

2008 Nevada Voter Empowerment Card

WHO CAN VOTE

Can I vote in Nevada?

You can vote in the November 4 election if you register to vote before the registration deadlines.

You can register if you meet **all** of the following qualifications:

- (1) you're 18 years of age or older;
- (2) you're a U.S. Citizen,
- (3) you will have been a resident of Nevada for 30 days before the election;
- (4) you haven't been convicted of a felony (unless your civil rights have been restored); and
- (5) you haven't been declared by a court to be mentally incompetent (unless you've had your legal capacity restored).

What if I'm a student?

You can register to vote at your school address or your home address—whichever you regard as your primary legal residence.

What if I've been convicted of a crime?

If you were convicted of a misdemeanor in Nevada, you can register and vote, but you have to vote by absentee ballot if you're still in jail. If you were convicted of a felony in Nevada and you completed your sentence before July 1, 2003, you can register and vote, but you have to include paperwork showing a discharge date prior to July 1, 2003, with your voter registration form. If you were convicted of a felony in Nevada and you completed your sentence after July 1, 2003:

If you were convicted of a non-violent, first felony offense, you can register and vote if you're not currently incarcerated or on probation or parole. Your right to vote is automatically restored when you complete your sentence, but you have to include proof that you completed your sentence with your voter registration form.

If you were convicted of a violent felony or a second offense, you may not be able to vote unless you've had your right to vote restored in the court where you were convicted.

What if I'm homeless?

You don't need a home to register, but you have to identify a place of residence, which can be a street corner, a park, a shelter or any other place where you usually stay. You should also provide an address, which may be of a local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or anywhere else willing to accept mail on your behalf.

REGISTRATION

How do I register?

You can register to vote:

- (1) **in person**, by filling out a voter registration form at your local county clerk's office;
- (2) **by mail**, by filling out a mail-in voter registration form and mailing it to your local county clerk or the elections division of the Nevada Secretary of State; or
- (3) **when you apply for services** at the Department of Motor Vehicles and state agencies that provide public assistance (such as Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps) or services to people with disabilities. You may also be able to register at many other state and federal offices and agencies.

You can get mail-in voter registration forms from your local county clerk, from most libraries, post offices, colleges and high schools, or online at <http://sos.state.nv.us/elections/voter/registration.asp>.

What's the registration deadline?

If you register **by mail**, the deadline is Saturday, October 4, 2008. Your application must be postmarked

If you were convicted of a state felony in another state, you can register and vote if you provide documentation showing that your voting rights were restored in the state where you were convicted. If you don't have any documentation showing that your voting rights have been restored, you may be able to register by signing an affidavit. Contact your local registrar of voters or county clerk for more information. If you were convicted of a federal felony, you can't register or vote unless you've received, and can show proof of, a presidential pardon.

What if I miss the deadline?

You won't be able to vote in the November 4 election, but you can register to vote in other future elections. Remember that if you miss the mail-in deadline, you can register in person until October 14.

What if I've moved?

You should update your registration every time you move.

If you moved before Sunday, October 5, and didn't re-register, you won't be able to vote in the November 4 election unless you moved within the same county or voting precinct. If you moved within the same county or precinct, you have the right to vote in your old precinct. You may be asked to provide an oral or written affirmation of your new address. N.R.S. § 293.525.

If you moved on or after October 5, you can vote in your old precinct.

How do I know if I'm registered?

You can check your registration status online at <http://sos.state.nv.us/elections/> or by calling your county clerk.

VOTING EARLY

Can I vote before Election Day?

Yes. Any registered voter can vote before Election Day by casting an absentee ballot or by casting a ballot in person at an early voting center.

How do I vote early in person?

Early voting takes place between Saturday, October 18, and Friday, October 31. The complete early voting schedule is printed on the sample ballot mailed to every registered voter before the election. It's also available on the Secretary of State's website. You can also check your local newspaper or call your county clerk for specific hours and locations.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

You have to submit an application that must be received by your county clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28. You can get an application from your county clerk by that date or signed by that date and received by your county clerk no later than Wednesday, October 8. If you register **in person**, the deadline is Tuesday, October 14.

What's the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

To be counted, your absentee ballot must be **received** by your local election official at their designated offices by 7 p.m. on Election Day. You can't drop off your ballot at a polling place

What if I decide to vote at the polls instead of by absentee ballot?

You can surrender your absentee ballot at the polls and vote a regular ballot. If you don't bring your absentee ballot, you have to show ID and sign a statement saying that you haven't voted yet in this election.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

When is Election Day?

Tuesday, November 4

When are the polls open?

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You have the right to vote if you're in line or inside your polling place when the polls close. N.R.S. §§ 293.273, 293.305.

Can I get time off from work to vote?

Maybe. If your work schedule would make it practically impossible for you to vote in person while the polls are open, your employer is required to give you time off to vote, without penalty or any deduction in your wages. You should ask your employer for time off before Election Day, and your employer has the right to specify which hours you get to take. N.R.S. § 293.463.

Where do I vote?

On Election Day, you have to vote at the polling place to which you're assigned.

Your assigned polling place will be listed on your sample ballot and on the voter registration card that you should receive in the mail when you register. You can also look up your polling place online at <https://nvsos.gov/votersearch/>.

If you don't have your card, didn't receive your sample ballot, or don't have Internet access, you can call your county clerk to find your polling place and ask for a replacement card or sample ballot.

What if my polling place is not accessible?

If you find this out before Election Day, call your county clerk right away and ask for accommodation or reassignment to an accessible polling place. All polling places are required to be ADA compliant. N.R.S. § 293.2955.

Otherwise, bring one or more people to assist you. You have the right to have anyone you choose assist you as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union. N.R.S. § 293.296.

Can I get a ballot in my native language?

Some counties in Nevada are required to provide language assistance in Spanish, Shoshone, Paiute, or other Native American languages. Contact your county clerk before Election Day to find out what's available in your area. Poll workers in places where language assistance is required should offer this assistance to you. If they don't, tell a poll worker that you want assistance in one of these languages. You're entitled to a translation of all ballots and other election materials.

Even if language assistance isn't available where you vote, you have the right to bring an interpreter with you to the polls or to get assistance in your language from anyone you choose, including a poll worker, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.

What if I need help in the voting booth?

If you need help in the voting booth because of a physical disability or because you have difficulty reading or writing in English, tell a poll worker when you get to your polling place. You also have the right to have any consenting person you choose assist you in the voting booth, including a poll worker, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union. N.R.S. § 293.296.

If you need instructions on how to use the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to help you at any time you ask—even after you've entered the voting booth. N.R.S. § 293.2546.

VOTER ID

Do I have to show ID?

Probably not. Most voters won't need to show ID at all.

You **only** need to show ID if:

- (1) this is your first time voting in a federal election in Nevada;
- (2) you registered to vote by mail; **and**
- (3) you didn't provide any identification either when you registered or after receiving a letter from your county clerk. You may be required to show ID if you get a letter from your county clerk indicating that there are problems with your registration. N.R.S. §§ 293.517, 293.2725.

What are the accepted forms of ID?

Accepted forms of ID include a current and valid Nevada Driver's License, Nevada ID card, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other document issued by a government entity with your name and residential address.

What if I don't have any ID?

You can cast a provisional ballot, but that ballot won't be counted unless you bring ID to your county clerk by 5 p.m. on Friday, November 7. N.R.S. § 293.3082

PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

What if I'm not on the voter list?

First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm you're at the right polling place. Show your registration card or sample ballot if you have it, or offer to spell your name.

If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name is not on the voter list, as long as you're willing to swear that you believe you registered to vote. N.R.S. §§ 293.3081-82.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

Ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered so you can go to the right polling place. You can also call your county clerk or look up your polling place online at <https://nvsos.gov/votersearch/>.

If you can't figure out where you're registered, go to the polling place that you think is most likely to be the right one and ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure you're at the right polling place, although provisional ballots only cover federal offices. N.A.C. § 293.270.

What if someone challenges my right to vote?

If someone claims that you aren't who you say you are, ask for an affidavit to sign in order to swear to your identity, **and** show your photo ID **or** bring someone over 18 who has photo ID and will sign an affidavit swearing that they know who

you are. You have the right to cast a regular ballot if you provide this evidence. N.R.S. § 293.303(8).

If you haven't moved but someone claims that you don't live at your address on the voter list, ask for an affidavit to sign in order to swear that you do live there **and** show an ID **other than your voter registration card** that has your residence on it. You have the right to cast a regular ballot if you provide this evidence. N.R.S. § 293.303(7).

However, even if you refuse to sign any affidavits or election officials determined that you don't live at the address that the registrar has on file for you, you must still be allowed to vote at the special polling place that your county clerk is required to set up for challenged voters. N.R.S. §§ 293.303(5), 293.304.

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher, call your county clerk, call one of the election hotline numbers listed at the end of this card, or make a complaint online at <http://www.votingrights.org>.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?

Tell a poll worker before you cast your vote. If you spoil a paper ballot, you have a right to return a spoiled ballot and receive a new one in its place. If your voting machine malfunctions, you have a right to correct any errors and should request a different machine. N.R.S. §§ 293.2546, 293.2696(3).

How do I make a complaint?

First, ask for the chairman of the election board at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints that arise on Election Day. Candidates, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers at your polling place who might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you who you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your county clerk or the Nevada Secretary of State. N.R.S. § 293.227.

You can also call one of the election hotline numbers listed at the end of this card or make a complaint online at <http://www.votingrights.org>.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING PROBLEMS

- Check your voter registration status at least 30 days before the election.
- Vote before Election Day, through early voting or absentee voting.
- If you plan to vote at the polls, locate your polling place at least 30 days before the election.
- Vote early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.
- Bring identification even if it's not required.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Take your time.

VOTING RESOURCES

NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE ELECTIONS DIVISION:

1-775-684-5705

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, VOTING SECTION:

1-800-253-3931

ACLU VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT:

1-877-523-2792

<http://www.votingrights.org>

ACLU OF NORTHERN NEVADA:

1-775-786-6757 (Reno)

ACLU OF SOUTHERN NEVADA:

1-702-366-1226 (Las Vegas)

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE:

(866) OUR-VOTE

<http://www.866ourvote.org>