

CITIZEN VOTING RIGHTS

The Office of the Secretary of State is committed to educating people about elections and voting, and encouraging eligible persons to register to vote and cast an informed ballot. Even if you weren't born in the United States, you may still be eligible to participate in the democratic process. If you are not eligible, registering to vote will compromise any future attempts to become a U.S. citizen.

Can I register to vote?

To be eligible to vote in Washington State, you:

- Must be a United States citizen
- Must be at least 18 years old on or before election day
- Must have lived in Washington State for 30 days prior to the election (exceptions apply to military and overseas voters)
- Must not maintain a registration in more than one county or one state or under more than one name
- Must not be denied voting rights for being subject to guardianship
- Must not be a convicted felon without restored civil rights

Questions About Citizenship?

If you have questions, need assistance or want more information about immigration or naturalization, please call the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at (800) 375-5283, TTY/TDD at (800) 767-1833.

How do I know if I am a U.S. citizen?

In general, you are a U.S. citizen if you:

- Were born in the U.S., including, in most cases, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Were born abroad, but both your parents at the time were U.S. citizens and at least one parent lived in the U.S. at some point
- Have completed the naturalization process

What documentation is evidence of U.S. citizenship?

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

If you were U.S. born or born in a U.S. territory, such as Puerto Rico, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, your record of citizenship is your birth certificate.

CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP

If you were born abroad, but both your parents at the time were U.S. citizens and at least one parent lived in the U.S. at some point, you are a U.S. citizen. If registered with a U.S. consulate or embassy, your proof of birth abroad is a certificate of citizenship.

NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE

If you have completed the Naturalization process, you are a citizen of the U.S. and your certificate of naturalization is your proof of citizenship.



What information is required on my voter registration form?

When registering to vote you:

- Must indicate U.S. citizenship by marking the checkbox
- Must include your driver's license number. If you do not have a driver's license, you may use the last four digits of your Social Security number
- Must include your date of birth
- Must include your full name (i.e. last, first, middle initial, Jr., Sr., II, III)
- Must include a Washington State residential address
- Must include both mailing and residential addresses if mail is not delivered to your residential address
- Must sign the oath (your signature is used to verify your ballots during each election)

“Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

– Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

LAND OF THE FREE!

Is election information available in languages other than English?

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Department of Justice requires states and counties with any single language-speaking population of 5 percent or greater to provide election materials to the public in that language (Federal Register Vol. 67, No. 144, 48871). Based on the 2000 census, four counties in Washington State must provide election materials in a language other than English:

- Adams in Spanish
- Franklin in Spanish
- King in Chinese
- Yakima in Spanish

STATE ELECTION MATERIALS

The Office of the Secretary of State also provides election information materials in various languages. All election materials provided to the public in English are also available in Spanish and Chinese, including the state Voters' Pamphlet. Some materials, including Voter Registration Forms, are also available in Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian. Not all translated materials are printed, but they can be found on the Secretary of State's website.

Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns, contact your local elections department or the Office of the Secretary of State.

TOLL FREE

(800) 448-4881

TTY/TDD

(800) 422-8683

WEBSITE

www.vote.wa.gov

ADDRESS

Office of the Secretary of State
Voter Services Office
PO Box 40237
Olympia, WA 98504-0237

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“If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in government to the utmost.”

– Aristotle



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED