

Conducting a Voter Registration Drive in Ohio

Voter Registration Deadline

Applications must be received or postmarked 30 days before Election Day. If the voter registration deadline falls on a day when office of the Secretary of State and county board of elections are closed, the deadline is extended to the next business day when the office is open.

A specific turnaround time applies to voter registration drives turning in applications they collect. See below.

Getting Started

Training Requirement: Ohio does not require training for registration drives.

Notification and Registration Requirements: Ohio does not have notification requirements for registration drives. To contact a local election official, see here: ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/

Compensation Restrictions: Do not pay registration drive participants based on how many registrations they collect. Paying participants based on number of registrations or volume is a felony in Ohio. Do not offer an applicant any incentive of monetary value to register to vote.

Obtaining Applications

State Form: State registration forms can be downloaded from the Secretary of State website: ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/ohio-voter-registration-form/

Individuals or organizations may also request a large number of the registration applications by calling the Secretary of State's request line at (614) 466-2585. Up to 1,500 forms at a time can be requested in person from the Secretary of State's office.

Federal Form: The federal mail-in voter registration application may also be used in voter registration drives: eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form/

Photocopying Blank Forms: Blank applications may be photocopied and used in voter registration drives.

Handling Applications

Incomplete Applications: Do not fill in any missing information on a registration form unless you have express consent from the applicant.

Photocopying Completed Applications: There is no law or rule prohibiting photocopying or retaining information from completed registration applications. As a best practice, a voter's full or partial Social Security number and/or driver's license number should not be retained.

Submitting Completed Applications: Completed registration applications collected during a drive must be returned to the Secretary of State's office or a county board of elections within 10 days of when the forms were completed or by the registration deadline if the registration form has been signed more than 24 hours before the registration deadline for the next election, whichever is earlier. Failure to follow these deadlines is a criminal offense. Fair Elections Center recommends that drive volunteers submit forms so they are received by election officials within 10 days after the forms were completed or by the voter registration deadline, whichever is earlier.

Fair Elections Center, Campus Vote Project, and Nonprofit VOTE intend the information contained herein to be used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Ohio legal professional.

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For more information, visit www.fairelectionscenter.org