

## WHO CAN VOTE

### Can I vote in South Dakota?

- You must be 18 years old and a resident of South Dakota.

### What if I'm a student?

- You can register to vote at your school address or your home address, whichever you consider your primary legal residence.

### What if I've been convicted of a crime?

- You **can** vote if you have been sentenced *only* to probation.
- You **can** vote if you have received a suspended imposition of sentence or have been sentenced only to pay a fine, fee, or restitution.
- You **can** vote if you have been charged with a crime but not convicted.
- You **cannot** vote if you were convicted of a felony and are currently serving a sentence of imprisonment, including parole and probation.
- You must re-register to vote after serving your sentence.
- For more information, visit <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/voting/register-to-vote/felony-convictions.aspx>

### What if I'm homeless?

- You don't need a home to register, but you do 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 must also provide a mailing address, such as a shelter or advocacy organization, at which you can receive mail.

### What if I've moved or changed my name?

- You should update your registration every time you move or change your name.
- If you moved before October 24 and didn't re-register, you won't be able to vote in the November 8 election unless you moved within the same county or voting precinct.
- If you moved after October 24, call the Secretary of State's office or your County Clerk as soon as possible to find out where to vote.

### How do I know if I'm registered?

- You can confirm your voter registration by visiting the Voter Information Portal at the secretary of state's website: <https://sos.sd.gov/Elections/>.

## REGISTRATION

### How do I register?

- Voter registration forms are available at <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/assets/FinalVoterRegistrationForm11.16.12.pdf>
- Print the Voter Registration Form, fill out the form, sign it, and then submit it to your County Auditor. Your voter registration form with an original signature must be received by the auditor 15 days before any election if you wish to vote in that election.

- Other places you can register:
  1. County Auditor's office
  2. Driver's license station (when you are renewing or applying for a driver's license you may also register to vote on the driver's license application)
  3. City finance office
  4. Public assistance agencies providing food stamps, TANF, or WIC
  5. Department of Human Services office which provide assistance to the disabled
  6. Military recruitment offices

### What's the registration deadline?

- You must be registered to vote 15 days prior to any election you wish to vote in. This year's general election date is November 8, 2016. The deadline to register to vote is October 24, 2016.

### What if I miss the deadline?

- If you miss the October 24 deadline, you will not be able to vote in the 2016 election, but you can register to vote in future elections.

## VOTING EARLY

### Can I vote before Election Day?

- Yes. Any registered voter can vote before Election Day by casting an absentee ballot. If you are unable to attend your polling place in person on Election Day, you may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

### How do I get an absentee ballot?

- A voter must request an absentee ballot application from your County Election Official, who will send a paper absentee ballot to you. Complete the ballot, and return it to your County Election Official.
- Ensure you are registered to vote. If you are unsure, confirm your registration. You can confirm your registration by visiting the Voter Information Portal at the secretary of state's website: <https://sos.sd.gov/Elections/VIPLogin.aspx>
- Download and print an Absentee Ballot Application (PDF) and send it to your County Election Official.

### What's the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

- To be counted, your application for absentee ballot must be received by your County Election Official no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the election.

## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

### When is Election Day?

- Tuesday, November 8, 2016

### When are the polls open?

- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You have the right to vote if you're in line or inside your polling place when the polls close.

### 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 (from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.), your employer is required to give you time off to vote, without penalty or deduction in your wages. You should ask your employer for time off before Election Day. Your employer has the right to specify which hours you get to take.

### Where do I vote?

- On election day, you must vote at your assigned polling place.
- Your assigned polling place will be on the voter registration card that you should receive by mail after you register. You can also look up your polling place and find sample ballots on the Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.sd.gov/Elections>
- If you're voting absentee, you can also use the Secretary of State's website to track information regarding the date your absentee ballot was received.

### What if I am disabled and my polling place is not accessible?

- 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.
- If you feel you cannot vote on the day of the election, fill out an absentee ballot application and mail it to your County Election Official as soon as possible.

### What if I need help in the voting booth?

- If you need help because of a physical disability or because you have difficulty reading or writing in English, tell a poll worker when you get to the polling place.
- 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 have entered the voting booth.

## VOTER ID

### Do I have to show ID?

- All voters who appear at a polling place must show proof of identification.

### What are the accepted forms of ID?

- South Dakota Driver's License or nondriver ID card
- U.S. government photo I.D.
- U.S. Armed Forces I.D.
- Current student photo I.D. card from a South Dakota high school or accredited institution of higher learning
- Tribal photo I.D.

### What if I don't have any ID?

- If you do not have a photo I.D., you can sign a personal identification affidavit, and will still be allowed to vote a regular ballot.

## PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

### What if I'm not on the voter list?

- Ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm you are at the right polling place. Show your registrations card or sample ballot if you have it, or offer to spell your name.
- If you still believe you are registered to vote and are in the correct polling place, you may cast a vote using a provisional ballot.

### What is a provisional ballot?

- A provisional ballot is used to record a vote when there are questions about a given voter's eligibility.

### Will my provisional ballot be counted?

- When you cast a provisional ballot, you will be sent a notice within 13 days whether your ballot was counted or not counted. If the ballot was not counted, you will be told of the reason.

### What if I go to the wrong polling place?

- Ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you are registered so you can go to the right polling place. You can also call your county clerk or look up your polling place at: <http://sos.sd.gov/Elections/>

### What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

- Tell a poll worker. If a poll worker is a problem, tell a poll watcher, call your county clerk, or call the Secretary of State.

### What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

- If you make a mistake you can return your ballot to the poll workers and they will give you a new one.

### How do I make a complaint?

- First, ask for the chairman of the election board at your polling place. There may be poll watchers near your polling place who might be able to assist you. You can also call your county clerk or the South Dakota Secretary of State.
- The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota is monitoring whether there are any barriers to voting for those eligible to vote. Accordingly, we encourage you to let us know of any voting changes that negatively impact your community. Potentially discriminatory voting changes include: changing polling hours and locations, reducing the number of polling places in your county, changing or eliminating early voting. To file a complaint, please visit <https://www.aclusd.org/en/get-help>.

*This card is a resource, not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only. South Dakota may revise its laws after the publication of this card. Therefore, it is your responsibility to determine how all applicable laws concerning voting in South Dakota affect you.*

### South Dakota Secretary of State

(605) 773-3537

[www.sdsos.gov/elections](http://www.sdsos.gov/elections)

### Election Protection:

866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683)

### US Department of Justice:

(800) 253-3931



[www.aclusd.org](http://www.aclusd.org)

# LET ME VOTE

## KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS:

### SOUTH DAKOTA

This card is designed to help protect your right to vote. Keep it handy, and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

### QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status at least 30 days before the election.
- Locate your polling place and note the hours of operation.
- Consider voting early or absentee if possible. If you plan to vote at the polls, go early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.
- Check to see if identification is required to vote.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time.
- Ask for help if you need it.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The ACLU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but we believe that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote.



[www.aclusd.org](http://www.aclusd.org)