

# Voting in New Hampshire 2018

**Eligibility.** Every New Hampshire citizen who is or will be at least 18 years old at the time of an election has the constitutional right to vote. Even if you moved to your town recently, you have the right to vote.

## Registering to Vote

### Where to Register:

- at your town or city clerk's office up to 6-13 days before any election (the date varies; check with your town or city clerk)
- with your town's supervisors of the checklist at a posted meeting (held a week or so before an election; check with your town or city clerk for date, time, place)
- on election day at the polling place
- College students may register either in their home town/state or in the town where they live while attending college, but not both. If you register to vote in your home town you are allowed to vote absentee when you're away at college. (*Information specifically for high school and college students is available at this website: [http://lwvnh.org/files/voting\\_for\\_students\\_2018.pdf](http://lwvnh.org/files/voting_for_students_2018.pdf) )*

### What to Bring with You to Register More Than 30 Days Before an Election:

- If possible bring papers to prove your identity, age, citizenship, and where you live.
- If you don't have a driver's license or passport or birth certificate or naturalization papers, you can prove your identity, age, and/or citizenship by signing a form provided by the town clerk or supervisors.
- To prove where you live you will be asked to show some kind of papers: for example, a NH driver's license, vehicle registration, utility bill, deed or rental lease with your name and current address on it. *For a list of other acceptable documents, ask your town clerk or check this website: [http://sos.nh.gov/nhsos\\_content.aspx?id=8589972818](http://sos.nh.gov/nhsos_content.aspx?id=8589972818)*
- If you don't bring proof of where you live, you will be asked to return with the documents later.
- College students may bring paperwork from college officials to prove they live on-campus.

### Registering Within 30 Days of an Election or on Election Day:

You will be asked to prove identity, age, citizenship, and where you live. (See paragraph above for the most common paperwork.) Even if you don't have all the requested papers, you will be given a ballot and you can vote. If you register on election day and have no papers with you to prove where you live, you will be asked to sign a form promising to return or to mail to the town clerk copies of such papers within 10 days (30 days if your town clerk's office is open fewer than 20 hours per week).

If you do not return proof of where you live after promising to do so, town officers or state election officers may visit your address to confirm you lived there on election day, and the Secretary of State's office may begin an investigation into where you live.

If you believe you will not be able to produce any papers proving where you live, you should initial the paragraph on the registration form acknowledging that election officials will take actions to investigate where you live. You will be given a ballot and you can vote.

You will also be asked for the date when you made your current address your home for voting purposes. You will sign a form stating where you were last registered to vote and asking that your name be removed from that voting list.

**Registering Absentee:** If you meet the voter qualifications and cannot register in person because of physical disability, religious beliefs, military service, or temporary absence, you may register by mail. *You may not register by mail without one of the above legal excuses.*

You can get forms from your town or city clerk. The absentee voter registration affidavit must be witnessed and then **both** the affidavit and the voter registration form must be returned to your town/city clerk.

**Registering with a Specific Party:** This is not necessary. If you want to keep your party options open, you may register as Undeclared. In primary elections you should ask for the ballot of the party you want to vote for. You may change back to Undeclared right after you vote, with the Supervisors of the Checklist at the polling place, or before the filing period for the next election.

If you don't change back to Undeclared, you will be considered a member of the party you voted for and you will be able to vote only on the ballot for that party in the next primary.

**Change of Address Within NH:** If you move to a new town or city, or to another ward within your city, you must re-register at your new town or city clerk's office up to 6 to 13 days before the election, at a scheduled meeting of the Supervisors of the Checklist, or at the polling place on election day.

If you move within the same town or ward, you do not need to re-register.

## Voting

### Voting in Person:

**You will be asked to show ONLY ONE form of ID.**

Any of the following are acceptable IDs:

- Driver's license from any state or the federal government (current or expired no more than 5 years\*)
- Non-driver's photo ID issued by NH Department of Motor Vehicles\*
- US armed services ID card (current or expired no more than 5 years\*)
- US passport or passcard (current or expired no more than 5 years\*)
- Valid student ID card (issue date or expiration date within 5 years)
- Other photo ID acceptable to the moderator, supervisors of the checklist, or town clerk
- Verification of a person's identity by the moderator, supervisor of the checklist, or town/city clerk.

*\* For voters over 65 years old, no expiration date restriction applies.*

If you don't have a photo ID listed above, you may sign an affidavit saying you are who you claim to be. Your photo will be taken at the polls and attached to the affidavit. You will be given a ballot and you can vote. The Secretary of State will send you follow-up mail.

### Voting Absentee:

If you are a registered voter but can't vote in person because of physical disability, religious beliefs, work hours (including care of children or infirm persons), military service, or temporary absence, ask your city or town clerk for an **absentee ballot application** in advance of the election. The form must be completed and returned to the town clerk (by mail, FAX, or in person).

### When you get your ballot, fill it out and return it to your town or city clerk's office:

- in person by 5:00 pm on the day before the election or
- by mail it so it arrives by 5:00 pm on election day or
- delivered in person by a family member with ID by 5:00 pm on election day.

Absentee ballots may not be faxed.

*This flier represents voter registration requirements in place as of July 22, 2018.*