

South Carolina

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 30 days before an election.¹

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Database Implementation Status

South Carolina has been using a top-down voter registration system since 1968; county officials now directly access one centralized statewide database.²

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? County elections officials generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions directly into the statewide system.

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by the Secretary of State or a voter registration agency are sent within ten days to the appropriate county elections board.³ Forms received by the DMV are transmitted electronically to the appropriate county board on a nightly basis, and the paper backup copy is transmitted within 10 days.⁴

How are most forms submitted? South Carolina reported that in 2004, 42% of forms were submitted by mail, 50% were submitted at the DMV, 6% were submitted at another voter registration agency, and 2% were submitted by other means.⁵

Voter Registration Form

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

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? South Carolina'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.⁶

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.⁷

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

South Carolina does not attempt to match information on voter registration forms with information in the motor vehicles or Social Security databases for voter registration purposes.⁸ South Carolina will attempt to match information submitted on voter registration forms to check for duplicate entries in the existing registration database, and will attempt to check an applicant's address against a street address file built from the county 911 and GIS (Geographic Information System) systems; if the address cannot be confirmed as valid, the application will be rejected.

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 Election Day.

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? Not applicable.

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Yes.

Description of notice and correction process: The county elections official will attempt to notify an applicant whose information is missing, incomplete, or illegible, by whatever means the county official chooses. The applicant may supply the missing information by phone, mail, or in person, at any point before Election Day.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must to provide identification at the polls? All voters must show identification.⁹

Forms of ID:

every voter:	driver's license or state photo ID card signed voter registration card
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What forms of identification are accepted? A driver's license or state-issued non-driver's photo identification card, or signed voter registration card.¹⁰

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter may vote a provisional ballot. This ballot will be counted if the county board of canvassers certifies that the voter is a validly registered active voter who is eligible to vote in that jurisdiction; a county may choose to count the ballot if the state's error prevented valid registration for some reason.¹¹

Statutes and Regulations

S.C. CODE ANN. §§ 7-5-110 *et seq.* generally concern registration. S.C. CODE ANN. § 7-3-20 directs the executive director of the State Election Commission to establish and maintain a master file of qualified electors. There are no applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ S.C. CODE §§ 7-5-150, 155, 330.

² electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 23; electionline.org, *Statewide Voter Registration Database Status*, at <http://www.electionline.org/Default.aspx?tabid=288>.

³ S.C. CODE ANN. § 7-5-310(H).

⁴ *Id.* § 7-5-320(E).

⁵ 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. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁶ S.C. CODE ANN. § 7-5-155(a)(3).

⁷ *Id.* § 7-5-155(a)(3).

⁸ South Carolina is currently working with several other states on a pilot project to compare voters listed in the registration rolls.

⁹ S.C. CODE ANN. § 7-13-710.

¹⁰ *Id.* § 7-13-710.

¹¹ *Id.* §§ 7-1-20, 7-13-830, 7-17-10.

**SOUTH CAROLINA VOTER REGISTRATION
WEB MAIL IN APPLICATION**



Registration Number

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If you checked 'NO' in response to either of these questions, DO NOT complete this form.					Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Registration Information						
NAME		Last			First			MI	Suffix		
SEX	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	RACE	White <input type="checkbox"/>	Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian <input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>	Native American <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Specify _____ <input type="checkbox"/>	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER **		
	Female <input type="checkbox"/>								-	-	
ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE		Street				Apt Number		Inside City Limits Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
		City				State	Zip Code	Would you like to be a poll worker? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
MAILING ADDRESS (if different from above)		Street or Post Office Box									
		City				State	Zip Code				
BIRTHDATE		Month	Day	Year	PHONE #		Home ()	Work ()			
PREVIOUS REGISTRATION		Precinct			County			State			

Voter Declaration – (read and sign below)

I swear or affirm that:

- I am a citizen of the United States of America
- I will be 18 years of age on or before election day
- I am a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct
- I am not under a court declaring me mentally incompetent
- I am not confined in any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
- I have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws OR if previously convicted, I have served my entire sentence, including probation or parole, or I have received a pardon for the conviction
- the address listed above is my only legal place of residence, and I claim no other place as my legal residence

Draw a diagram of the area in which you live. Show your house in relation to local landmarks such as schools, churches, stores, etc. Be sure to label the streets or roads.

Attach ID Here

Signature _____

Date of Application _____

Whoever shall, willfully and knowingly, swear (or affirm) falsely in taking any oath required by law shall be guilty of perjury and, on conviction, incur the pains and penalties of the offense.

ID Required: If you are registering for the first time in this county, you **must** attach 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. If you do not provide this identification information now, you will be required to provide this information when you vote. (Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act)

** Social Security Number is required by the S.C. Code of Laws 7-5-170. This number is used for internal purposes only and eliminates multiple registrations by a single individual. Your Social Security Number is not released to any unauthorized individual.

For Voter Registration Board Use Only

City	Mail City	Mail Co.	Township	Precinct	House	Senate	Co. Council	School	City Cncl	Cong.	Watershed		

Approved Disapproved by _____ (Member, Voter Registration Board) Date _____

Once the form is complete, please mail to the County in which you are Registered. To obtain the correct mailing address, you can click on the button "Voter Registration County Address List" located to the right.