. Can you pre-register to vote, if under the age of 18?

- Yes, but only at DMV. Per Delaware law, pre-registration to vote is available at DMV to 16 and 17-year-olds when they sign up for their driver's licenses or State IDs. Once the General Election is over, their record is updated in the State of Delaware voter registration system and they are registered to vote in the Primaries and General Elections of the next election cycle.

## 9. Where can a person register to vote in Delaware?

- Answer: (In no particular order)
  - Online at [ivote.de.gov](https://ivote.de.gov),
  - DMV (when getting/updating DL or State ID),
  - Elections Offices,
  - through the mail,
  - Voter registration outreach events
  - State Agencies (like DHSS when signing up for government programs)

## 10. What form of ID do I need to present or submit when I register to vote?

- You need to provide something that shows your name and current address, such as one of the following:
  - Driver's License or State ID
  - Utility Bill, Bank Statement, Credit Card Statement
  - Copy of a government mailing, check, or person's paycheck

# 11. What steps does the Department take to keep its voter registration files up to date?

- Per the National Voter Registration Act, the Department runs an **Address Verification** process. When the Department sends a mailing to a voter and the mailing comes back as undeliverable, the Department initiates this process. The Department sends another mailing to the voter's address on file to verify their address. If the voter receives the mailing and confirms his/her address or provides a new one, or if the voter otherwise updates his/her record, the record remains active.
  - If this mailing, too, comes back as undeliverable and the voter has not updated his/her record, the voter's record is put into inactive status. If the voter does not vote or update his/her record for two General Election cycles, then the voter's record will be removed from the voter registration system following the second General Election.
  - Each month the Department receives a list of **Deceased** persons from the Office of Vital Statistics, which is matched against the State of Delaware voter registration database. When those records are matched, the Department removes the record from the voter registration system. Deceased records are removed when the Department receives notification by signed correspondence by a close relative (spouse, sibling, child) or a notification that a voter has passed and the Department is able to confirm it via an online obituary or through Vital Statistics.
- The Department removes records of voters who **move out of Delaware** and register in a new State. The Department processes these removals when it receives correspondence from other States letting Delaware know that voters who are registered in Delaware have registered in their new State, or when the Department receives a signed letter or a cancellation form signed by the voter themselves or a close relative reporting he/she has moved out of Delaware.
  - Delaware is a member state of the **Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)**, a non-profit membership organization funded by membership dues of the member states which uses data matching to produce lists of voters who have moved, died, and who may have duplicate registration on file in the state's voter registration database. ERIC sends these lists to participating states so they can verify the information and take steps to update the state's voter registration database. Delaware elections receives and processes these lists monthly.