

San Juan County Elections Inmate Voting Policy and Procedures

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the requirement for providing eligible inmates the opportunity to vote during elections, pursuant to election statutes.

POLICY

Inmates who have not been convicted of a felony and are in custody continue to have the right to vote. Except for individual inmates who have lost the right to vote, sentenced inmates maintain this right.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Inmates maintain their right to vote while incarcerated if they are:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of the state of Washington;
- At least 18 years old on election day;
- Voting only once in this election;
- Mentally competent (not disqualified from voting due to a court order).
- Not under Department of Corrections (DOC) supervision for a WA felony conviction.

An inmate who wishes to complete a voter registration form and has questions regarding their eligibility can request a deputy to contact the Elections Office at 360-378-3357.

PROCEDURES

Voting Liaison

The San Juan County Sheriff's Office agrees to appoint a Voting Liaison who shall be responsible for assisting inmates who have requested to vote and communicating those requests to Elections.

Registering to Vote

The Elections Office shall supply the Sheriff's Office with Washington State Voter Registration Forms during the 18-day voting period. The Elections Office shall notify the Voting Liaison via email of upcoming election dates and voter registration deadlines. An inmate who is eligible to vote and requests to register shall be given a Voter Registration Form. If the inmate completes the form and returns it to the Sheriff's Voting Liaison, the Liaison shall immediately forward the form to Elections via inter-office mail or, on Elections Day or the day before, shall contact Elections to retrieve the Voter Registration Form.

When Voter Registration Forms are received from the Sheriff's Office, Elections shall process the registrations as soon as practicable and print an on-demand voter ID card that will be sent by inter-office mail to the Voting Liaison.

Requesting a Ballot

An inmate who will be in custody during the 7-days before an election and requests to vote shall complete a Ballot Request Form (see below). The completed form shall be submitted to the Voting Liaison, who will forward the application to Elections via inter-office mail or email.

Upon receipt of a Ballot Request Form, Elections staff shall, as soon as practicable, process the request and issue the inmate a ballot, if the requestor is a registered voter in San Juan County. The ballot shall be delivered to the Sheriff's Office for the Voting Liaison to deliver to the inmate.

If the ballot request is denied, Elections Staff shall document the reason for the denial on the Ballot Request Form and email a copy of the form to the Voting Liaison to inform the inmate.

Voting

All ballots received by the Sheriff's Office shall be delivered to inmates in a timely manner to ensure compliance with the inmate's right to vote in accordance with Washington State's voting requirements. Once the ballot has been delivered to the inmate, it shall be the responsibility of the inmate to return the ballot to the Voting Liaison. The Voting Liaison shall contact the Elections Office to retrieve the voted ballot.

An inmate with a sight impairment who will be in custody during the 7-days preceding and including Election Day and who requests to vote shall be offered the opportunity to use the County's Accessible Voting Unit (AVU). A deputy shall escort the inmate to the Elections Office to vote on the AVU between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.



San Juan County Inmate Guide to Voting

Protecting the Voting Rights of Americans Detained
While Awaiting Trial

- Inmates who have not been convicted of a felony, even if in custody, continue to have the right to vote.
- If you were convicted of a felony in a Washington State court, your right to vote is restored automatically once you are no longer under the authority of DOC (in prison or on community custody). If you have questions about your status with DOC, call at (800) 430-9674.
- If you were convicted of a felony in another state or in federal court, your right to vote is restored automatically as long as you are not currently incarcerated for that felony.
- You do not lose the right to vote for a misdemeanor conviction or a conviction in juvenile court.
- You do not need a certificate of discharge (COD) to have your voting rights restored.
- Once your right is restored, you must re-register to vote in order to receive a ballot.

Register and vote in 4 easy steps!

1	Complete a Voter Registration Form	You must provide a residential address that you consider your home address in order for us to assign your ballot to a precinct. Do not list the San Juan County Sheriff's Office as your physical or mailing address.
2	Complete a Ballot Request Form	Ballots are available 18 days prior to each election. If you request a ballot during an election, and you are an eligible voter, your ballot will be delivered to you at the San Juan County Sheriff's Office during office hours Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM only.
3	Submit both forms to a Voting Liaison	The Voting Liaison will send your Voter Registration and Ballot Request forms to the Elections Office for processing. If you are eligible, a Voter ID card and a ballot will be delivered to you at the San Juan County Sheriff's Office.
4	Vote and return your ballot	To vote: Follow the instructions included with your ballot packet. To return: Inmates are responsible for meeting election deadlines. Return your ballot to the Voting Liaison in time to deliver to Elections staff no later than 8:00 PM Election Day.

Future ballots will be mailed to the mailing address provided on the Voter Registration form unless you complete and return a Ballot Request Form with a change of address.

You can update your voter registration information and check the status of your ballot at www.voter.votewa.gov.

Ballot Request Form

Section 1 – Inmate completes this portion

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Most Current Residence (for address you consider to be home) _____

Mailing Address _____

Section 2 – FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Request Accepted	Request Denied
Ballot Issued: Y / N _____	Reason: _____
Voter ID: _____	_____
Date: _____	Date: _____
Staff Initials: _____	Staff Initials: _____

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