**How can people register to vote in South Carolina?**

People can register in the following ways:

* online (if they have a SC Driver’s License or DMV ID) or
* with a voter registration form sent to their county board of voter registration in person or by mail, email, or fax

**Who can register to vote?**

To be eligible to register to vote in South Carolina, a person **must**:

* be a United States citizen
* be at least eighteen years old on or before the next election
* be a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct
* not be under a court order declaring them mentally incompetent
* not be confined in any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
* have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws OR if previously convicted, have served the entire sentence, including probation or parole, or have received a pardon for the conviction.

There is no length of residency requirement in South Carolina in order to register to vote. However, voters must be registered at least 30 days prior to any election in order to vote in that election.

**The voter’s information has changed. What should they do?**

They should update their voter registration information. If they have moved to a new county, they will need to re-register to vote in that county as a “new registration”.

***Changes that are not moving to a new county***.

Making changes online. To update a name or an address change within the same county, a voter can update their voter registration information online (at SCVotes.org) if they have a SC Driver's License or DMV ID card.  If the voter hasn’t updated their DMV address, they must do that first, before updating their voter registration information.

Making changes with a form. If the person’s voter registration information has changed (name, address, etc.), and they still live within the same county, they may update their voter registration information using the paper form.

**What about college students?**

Students may choose to register to vote either where they reside while attending college or at their “home” address. (If that home address is not in South Carolina, they will not be registering to vote in South Carolina, of course.)

Many college students who live on campus receive their mail at a campus post office box.  These students must register at the physical address of their dormitory.  The student's P.O. box can be provided for mailing and contact purposes.

**What about returning citizens (people who have felony convictions)?**

Any person who is convicted of a felony or an offense against the election laws cannot register or vote, until their sentence (including any probation/parole sentence as well as prison/jail time) has been completed or they are sooner pardoned.

Once a person who was convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws serves their sentence, they may register to vote.  To register, the applicant must submit a new voter registration application to their county voter registration office.

**Does the returning citizen need to show proof of completion of sentence?**

County voter registration boards must be satisfied that the applicant has completed his sentence. It is a good idea for the person to bring proof of completion with them when they go to vote, along with their voter registration card and photo ID. (The completion of the person’s sentence is supposed to be reflected in the voter registration system, but communication between governmental departments is less than ideal, and it doesn’t always happen.)

**What is proof of completion of a sentence?**

A returning citizen receives proof of completion either from the prison system (if there is no probation/parole as part of the sentence) or otherwise from the Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

Anyone who has misplaced papers, may receive copies from the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (in the County Square complex at 301 University Ridge, Suite 6500, next to Social Services and across from Family Court). Phone: 864-282-4540.

**What elections are coming up?**

In 2020, there will be a general election on **November 3, 2020**. As a leadup to this general election, there is a presidential Democratic Party primary on Saturday, **February 29, 2020** and a statewide primary for both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party on Tuesday, **June 9, 2020**.

In Greenville County, there is a special election for Greenville County Sheriff on **March 10, 2020**.

**What primary elections can voters vote in?**

South Carolina is an “open primary” state. Voters do not register by party, and all registered voters are eligible to vote in the partisan primary of their choice (but not in more than one partisan primary) for a given election.