

# Oklahoma

## Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 25 days before an election.<sup>1</sup>

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## Database Implementation Status

Oklahoma has used a hybrid voter registration database since 1990.<sup>2</sup> County election officials input data directly into the statewide database, the Oklahoma Election Management System (“OEMS”), but can only view information for their own county. Oklahoma is currently planning changes to the system to allow county officials to view the entire statewide database.<sup>3</sup>

## Entering Voter Registration Information

*Who inputs voter registration information?* The secretary of each county election board is responsible for ensuring that information from voter registration forms from that jurisdiction is reviewed and entered into the statewide system.<sup>4</sup>

*What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies?* Forms received by the Department of Safety (“DOS”) or another voter registration agency are sent weekly by mail to the State Election Board.<sup>5</sup> The State Election Board then sends the original forms to the appropriate county election board for review and entry, at least once a week.<sup>6</sup>

*How are most forms submitted?* Oklahoma reported that in 2004, 32% of forms were submitted by mail, 40% were submitted in person to election officials, 26% were submitted at the DMV, and 2% were submitted at another voter registration agency.<sup>7</sup>

## Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

*Note:* Although the current Oklahoma voter registration form does not indicate that the applicant may submit the number of a non-driver identification card, state law suggests that such identification numbers are acceptable.<sup>8</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?* Oklahoma’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.<sup>9</sup>

Note: although Oklahoma regulations provide that Social Security digits are only required if the applicant has not submitted a driver’s license number, the same regulations also state that the statewide voter registration system “automatically applies a rejection code . . . if the last four digits of the applicant’s SSN are missing.”<sup>10</sup>

*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

Oklahoma does not attempt to match information on voter registration forms with information in the motor vehicles or Social Security databases for voter registration purposes. The state has no imminent plans to create a process for verifying information using identifying numbers.

*Note:* Oklahoma will attempt to match each applicant’s street address against a database of valid street addresses; if no match can be found, the application will be rejected.<sup>11</sup>

## 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 within 60 days of notification, as long as the correction arrives before the voter registration deadline.

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match?* Not applicable.

*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 state will attempt to notify by mail an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, or illegible. The mailing will include a request for the corrected information, with a space for the applicant to return the information to the appropriate county election board. The applicant may provide this corrected information within 60 days of the mailing of the rejection notice, as long as the information is received before the voter registration deadline.<sup>12</sup>

## Identification Requirements at the Polls

*Who must provide identification at the polls?* A first-time voter who registered by mail and who has not already provided identification must provide identification at the polls.<sup>13</sup>

### Forms of ID:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1st-time voters<br>registering by mail: | current and valid photo ID<br>voter identification card<br>current utility bill w/ name, address<br>bank statement w/ name, address<br>government check w/ name, address<br>paycheck w/ name, address<br>other gov’t document w/ name, address |
|---|--|

*What forms of identification are accepted?* Identification may “include, but shall not be limited to,” current and valid photo ID, a voter identification card, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter’s name and address.<sup>14</sup>

*What are the consequences of failing to show identification?* The voter may cast a provisional ballot.<sup>15</sup> The ballot will be counted if the voter properly applied to register, including all necessary information on the form, and if the last name, date of birth, and identifying number, if available, on the provisional ballot form match the information in the statewide voter registration database.<sup>16</sup>

## Statutes and Regulations

OKLA. STAT. tit. 26 generally concerns registration. OKLA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 230, ch. 15 comprises the applicable regulations.

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> OKLA. STAT. tit. 26, § 4-110.1; OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 230:15-5-86(b).

<sup>2</sup> electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 21; electionline.org, *Statewide Voter Registration Database Status*, at <http://www.electionline.org/Default.aspx?tabid=288>.

<sup>3</sup> Doug Sanderson, Secretary, Oklahoma County Election Board, Remarks on Proposed Voluntary Guidance on Implementation of Statewide Voter Registration Lists, Public Hearing, United States Election Assistance Commission (Apr. 26, 2005), <http://www.eac.gov/docs/boston/Remarks%20on%20Proposed%20Voluntary%20Guidance%20on%20Implementation%20of%20Statewide%20Voter%20Registration%20Lists.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> OKLA. STAT. tit. 26, §§ 4-114.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* tit. 26, §§ 4-109.2, 109.3; OKLA. ADMIN. CODE §§ 230:15-5-108(a), 15-5-131(a).

<sup>6</sup> OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 230:15-9-3.

<sup>7</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>8</sup> OKLA. STAT. tit. 26, § 4-112.

<sup>9</sup> OKLA. ADMIN. CODE §§ 230:15-5-84, 230:15-9-12.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* §§ 230:15-5-85, 15-9-18(a)(6)-(7), (11), 15-9-31(b)(7).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* § 230:15-9-18.1.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* §§ 230:15-9-32, 15-9-36.

<sup>13</sup> OKLA. STAT. tit. 26, § 7-115.2; OKLA. ADMIN. CODE §§ 230:15-5-83, 35-5-113.3, 35-9-16.

<sup>14</sup> OKLA. STAT. tit. 26, § 7-115.2; OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 230:15-5-83.

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<sup>15</sup> OKLA. STAT. tit. 26, § 7-115.2; OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 230:35-5-113.3, 35-5-172, 35-9-7(2).

<sup>16</sup> *See* OKLA. STAT. tit. 26, §§ 7-115.2, 7-116.1; OKLA. ADMIN. CODE §§ 230:35-3-126(b), 35-3-127(2)(B), 35-3-128, 35-9-16.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR OKLAHOMA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION — PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- Voter registration closes 24 days before an election. If you apply when registration is closed, your application will be processed when registration opens after the election.
- If you mail this application, it must be postmarked more than 24 days before the election in which you wish to vote.
- You may not vote until you receive a Voter Card from the County Election Board.
- If you do not receive a Voter Card within 30 days, contact your local County Election Board.
- If you have questions, call your local County Election Board or call 405-521-2391.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

### SECTION 2 — POLITICAL AFFILIATION

- If you register in a political party recognized in Oklahoma you may vote for that party's candidates in primary elections.
- If you register No Party (Independent) you MAY NOT vote for party candidates in primary elections without party permission.
- If you register in a political organization recognized in Oklahoma you CANNOT vote for party candidates in primary elections.
- If you choose a political party or organization not recognized in Oklahoma, you will be registered as an Independent.
- You MAY NOT change your political affiliation between June 1 and August 31 in even-numbered years.

### SECTION 6 — STREET ADDRESS OR DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME

- You must register to vote at your address of residence. If you have a street address or 911 address, this is your address of residence.
- A rural route or a post office box is NOT an address of residence.

### SECTION 9 — HAVE YOU BEEN REGISTERED BEFORE?

- If you have been registered before, enter information on where you were last registered. If you have never been registered before, leave this space blank.
- Enter your former name if it has changed since you last registered.
- Enter your former political affiliation if you are changing your political affiliation.

### SECTION 10 — OATH

- Read the oath carefully. Sign and date it in ink. If you cannot sign your name, make your mark and give the name of the person who helped you.
- Who Can Register - You can register to vote if you are a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Oklahoma, and 18 years old or older.
- Felons Not Eligible - A convicted felon may not register for a period equal to the time of the original sentence.
- Persons Judged Incapacitated - Persons judged incapacitated by a court may not register to vote.

# OKLAHOMA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

You may use this form if you are:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A resident of Oklahoma.
- 18 years old or older.

You may use this form to:

- Register to vote for the first time in Oklahoma.
- Change your address for voter registration within Oklahoma.
- Change your name.
- Change your political affiliation.

If you register by mail, include a copy of your identification with this application. Make a copy of one of these forms of identification:

- A current driver's license or other photo identification.
- A utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows your name and address.

If you do not include identification with this application, you will be asked for identification the first time you vote.

**WARNING:** All answers on this application must be true. It is a felony to give false information on this form. You can be prosecuted if you do. If you are convicted, you can be imprisoned for not more than two years, or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

## USE BLUE OR BLACK INK

After you complete this application, enclose a copy of your identification if needed. Fold it and place it in an envelope. Mail it to:  
**OKLAHOMA STATE ELECTION BOARD**  
**P.O. BOX 528800**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73152-8800**

If you do not have a street address, you may write directions to your home or provide the legal description (section, township, and range) of your home. You may also use the map to show where you live. If you use the map write the names of the roads nearest where you live. Draw an X to show your home. Show schools, churches, or other nearby landmarks.

NORTH ↑

## You must answer these questions:

Are you a citizen of the United States of America?

- Yes  No

Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?

- Yes  No

If you check "no" in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.

Fold →

|   |  |                    |                              |  |  |   |  |   |  |                        |  |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|------------------------|--|
| 1. Last Name (Print)  |  | First Name (Print) |                              | Middle Name (Print)                            |  | Suffix (Jr., Sr., etc.)   |  | <b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b><br>Voter ID Number |  |                        |  |
| 2. Political Affiliation (See Instructions)   |  | 3. Birth Date      |                              | 4. Oklahoma Driver's License Number (Required) |  | 5. Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number (Required if no driver's license)  |  |   |  | Precinct No.           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party   <input type="checkbox"/> No Party<br><input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party   <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |  | Month Day Year     |                              |  |  |   |  |   |  |                        |  |
| 6. Street address or directions to your home (Not a Rural Route or P. O. Box - See Instructions)  |  |                    |                              |  |  | City  |  | State                                     |  | Zip Code               |  |
| 7. Mailing Address  |  |                    |                              | City   |  | State   |  | Zip Code                                  |  | 8. County of Residence |  |
| 9. Have you been registered before? (See Instructions)  |  |                    |                              |  |  | 10. Oath (See Instructions)   |  |   |  |                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES If you marked yes, give as much information about your former registration as you can.<br><input type="checkbox"/> NO                |  |                    |                              |  |  | I swear or affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Oklahoma.</li> <li>I am 18 years old or older. Or I will be 18 on or before the date of the next election.</li> <li>I have not been convicted of a felony. If I have been convicted of a felony, a period of time equal to the original sentence has expired, or I have been pardoned.</li> <li>I am not now under judgment as an incapacitated person. I am not under judgment as a partially incapacitated person prohibited from registering to vote.</li> <li>The information I have given is true, and I reside at the address given.</li> </ul> |  |   |  |                        |  |
| Former Name   |  |                    | Former Political Affiliation |  |  | X _____<br>Signature or Mark of Applicant   |  |   |  |                        |  |
| Former Address  |  |                    |                              |  |  |   |  |   |  |                        |  |
| City  |  | County             |                              | State  |  |   |  |   |  |                        |  |
| If someone helped you fill out this application, give name and address.   |  |                    |                              |  |  |   |  |   |  | Application Date       |  |