Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

Primary Election Registration Deadline: May 12, 2012
Primary Election: June 12, 2012
General Election Registration Deadline: October 6, 2012
General Election: November 6, 2012

Where to vote

Polling place locator online through [Voter Registration Search](#).

Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. Sometimes there are multiple precincts in one polling place, so confirm your precinct ahead of time and get in the correct line!

Register at School or Home?

Registering to vote at a school residence

Students who will have resided in Nevada for 30 days preceding the election have the right to register to vote in their college community. Students are eligible to vote even if they are classified as “out of state” by their college or university.

Out-of-state students do not need to obtain a Nevada driver’s license or register their car in Nevada if they want to vote in the state, as long as they can establish their residency by other means.

Additionally, to avoid an eligibility challenge at the polls, first time voters with an out-of-state driver’s license may wish to bring an alternative form of acceptable identification.

Registering to vote at a home residence

Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.

Absentee Voting

Nevada residents who want to remain registered in their home county and vote absentee may do so, as Nevada has no excuse requirement for absentee voting.

Students wishing to vote by absentee ballot must request it from their local County Clerk/Registrar of Voters office. Absentee Ballot Request Form must be received via mail or fax by your local county election official by the deadline.

Primary Election: June 5, 2012, before 5 p.m.
General Election: October 30, 2012, before 5 p.m.

The absentee ballot must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Out-of-state students who are considering voting absentee in their home state outside of Nevada should first determine absentee requirements for their state. Some states do not allow voting by mail for first-time voters. Also, some states require copies of identification be mailed with an absentee ballot. Out-of-state students should determine if they want to vote absentee in another state or register in Nevada before the Nevada registration deadline.

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According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.

ID Requirements & Student IDs

Student IDs are acceptable for voter registration but not for identification at the polls as a first-time voter.

If you are a first-time voter who either registered by mail or did not provide a driver’s license number, non-driver identification or Social Security number at the time of your in-person registration, you must provide identification when you cast your ballot at the polling place or by mail. A government-issued identification must have your address and signature.

If you have voted in the same county before or provided your driver’s license when you registered, your signature will be matched to your voting record.

Students should make sure they will have acceptable ID if they are considering registering in Nevada.

First Time Voters

Some states require voters to turn up in person the first time they vote in the state or in a new county. Nevada is not one of these states. If you seek to register in a state with this requirement, you should make sure you will be able to go in person to the relevant polling place on Election Day. If not, you should consider registering in Nevada instead.

Nevada residents voting for the first time by mail must provide an acceptable form of identification with the completed Absentee Ballot Request Form.

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**Common Questions from Out-of-State Students**

**Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in Nevada?**

If you receive scholarship money from a state, county or town, or a private entity (i.e. an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm with the entity providing the scholarship that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in Nevada will not affect your eligibility.

**Will registering to vote in Nevada affect my driver’s license or car registration?**

With few exceptions, registering to vote in Nevada will have no impact on changing your driver’s license and motor vehicle registration. There are several alternative articles that can be used to establish residency including utility bills, paychecks and rental/lease agreements.

**Will voting in Nevada affect my federal financial aid?**

Federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins and Stafford loans will not be affected by where you register to vote. Registering in Nevada will also not affect your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

**What do residency and domicile mean?**

Residency and domicile are legal terms that states use to describe where you currently live and where you intend to remain for the foreseeable future.

**Will registering to vote in Nevada prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?**

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent’s tax status.

**Will registering to vote in Nevada affect my tuition costs?**

It shouldn’t. Most schools will still consider you an out-of-state student even if you register to vote in Nevada. Check with your local registrar for specifics of your school.

*This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in Nevada and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Nevada legal professional.*

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