

RESOURCES:

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**“The right to vote freely
for the candidate of one’s choice is
of the essence of the democratic
society, and any restrictions on that
right strike at the heart of
representative government.”**

**—U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice
Earl Warren, Reynolds v. Sims (1964)**

Voting With A Criminal Conviction In Oklahoma



REGISTERING TO VOTE WITH A CRIMINAL CONVICTION

Q. CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE IF I WAS CONVICTED OF A FELONY IN OKLAHOMA?

A. If you were convicted of a felony in Oklahoma, you must fully complete your sentence before registering to vote. In Oklahoma, this means you must complete incarceration, probation, and parole. If you are released from supervision early, you cannot register until your original sentence handed down by your sentencing judge expires. Your right to vote is restored automatically at that time and no action on your part is required. If a court has issued you a deferred sentence you are eligible to vote if you meet all other requirements.

Q. CAN I VOTE IN OKLAHOMA IF I HAVE A MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION?

A. If you were convicted of a misdemeanor in Oklahoma, you can vote. If you are in jail, you have to vote by absentee ballot. You must request an absentee ballot in advance from your County Election Board, the State Elections Board or at http://www.state.ok.us/~elections/abs_app.html.

Q. WHAT IF I WAS CONVICTED OF A FELONY IN ANOTHER STATE?

A. If you were convicted of a felony in another state, you are subject to the same law as if you were convicted in an Oklahoma court.

Q. WHAT IF I WAS CONVICTED OF A FEDERAL FELONY?

A. If you were convicted of a federal felony you are subject to the same law as if you were convicted in an Oklahoma court.

Q. WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

A. Your vote is your voice. It is a fundamental right and the cornerstone of our democracy. It gives us power and lets us play a part in American political life. The United States is the only democracy in the world that denies voting rights to such large numbers of people with criminal records for such long periods of time. When you take away the voting rights of people who have criminal convictions, it reduces their prospects of successful rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Once you become eligible, you still have to register to vote!

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE IF YOU ARE:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A resident of Oklahoma.
- 18 years old or older.

Q. HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE IN OKLAHOMA?

A. You must fill out a voter registration application form. Voter registration applications are available at your County Election Board, post office, public assistance office, library and many other public locations. You will be offered a voter registration application when you get your driver's license and when you apply for assistance at some government agencies. You may also download an application form at http://www.ok.gov/~elections/vrf_rms.html or you can request to receive a form by mail at <http://www.ok.gov/~elections/vrmail.html>.

Q. WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM REQUIRE?

A. The voter registration form asks for your name, address, date of birth, Oklahoma driver's license number and the last four digits of your social security number which is required if you do not have an Oklahoma driver's license. It also asks you to choose a political affiliation and to swear or affirm that the information you provide is accurate.

Q. WHEN DO I REGISTER TO VOTE IN OKLAHOMA?

A. You can register to vote at any time. To be eligible to vote in an upcoming election, you must register 24 days in advance of the election. If your registration application is received by the County Election Board in the 24 days before an election, you will not receive your voter identification card until after the election. If you will become 18 during the 60 days before an election, you may apply for voter registration between 25 and 60 days before the election.

COMMON ELECTIONS QUESTIONS

Q. HOW DO I KNOW WHERE TO VOTE?

A. Once your County Election Board has approved your application, a voter identification card will be mailed to you. Your voter identification card lists your name, address, political affiliation and the polling place for your voting precinct. When you receive your voter identification card, look at it carefully and report any errors to the County Election Board immediately.

Q. I LOST MY VOTER ID CARD. HOW DO I GET A REPLACEMENT?

A. You can request a replacement Voter ID card from the County Election Board in the county where you are registered to vote. A list of County Election Boards is available at: <http://www.state.ok.us/~elections/cebinform.html>.

Q. HOW DO I KNOW WHEN AN ELECTION IS SCHEDULED?

A. The election schedule is available at <http://www.ok.gov/~elections/>.