

# VOTING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE 2018



## Registering to Vote

### Who Can Vote in New Hampshire:

- You must be a citizen who will be 18 or older by the next election.
- If you are already registered to vote at your current address, you don't need to register again for each election.
- If you have moved but still have the same polling place, you don't have to re-register. Just tell the ballot clerk your new address.
- If you have never registered to vote or have moved to a new town, you must register before voting.

### Where to Register:

- at your town or city clerk's office up to a week or two before an election (check dates at your town website or ask your town/city clerk)
- at your town's supervisors of the checklist meeting a week or so before an election (get details from your town/city clerk)
- on Election Day at the polling place
- Students may register either in their home town **or** in the town they live in while attending school. If you register to vote in your home town you can vote absentee if you are away at school. (Information for students is available here: [http://lwvnh.org/files/voting\\_for\\_students\\_2018.pdf](http://lwvnh.org/files/voting_for_students_2018.pdf))

### If You Register More Than 30 Days Before an Election:

- If you can, bring papers to prove your identity, age, citizenship, and where you live.
- If you don't have a driver's license, passport or birth certificate (or naturalization papers), you can prove your identity, age, and/or citizenship by signing a form provided by the election official.
- You will be asked to show something to prove where you live. You can use a driver's license, motor vehicle registration, utility bill, deed, rental agreement or similar paperwork with your name and current address. *For a list of other ways to prove where you live, ask your town/city clerk or check this website: [http://sos.nh.gov/nhsos\\_content.aspx?id=8589972818](http://sos.nh.gov/nhsos_content.aspx?id=8589972818)*
- Students may bring paperwork from school officials to prove they live on-campus. They may show this on a Smartphone.
- If you don't bring proof of where you live, you will be asked to return with the paperwork later.

### If You Register Within 30 Days of an Election or on Election Day:

- If you register on Election Day or within 30 days before the election you will be given a different registration form and asked some more questions.
- You will be asked to show paperwork for identity, age, citizenship and where you live. (Same as the instructions above.)
- If you can't find paperwork to prove where you live by Election Day, **you will still be allowed to register and you will be allowed to vote.**
- The registration form will ask you to initial only **one** of the two paragraphs on the back of the form. The first paragraph says you will bring or mail paperwork showing where you live to the town/city clerk's office after the election (an election official can tell you how many days you'll have).
- The second paragraph says you don't have any paperwork showing where you live. It also says you understand that there may be an investigation about where you live and someone may visit your address to make sure you lived there on Election Day.
- You will be asked to sign a statement saying you understand the registration requirements and that you have told the truth on the form.
- A court has ruled there will be no penalty if you don't return paperwork to your town/city clerk.

### **Some Other Information About the Registration Form**

- You will be asked when you moved to your current address.
- You will be asked if you want to join a political party. If you don't, you can write "Undeclared." Undeclared voters may vote in a party's Primary Election and become a member of that party. You may change your political party but there are time restrictions. Ask your town/city clerk when you can change your party or change back to Undeclared.
- If you registered to vote somewhere else before moving to your current address, you will be asked for the town and state so that your name can be removed from that voting list.

### **Registering by Mail**

- If you can't register to vote in person because of a physical disability, religious belief, military service or you are out-of-town temporarily, you may register by mail. Contact your town or city clerk for the registration form and the paperwork for a witness to sign. You must return the registration form and the witness's signed paperwork to the clerk.
- See below for voting by mail.

## **Voting**

### **You will be asked for ONE ID when you vote on Election Day.**

If you have a photo ID, it must be current or expired no more than 5 years. For voters over 65, the expiration date doesn't matter.

#### **IDs you can use:**

- Driver's license from any state or the federal government
- Non-driver's photo ID from the NH Department of Motor Vehicles
- US armed services ID card
- US passport or passcard
- Valid student ID card
- Other photo ID acceptable to the moderator, supervisors of the checklist, or town/city clerk
- Verification of a person's identity by the moderator, supervisor of the checklist, or town/city clerk.

If you don't have an ID, you will be allowed to vote after signing a statement saying you are who you say you are. You will have your photo taken by an election official. The Secretary of State will send you a letter asking you to confirm you voted.

#### **Voting Absentee:**

If you can't vote in person because of physical disability, religious beliefs, work hours (including caring for children or someone who is sick), military service, or temporary absence, ask your town/city 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 absentee ballot, fill it out and return it to your town/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.

