

San Juan County Elections Voter Registration Drive Quick Information Guide

(amended February 2023)



SAN JUAN
COUNTY
WASHINGTON

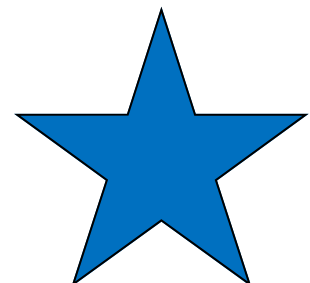
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Your Registration Drive and The Law: What is Required of You?

Before you start registering people to vote, here are some things that will be required of you in order to comply with state law.

- You must transmit completed registration forms to the Secretary of State's office or County Elections office within five (5) business days. (RCW 29A.08.115)
- To determine eligibility for a given election, the date registration forms are received by the Secretary of State's office or County Elections office will be used, not the date on which the forms were filled out. (RCW29A.08.115)
- If you are collecting registration forms on the last day for voter registration by registration drive (8 days before an election), you must deliver them to the Secretary of State's office or the County Elections office by the close of business on that day in order for them to be valid for that election.
- It is considered discrimination to fail to return a voter registration form in a timely fashion or to ask a potential voter intimidating questions about race, creed, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation.
- You may not deny any person the right to register to vote for any reason. If you are unsure of the validity of their registration, submit the form and we will contact the voter directly.
- No incentive or special treatment may be given to someone for registering that you would not give to any other person. For example, you may have "Voter Registration Pens" that you give to anyone who stops at your booth, but you must give them away to everyone, not just those who register.
- You may not copy or allow any other person to copy any of the information provided by the voter on their voter registration form for any reason.
- If you need more registration forms, come to the Elections office or go to the Secretary of State's office or website to obtain them.





2023 Voter Registration Deadlines

February 14 Special Election

February 6 Last day to register by mail, online, or by registration drive.

February 14 Last day to register in person at the Elections Office.

April 25 Special Election

April 17 Last day to register by mail, online, or by registration drive.

April 25 Last day to register in person at the Elections Office.

August 1 Primary Election

July 24 Last day to register by mail, online, or by registration drive.

August 1 Last day to register in person at the Elections Office.

November 7 General Election

October 30 Last day to register by mail, online, or by registration drive.

November 7 Last day to register in person at the Elections Office.

New voter registration applications may be submitted by mail or online after the 8-day cut-off; however, new registrations will not be in effect during the conduct of the current election.



Voter Eligibility

To register to vote, a person must meet all of the following requirements.

1

U.S. Citizen

Having a green card or permanent residency status is not citizenship.

2

Legal resident of Washington state

A person must establish a residential address in Washington at least 30 days before Election Day.

3

At least 18 years old by the day of the election in which they first vote

To qualify for the Future Voter Program, a U.S. citizen must be at least 16 and a Washington resident. When they turn 18, Future Voters become automatically registered. A voter who turns 18 between the August Primary and the November General Election can vote in the Primary.

4

Not disqualified from voting due to a court order

Only a Superior Court Judge can declare a person unable to vote due to mental incompetency. Do not assume that a person under guardianship is ineligible to vote.

5

Not under total confinement for a Washington felony conviction

A person's right to vote is restored once they are no longer in total confinement for a felony conviction in Washington. Once a person is released from the Department of Corrections (DOC), the right to vote is restored and they are able to re-register to vote.

Voters must also:

- Provide a valid residential address. This address must be within Washington State, and must be their place of residence. "Residence" for the purposes of registering and voting means a person's permanent address where he or she physically resides and maintains his or her abode. (RCW 29A.04.151) Exceptions are made for military personnel, overseas civilians, individuals engaged in navigation, and students.
- Provide a valid Washington State driver's license number or Washington State-issued ID number, **OR** the last four digits of their Social Security number. Additional provisions are made for individuals who do not have any of these items. They may complete and submit the form, and we will contact the person directly.

Are YOU
Ready to
Vote?

Address & Name Changes

Address changes may be done through election day

If a voter has moved ***within San Juan County*** he or she can change his or her address in the following ways:

- Call the Elections office: (360) 378-3357.
- Email the Elections office at elections@sanjuanco.com. The voter should include his or her name, date of birth, and new address. It is helpful to include the previous address.
- Complete a new registration form to update the address information.

If a voter has moved ***to San Juan County*** from another county in Washington, he or she must fill out a new voter registration form. The new form must be received in the Elections office at least 8 days prior to Election Day or submitted in person in order to be eligible to vote in that election.

Name changes

If the voter's name has changed, he or she should complete a new voter registration form with the new name. Please have the voter provide his or her old name on the "former name" line. The voter must sign his or her new name under the voter declaration.



Signature Updates & Cancellations

Signature updates may be done at any time

Over time signatures change for a variety of reasons. Elections staff check every signature on every ballot return envelope. If the signature on the envelope does not match what is on file in the voter's registration records, the voter will be contacted to update their signature.

If a voter's signature has changed since he or she last voted or if the voter receives correspondence from the Elections office that the signature needs to be updated, please have the voter complete a new voter registration form so we can update our records.

Cancellation—No longer a resident of the county

If a voter has moved to another county in Washington or out of state, he or she needs to send San Juan County Elections a signed written request for cancellation so we are able to cancel his or her registration in San Juan County. ***We must have signed authorization from the voter in order to cancel his or her voter registration.***

Cancellation—Deceased

If a voter has passed away and remains on the voter registration rolls, we can remove him or her with written authorization from a family member or another registered voter, a copy of a published obituary, or copy of the death certificate.

Special Circumstances Voters:

- **Address Confidentiality Program**
- **Power of Attorney**
- **Felony Convictions**

Address Confidentiality Program

Nearly all information in your voter registration record is public record and available to any person who specifically asks for it. However, certain individuals are eligible to participate in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) through the Secretary of State's office. If a person is a

- Survivor of sexual assault,
- Victim of domestic violence, and/or
- Victim of stalking,

he or she may qualify for this program, and **should not** fill out a voter registration form today. The person should contact the Secretary of State's office at (360) 902-4180, and ask about the ACP program. The program will protect their information and keep it out of the public domain.

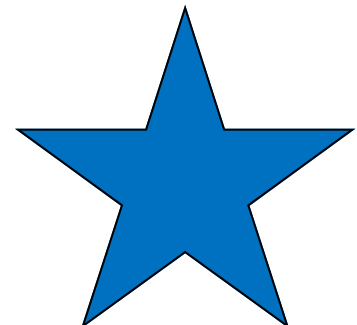
Power of Attorney

Power of Attorney designations do not hold any validity in Elections. Because elections are a matter of civil rights, no person may vote for you, or sign your ballot for you, even with a Power of Attorney.

Felony Convictions

- If you were convicted of a felony in Washington State, another state, or in federal court, your right to vote will be restored automatically as long as you are not currently serving a DOC sentence in total confinement. If you have questions about your status with DOC, call at (360) 725-8213.
- 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.





Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When are the Primary and General Elections?

A: See the list of important dates on page 3 of this packet.

Q: When can I register to vote?

A: Any time. However, if registering by mail, online, or registration drive, you must do so at least 8 days before an election to be eligible to vote in that election. After the 8 day deadline, registrations may be submitted in person at the Elections Office.

Q: When are ballots available?

A: Ballots are available at the Elections office at least 30 days before the election. They are mailed out at least 18 days before the election.

Q: What if I don't receive my ballot?

A: Chances are it's because we have an incorrect address for you. If you don't get a ballot, call the Elections office at (360) 378-3357 and request a replacement ballot.

Q: What are ballot drop boxes? Where are they located?

A: Ballot drop boxes are permanent, secured boxes placed around the county, which are open 24-hours a day, beginning when ballots are mailed to eligible voters, and closing promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. You can place your ballot packet in any of the boxes. No postage is required.

Drop box locations

- The Elections office, 55 Second Street, Suite A, Friday Harbor; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F, and until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day

- Outside the San Juan County Courthouse, Second Street entrance, Friday Harbor; 24-hour drop box
- Outside the Orcas Senior Center, 62 Henry Road, Eastsound; 24-hour drop box
- Outside the Lopez Island Fire District Office, Fisherman Bay Road, Lopez Village; 24-hour drop box

Q: Should I mail my ballot on Election Day?

A: Your ballot packet must either be in a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, or **have a postmark no later than Election Day**. If you mail your ballot **on** Election Day, there is no guarantee the envelope will have a valid postmark for the election. **If you wait until the last minute, we encourage you to use a ballot drop box or bring your voted ballot packet to the Elections office.**

Q: How can I get more information about ballot measures and candidates?

A: San Juan County Elections publishes an online Voters' Guide for every local election. It can be viewed by going to www.sanjuanco.com/elections and clicking on the "Current Election" link. San Juan publishes a printed Local Voters' Pamphlet for each election. One pamphlet will be mailed to each registered voter in the election.

