Arkansas Voting – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible to vote?

- Any legal Arkansas resident 18 or older who:
  - Has not been convicted of a felony, unless the person's sentence has been discharged or the person has been pardoned;
  - Has not been adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Q: Where can I find a voter registration application?

- County clerk’s office, State Revenue Office, Public library, Public assistance agency, Disability agency, Military recruitment office, Online at www.sos.arkansas.gov.

Q: What is the deadline to register to vote?

- You must apply to register to vote 30 days before an election. If you mail the form, it must be postmarked by that date. If you miss the 30-day deadline, you will not be able to vote in the upcoming election. However, you will be registered and eligible to vote for future elections.

Q: Do I have to show identification to vote?

- Starting Jan. 1, 2014, Arkansas voters will be required to show proof of identity before casting a ballot.

Q: What is an acceptable form of proof of identity?

- Driver’s license, photo identification card, concealed handgun carry license, United States passport, state or federal government employee identification, United States military identification, student ID card from an Arkansas institute, public assistance ID card.

Q: What if I don’t have any proof of identity?
• If you do not possess a driver’s license or other identification listed above, you can receive a free voter identification card from your local county clerk’s office. This process will require various non-photo identification documents. For more specifics, go to http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Documents/SOS%20Rules_Voter%20ID%20Final.pdf.

If you arrive at the polls to vote and do not possess any valid proof of identity, you may cast a provisional ballot that will only be counted if you return to the county clerk or county election commission by noon the Monday after the election with either proof of identity or an affidavit swearing you have no ID because you are indigent or have a religious objection to being photographed.

Q: Can I register to vote even if I don’t have a driver’s license?
• Yes. You will be asked for the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you may be asked to provide other documentation, such as an Identification Card or utility bill.

Q: Can anyone distribute voter registration applications?
• Yes.

Q: Does registering to vote mean I am eligible to be called for jury duty?
• Yes. However, circuit clerks may also call potential jurors based on their having a driver’s license or state identification card. [A.C.A. 16-32-302]

Q: Can convicted felons vote?
• Yes, but only after he or she has completed probation, parole, or any other supervised form of release. County clerks will require proof that these obligations have been satisfied. For more information, visit https://static.ark.org/eeuploads/pulaski/VRFelonRestoration_ofVotingRightsBrochure.pdf.

Q: Where should I register if I am a college student?
• Do you intend to move back home? If so, the Arkansas Secretary of State advises a college student to register to vote in their parents’ home county. If not, the Secretary of State advises the college student register to vote where they are in school.

Q: What if I don’t turn 18 until Election Day?
• To vote in an upcoming election, a person must submit a voter registration form at least 30 days prior to the election. A 17-year-old may register to vote ahead of time, but can only vote if he or she is 18 as of Election Day.

Q: How do I know where to vote?

• You should receive a voter registration card in the mail identifying the location where you are to vote. If you have questions, contact your local county clerk or go online to www.voterview.ar-nova.org.

Q: I registered to vote, but never received a voter registration card. What should I do?

• If it has been more than two weeks, contact your county clerk. Or, go online to www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Documents/county_clerks_for_website.pdf. Or call the Secretary of State’s Elections Division for assistance at 1-800-247-3312.

Q: I can’t remember if I registered to vote. How do I find out if I am registered?

• Contact your county clerk or call the Secretary of State’s Elections Division for assistance at 1-800-247-3312.

Q: I am registered to vote, but have moved to a different address. Do I need to register again?

• It depends. If you moved from one county or state to another county or state, then yes. If you moved within the same county or city, update your voter information with the county clerk. State law requires that you submit your updated registration to the county clerk in your new county no later than four days before a scheduled election so you can vote there. If your application arrives less than four days before an election, you will not be eligible to vote in your new county for that election.

Q: My name has changed. Do I need to register again?

• Yes. This helps county clerks remove erroneous information from their voter rolls.

Q: How do I request an absentee ballot?

• Contact your county clerk for appropriate forms.

Q: What hours are the polls open on Election Day?

• 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sources: Arkansas Secretary of State website, Pulaski County Clerk website, Arkansas State Code. Updated October 2013

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