

General Information

To register to vote in South Dakota, you must:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Reside in South Dakota.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.
- Not currently be serving a sentence for a felony conviction which includes imprisonment, served or suspended, in an adult penitentiary system.
- Not be judged mentally incompetent by a court of law.

Voting while attending college: Students can register using either your school address or your home address, whichever you consider your primary residence.

Voting with a criminal record: You must re-register to vote after serving your sentence.

You can vote if:

- You have been sentenced only to pay a fine, fee, or restitution.
- You have been charged with a crime but not convicted.
- You have received a suspended imposition of a sentence or have been sentenced to only pay a fine, fee, or restitution.

You cannot vote if:

- You were convicted of a felony and are currently serving a sentence of imprisonment, including parole and probation.
- Find more information at **sdsos.gov**.

Voting if you're experiencing homelessness: You don't need a home to vote, but you do have to identify a place of residence. You must also provide a mailing address.

Voting and ADA requirements: All polling places are required to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Call your county auditor if any issues arise on Election Day.

Moving and changing addresses:

If you moved recently, ensure your voter file is updated by visiting **sdsos.gov**.

Registering to vote

You must be registered to vote 15 days prior to an election. The 2022 deadline is Oct. 24. Confirm or update your voter registration by visiting **sdsos.gov**.

Where to register:

- County Auditor's office
- Driver's license offices
- Municipal finance office
- Public assistance agencies providing Medicaid, food stamps, TANF, or WIC
- Department of Human Services offices that serve the disabled

- Military recruitment offices
- Secretary of State's office

Absentee voting

Voting before Election Day: Any registered voter can vote before Election Day by casting an absentee ballot. Absentee voting begins Sept. 23, 2022.

Finding absentee ballots: You may request an absentee ballot from your county election official who will send a paper ballot to you.

To ensure your vote is counted:

- Place your ballot in the return envelope and seal it securely.
- Complete the statement on the back of the return envelope and SIGN IT.
- Mail the ballot, deliver it in person, or have someone deliver it for you to the person in charge of the election.
- Do not return your absentee ballot to your polling place.
- Return it no later than 5 p.m. the day before the election.

Voting on Election Day

Election Day: Nov. 8, 2022, with polls opening at 7 a.m. and closing at 7 p.m.

If you are running late: You have the right to vote if you're in line or inside your polling place when the polls close.

Getting time off: 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 deduction in your wages.

Polling location: On Election Day you must vote at your assigned polling place. Find your polling place at sdsos.gov.

Voter ID laws

Identification: All voters who appear at polling places must show proof of identification.

Acceptable forms of ID include:

- South Dakota driver's license or photo ID
- U.S. Armed Forces ID
- U.S. government photo ID
- Current student photo ID
- Tribal photo ID

Voting without identification: If you are voting without ID, you can sign a personal identification affidavit.

Quick tips

- Check your voter registration at least 30 days before the election.
- Locate your polling place and note the hours of operation.
- Consider voting early or absentee if possible.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Take your time.

Get involved

Become a precinct worker: This paid position is recruited the County Auditor. Learn more by visiting aclusd.org/auditor.

Common Questions

What if I'm not on the list?

Ask the precinct worker to double check. If you are confident that you are at the correct polling place but are informed that you are not on the registration list, you may vote using a provisional ballot.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

Ask a precinct 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 auditor or look up your polling place at sdsos.gov.

What if I make a mistake on the ballot?

It happens. You can request a new ballot from the precinct worker.

How do I register by mail?

You can also register to vote by mail using the South Dakota voter registration form. Be sure to read the instructions carefully and fill it out completely. Find more details at sdsos.gov.

More information

- **South Dakota Secretary of State**, sdsos.gov/elections or 605-773-3537
- **County Auditor's Office**, aclusd.org/auditor
- **Election Protection**, 866-687-8683
- **U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Voting Section**, 800-253-3931

South Dakota Voters: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

ACLU South Dakota

Please note. This handout is a resource, not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only. South Dakota may revise its laws after this is printed or published online. If you believe your rights have been violated or for more information on your rights as a voter, contact us at aclusd.org or email southdakota@aclu.org.