

Student Voting Guide for 2012

Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

General Election: November 6. Check your class schedule early to ensure that you have time to vote. If you don't think you'll be able to make it to the polls on Election Day, consider voting early or by mail if available in your state.

Registration Deadlines: See last page of guide for deadlines by state.

Where to vote

Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. Sometimes there are multiple precincts in one polling place, so confirm your precinct ahead of time and get in the correct line!

You can look up your polling location online either through your <u>local election official</u> or the <u>Secretary of State or Election Division's</u> website. Check before Election Day to ensure you know where to vote.

Register at School or Home?

Registering to vote at a school residence

Students who do not intend to return to their prior residence after finishing college have the right to register to vote in their college community. Students are eligible to vote even if they are classified as "out of state" by their college or university.

Registering to vote at a home residence:

Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.

Absentee Voting

Some states allow all voters to vote by mail (absentee) while others require an excuse. Being a student is considered a valid excuse in most states to vote absentee. Check with the local election official to confirm.

Out-of-state students who are considering voting absentee in their home state should first determine absentee requirements for their state. Some states do not allow voting by mail for first-time voters. Also, some states require copies of identification to be mailed with an absentee ballot. Out-of-state students should determine if they want to vote absentee in another state or register in their college community before the registration dead-line.

ID Requirements & Student IDs

Some states require ID when voting. While some states currently accept student IDs, others do not. Check the <u>Fair Elections Legal Network's ID</u> <u>guides</u> for your state to determine what ID you need.

First Time Voters

Some states require voters to turn up in person the first time they vote in the state or in a new county. If you seek to register in a state with this requirement, you should make sure you will be able to go in person to the relevant polling place on Election Day.

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Common Questions from Out-of-State Students

Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in my college community?

If you receive scholarship money from a state, county or town, or a private entity (i.e. an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm with the entity providing the scholarship that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in your college community will not affect your eligibility.

Will registering to vote in my college community affect my driver's license or car registration?

Sometimes. Each state handles residency and driver's licenses differently. Check with your local Department of Motor Vehicles to determine whether you must switch your driver's license to your college community.

Will voting in my college community affect my federal financial aid?

Federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins and Stafford loans will not be affected by where you register to vote. Registering in your college community will also not affect your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

What do residency and domicile mean?

Residency and domicile are legal terms that states use to describe where you currently live and where you intend to remain for the foreseeable future.

Will registering to vote in my college community prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

Will registering to vote in my college community affect my tuition costs?

It shouldn't. Most schools will still consider you an out-of-state student even if you register to vote in the state. Check with your local registrar for specifics of your school.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.

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Voter Registration Deadlines to Vote in the November Election

Alabama	10/26/2012	Nebraska	10/19/2012 (mail),
Alaska	10/7/2012	Nevada	10/26/2012 (in person) 10/07/2012 (mail),
			10/16/2012 (in person)
Arizona	10/8/2012	New Hampshire	10/27/2012 (pre-registration), Election Day Registration
Arkansas	10/8/2012	New Jersey	10/16/2012
California	10/22/2012	New Mexico	10/9/2012
Colorado	10/9/2012	New York	10/12/2012
Connecticut	10/23/2012 (mail), 10/30/2012 (in-person)	North Carolina	10/12/2012 (mail), 11/03/2012 (in person)
Delaware	10/13/2012	North Dakota	None
Florida	10/9/2012	Ohio	10/9/2012
Georgia	10/9/2012	Oklahoma	10/12/2012
Hawaii	10/8/2012	Oregon	10/16/2012
Idaho	10/12/12 (pre-registration), Election Day Registration	Pennsylvania	10/9/2012
Illinois	10/9/2012 (regular registration), 10/30/2012 (grace period – may register in person but must vote in person at the registration site)	Rhode Island	10/7/2012
Indiana	10/9/2012	South Carolina	10/6/2012
Iowa	10/27/2012 (pre-registration), Election Day Registration	South Dakota	10/22/2012
Kansas	10/16/2012	Tennessee	10/8/2012
Kentucky	10/9/2012	Texas	10/9/2012
Louisiana	10/9/2012	Utah	10/9/2012 (mail), 10/22/2012 (in person)
Maine	10/16/2012 (pre-registration), Election Day Registration	Vermont	10/31/2012
Maryland	10/16/2012	Virginia	10/15/2012
Massachusetts	10/17/2012	Washington	10/08/2012 (mail), 10/29/2012 (in person)
Michigan	10/9/2012	Washington, DC	10/9/2012
Minnesota	10/16/2012 (pre-registration), Election Day Registration	West Virginia	10/16/2012
Mississippi	10/7/2012	Wisconsin	10/17/2012 (mail), 11/02/2012 (in-person), Election Day Registration
Missouri	10/10/2012	Wyoming	10/23/2012 (pre-registration), Election Day Registration
Montana	10/09/2012 (mail), in-person late registration until Election Day at noon		