

# New Mexico

## Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 28 days before an election.<sup>1</sup>

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## Database Implementation Status

New Mexico is currently using a top-down voter registration system (“PowerProfile”) built by Election Systems & Software, in which each county has direct access to the single statewide database.<sup>2</sup>

## Entering Voter Registration Information

*Who inputs voter registration information?* County clerks generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the statewide system. Forms are also sent monthly to the state Elections Bureau to be checked for errors.

*What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies?* Forms received by the Secretary of State, DMV, or another voter registration agency are sent within ten calendar days to the appropriate county clerk for review and entry.<sup>3</sup>

*How are most forms submitted?* New Mexico reported that in 2004, 52% of forms were submitted by mail, 13% were submitted in person to election officials, and 36% were submitted by other means.<sup>4</sup>

## Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.<sup>5</sup>

## Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

*How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number?* New Mexico’s form does not clearly state how an applicant should indicate that she has no valid identifying number.

*How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number?* If uncorrected (see below), the application will be rejected.

*How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible?* If uncorrected (see below), the application will be rejected.

## Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

*What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records?* Full SSN, date of birth.

*Description of matching process:* New Mexico has not yet determined the process or criteria by which matches will be sought, nor has the state determined the consequences of any failed match.

## Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form?* Yes. The applicant may correct missing or incomplete information at any point before the voter registration deadline.

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form?* New Mexico has not yet determined the correction process for a failed match.

*If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely?* No.

*Description of notice and correction process:* The county elections official will attempt to notify an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified; the official will also return a copy of the rejected form to the applicant. The applicant may attempt to resolve the error by phone, mail, or in person, at any point before the voter registration deadline.

## Identification Requirements at the Polls

*Who must provide identification at the polls?* Every voter must provide identification at the polls.<sup>6</sup>

*What forms of identification are accepted?* A first-time voter registering by mail who has not yet submitted identification must provide a current and valid photo ID or voter ID card, or a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student ID card, or other government document (including ID issued by an Indian nation, tribe, or pueblo) with her name and current address.<sup>7</sup> Any other voter must submit one of the above documents or a verbal or written declaration of the voter's name, year of birth, and her SSN-4.<sup>8</sup>

### Forms of ID:

1st-time voters registering by mail:	current and valid photo ID or voter ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address student ID card with name, address other gov't document w/ name, address
every other voter:	current and valid photo ID or voter ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address student ID card with name, address other gov't document w/ name, address declaration of name, birth year, SSN-4

*What are the consequences of failing to show identification?* The voter may cast a provisional ballot.<sup>9</sup> The ballot will be counted if the voter provides the required identification to the county clerk before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.<sup>10</sup>

## Statutes and Regulations

N.M. STAT. ANN. ch. 1, art. 4 generally concerns registration. N.M. STAT. ANN. § 1-5-30 directs the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration system. N.M. CODE R. tit. 1, ch. 10, pts. 8, 22, and 26 comprise the applicable regulations.

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> N.M. STAT. ANN. §§ 1-4-5.1(F), 1-4-8(A)(1).

<sup>2</sup> [electionline.org](http://www.electionline.org), *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 20.

<sup>3</sup> N.M. STAT. ANN. §§ 1-4-47, -48

<sup>4</sup> Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at [http://www.eac.gov/NVR\\_Spreadsheets/NVRA\\_table\\_2.html](http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html). Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

<sup>5</sup> New Mexico's voter registration form is not available online. The form presented for purposes of this summary is the federal voter registration form.

<sup>6</sup> N.M. STAT. ANN. § 1-1-5.4. New Mexico law, however, directs the presiding precinct judge to suspend all requirements for physical voter identification other than those mandated by federal law if voters must spend more than 45 minutes in line at the polls on election day. *Id.* § 1-12-4.1.

<sup>7</sup> *See id.* §§ 1-4-5.1(I)(4), 1-12-7.1(E), 1-12-8(B).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* §§ 1-1-23, 1-1-24, 1-12-7.1(D), 1-12-8(C), 1-12-10.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* § 1-12-7.1(D), (E), 1-12-8(B), 1-12-10(B).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* § 1-12-7.1(D), (E); N.M. CODE R. § 1.10.22.8(H).

# General Instructions

## Who Can Use this Application

If you are a U.S. citizen who lives or has an address within the United States, you can use the application in this booklet to:

- Register to vote in your State,
- Report a change of name to your voter registration office,
- Report a change of address to your voter registration office, or
- Register with a political party.

## Exceptions

Please do not use this application if you live outside the United States and its territories and have no home (legal) address in this country, or if you are in the military stationed away from home. Use the Federal Postcard Application available to you from military bases, American embassies, or consular offices.

**New Hampshire** town and city clerks will accept this application only as a request for their own absentee voter mail-in registration form.

**North Dakota** does not have voter registration.

**Wyoming** law does not permit mail registration.

## How to Find Out If You Are Eligible to Register to Vote in Your State

Each State has its own laws about who may register and vote. Check the information under your State in the State Instructions.

*Note:* All States require that you be a United States citizen by birth or naturalization to register to vote in federal and State elections. Federal law makes it illegal to falsely claim U.S. citizenship to register to vote in any federal, State, or local election.

*Also Note:* You **cannot** be registered to vote in more than one place at a time.

## How to Fill Out this Application

Use both the Application Instructions and State Instructions to guide you in filling out the application.

First, read the Application Instructions. These instructions will give you important information that applies to everyone using this application.

Next, find your State under the State Instructions. Use these instructions to fill out Boxes 6, 7, and 8. Also refer to these instructions for information about voter eligibility and any oath required for Box 9.

## When to Register to Vote

Each State has its own deadline for registering to vote. Check the deadline for your State on the last page of this booklet.

## How to Submit Your Application

Mail your application to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. Or, deliver the application in person to your local voter registration office.

The remaining States that accept the national form will accept copies of the application printed from the computer image on regular paper stock, signed by the applicant, and mailed in an envelope with the correct postage.

## First Time Voters Who Register by Mail

If you are registering to vote for the first time in your jurisdiction and are mailing this registration application, you may be required to provide proof of identification the first time you vote.

Depending on the specific requirements of your State, you may avoid providing identification at the polls when you vote for the first time by mailing a copy of an identification document together with this application. The list of acceptable documents is included in the State Instructions.

**Do not include original documents with this application.**

**Please read the accompanying State Instructions to determine the voter identification requirements for your State.**

## If You Were Given this Application in a State Agency or Public Office

If you have been given this application in a State agency or public office, it is your choice to use the application or not.

If you decide to use this application to register to vote, you can fill it out and leave it with the State agency or public office. The application will be submitted for you. Or, you can take it with you to mail to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. You also may take it with you to deliver in person to your local voter registration office.

*Note:* The name and location of the State agency or public office where you received the application will remain confidential. It will not appear on your application. Also, if you decide not to use this application to register to vote, that decision will remain confidential. It will not affect the service you receive from the agency or office.

# Application Instructions

Before filling out the body of the form, please answer the questions on the top of the form as to whether you are a United States citizen and whether you will be 18 years old on or before election day. If you answer no to either of these questions, you may not use this form to register to vote. However, state specific instructions may provide additional information on eligibility to register to vote prior to age 18.

## Box 1 — Name

Put in this box your full name in this order — Last, First, Middle. Do not use nicknames or initials.

*Note:* If this application is for a change of name, please tell us in **Box A** (on the bottom half of the form) your full name before you changed it.

## Box 2 — Home Address

Put in this box your home address (legal address). Do **not** put your mailing address here if it is different from your home address. Do **not** use a post office box or rural route without a box number. Refer to state-specific instructions for rules regarding use of route numbers.

*Note:* If you were registered before *but* this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, please tell us in **Box B** (on the bottom half of the form) the address where you were registered before. Please give us as much of the address as you can remember.

*Also Note:* If you live in a rural area but do not have a street address, or if you have no address, please show where you live using the map in **Box C** (at the bottom of the form).

## Box 3 — Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address that is different from the address in Box 2, put your mailing address in this box.

*Note:* If you have no address in Box 2, you **must** write in Box 3 an address where you can be reached by mail.

## Box 4 — Date of Birth

Put in this box your date of birth in this order — Month, Day, Year. *Be careful not to use today's date!*

## Box 5 — Telephone Number

Most States ask for your telephone number in case there are questions about your application. However, you do **not** have to fill in this box.

## Box 6 — ID Number

Federal law requires that states collect from each registrant an identification number. You must refer to your state's specific instructions for item 6 regarding information on what number is acceptable for your state. If you have neither a drivers license nor a social security number, please indicate this on the form and a number will be assigned to you by your state.

## Box 7 — Choice of Party

In some States, you must register with a party if you want to take part in that party's primary election, caucus, or convention. To find out if your State requires this, see item 7 in the instructions under your State.

If you want to register with a party, print in the box the full name of the party of your choice.

If you do **not** want to register with a party, write "no party" or leave the box blank. Do **not** write in the word "independent" if you mean "no party," because this might be confused with the name of a political party in your State.

*Note:* If you do not register with a party, you can still vote in general elections and nonpartisan (nonparty) primary elections.

## Box 8 — Race or Ethnic Group

A few States ask for your race or ethnic group, in order to administer the Federal Voting Rights Act. To find out if your State asks for this information, see item 8 in the instructions under your State. If so, put in Box 8 the choice that best describes you from the list below:

American Indian or Alaskan Native  
Asian or Pacific Islander  
Black, *not of* Hispanic Origin  
Hispanic  
Multi-racial  
White, *not of* Hispanic Origin  
Other

## Box 9 — Signature

Review the information in item 9 in the instructions under your State. Before you sign or make your mark, make sure that:

- (1) You meet your State's requirements, and
- (2) You understand **all** of Box 9.

Finally, sign your **full** name or make your mark, and print today's date in this order — Month, Day, Year.

If the applicant is unable to sign, put in **Box D** the name, address, and telephone number (optional) of the person who helped the applicant.



# State Instructions

## New Jersey

**Registration Deadline** — 29 days before the election.

**6. ID Number.** The last four digits of your Social Security number OR your New Jersey Driver's License number is required for voter registration. If you do not possess either of these identifications, please write "NONE" on the form. The State will assign a number that will serve to identify you for voter registration purposes.

**7. Choice of Party.** New Jersey's voter registration form does not provide a check-off for political party affiliation. A newly registered voter or voter who has never voted in a political party primary election can declare party affiliation at the polling place on the day of a primary election. In New Jersey, a primary election is only held for the Democratic and Republican parties. A voter may also file a political party declaration form to become a member of a political party. If a declared voter wished to change party affiliation he or she must file a declaration form 50 days before the primary election, in order to vote.

**8. Race or Ethnic Group.** Leave blank.

**9. Signature.** To register in New Jersey you must:

- be a citizen of the United States
- be at least 18 years of age by the time of the next election
- be a resident of this State and county at your address at least 30 days before the next election
- not be serving a sentence or on parole or probation as the result of a conviction of any indictable offense under the laws of this or another state or of the United States

### Attention: Proof of Voter Identification

*(Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002)*

If this form is submitted by mail and it is the first time you have registered to vote in your jurisdiction, you MUST submit current, valid proof of identification with this application or the first time you vote in a federal election. To send it with this application you should enclose one of the following:

- 1) A **COPY** of a current and valid photo identification **OR**
- 2) A **COPY** of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address in the jurisdiction.

Submitting your proof of identification now with the application will allow you to avoid the federal requirement to show this proof at the polling place or, if voting by mail, to avoid sending it with your mail-in-ballot.

If you do not provide proof of identification, you may cast a provisional ballot.

*Voters may also be required to show proof of identification under State law.*

### Mailing address:

New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety  
Division of Elections  
PO BOX 304  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0304

## New Mexico

**Registration Deadline** — 28 days before the election.

**6. ID Number.** Your full social security number is required. This registration card containing your social security number will become part of the permanent voter registration records of your locality, which are open to inspection by the public in the office of the county clerk. However, your social security number and date of birth will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to the public. Computerized listings of limited voter registration information (without social security number or birth date) are available to the general public, and are furnished upon request to incumbent election officeholders, candidates, political parties, courts and non-profit organizations promoting voter participation and registration, for political purposes only (§1-5-19B, NMSA 1978).

**7. Choice of Party.** You must register with a party if you want to take part in that party's primary election, caucus, or convention.

**8. Race or Ethnic Group.** Leave blank.

**9. Signature.** To register in New Mexico you must:

- be a citizen of the United States
- be a resident of the State of New Mexico
- be 18 years of age at the time of the next election
- not have been denied the right to vote by a court of law by reason of mental incapacity and, if I have been convicted of a felony, I have completed all conditions of probation or parole, served the entirety of a sentence or have been granted a pardon by the Governor.

### Attention: Proof of Voter Identification

*(Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002)*

If this form is submitted by mail and it is the first time you have registered in this county or the state of New Mexico, you **MUST** submit a **COPY** of a current valid photo ID or a **COPY** of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address in this county. Submitting this identification information now will allow you to avoid being required to show personal identification at the polling place on Election Day. If you do not provide proof of identification, you may cast a provisional ballot.

### Mailing address:

Bureau of Elections  
325 Don Gaspar, Suite 300  
Santa Fe, NM 87503