

Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote

Voter Registration

Registering voters is a crucial component of getting out the vote. Nonpartisan organizations like NCJW can register voters without jeopardizing their tax-exempt statuses. Voter registration can take place in-person, online, and automatically through interaction with other government agencies.

National Mail-In Voter Registration Form

The National Mail-In Voter Registration Form makes it easy to register people to vote because it standardizes voter registration; however, the form must be filled out according to your state's specific rules. Download the National Mail-In Voter Registration Form from the US Election Assistance Commission's website: http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx. NCJW sections can encourage voter registration by having this form available at events, offices, thrift stores, or synagogues. **Note: when engaging in voter registration activities, the "Voter Registration Sign" included in this guide (or a sign with similar information) must be posted to comply with the Federal Election Commission.**

All states, except Wyoming and North Dakota, recognize this standard form as a valid means of voter registration. New Hampshire only accepts this form for absentee voting. Deadlines vary by state; in many states, you must register to vote between 10 and 30 days before the election. Registration policies also vary by state.

Same-Day Voter Registration

Same-day voter registration allows eligible voters to register the same day they cast their ballot. Many states allow same-day voter registration: California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Maryland and North Carolina allow same day voter registration during early voting periods. Same-day voter registration is typically handled at polling stations on Election Day. Studies show that same-day registrants are disproportionately people of color.

Online Voter Registration

Online voter registration allows voters to register to vote online. A study by the National Council of State Legislatures found that online registration is more than 25 times cheaper for states to use than traditional paper registration. Thirty-five states have enacted online voter registration: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio,

Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Automatic Voter Registration

Automatic voter registration ensures eligible voters are automatically registered when they come into contact with any government agency, such as getting a driver's license. Automatic voter registration has been approved in 13 states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia. Federal automatic voter registration legislation has been introduced in Congress, but has yet to become law. Studies show that automatic voter registration increases turnout among young, rural, and Latinx voters