How Do I Register to Vote?

To register to vote in South Dakota, you must:
» Be a United States citizen, reside in South Dakota, be at least 18 years old on or before the next election, not currently be serving a sentence for a felony conviction which included imprisonment, served or suspended, in an adult penitentiary system, and not be judged mentally incompetent by a court of law.
» Residents of South Dakota must fill out a voter registration card (downloadable form available online: http://bit.ly/1yROrht). The cards must be sent to, and received by, the resident’s County Auditor 15 days before an election.

Voter registration forms can be found at the following locations:
» County auditor’s office
» Driver’s license station (when you are renewing or applying for a driver’s license you may also register to vote on the driver’s license application)
» City finance office
» Public assistance agencies providing food stamps, TANF or WIC
» Department of Human Services offices which provide assistance to the disabled
» Military recruitment office
» The registration form can also be used to:
» Change your registration name or address
» Change your party affiliation
» Cancel your voter registration.

You can do this by filling out the bottom portion of the voter registration form.
How Do I Vote?

All voters who appear at a polling place must show proof of identification. Approved forms of photo identification include:

» South Dakota driver’s license or nondriver ID card
» U.S. government photo ID
» U.S. Armed Forces ID
» Current student photo identification card from a South Dakota high school or South Dakota accredited institution of higher education
» Tribal photo ID

If you do not have a photo ID, you can sign a personal identification affidavit, and will still be allowed to vote a regular ballot.

If you registered to vote before the deadline but the poll worker tells you you’re not on the list, ask them to double-check, and, if they still can’t find you, say: “Please give me a provisional ballot.”

Any voter may request instruction in the proper operation of the system before entering the voting booth. All instructions shall be given in such a manner that other persons in the polling place may observe it.

Any voter who by reason of physical disability or illiteracy is unable to read or mark a ballot may receive the assistance of any person.

You can vote before Election Day by mail or in person.

Any registered voter may vote absentee in South Dakota. Absentee voting may be done in person or by mail. Otherwise, South Dakota does not have early voting.

In-Person: Beginning 46 days before a Primary and General Election, and at least 15 days before any other election, any registered voter may apply in person at the office of, and to, the person in charge of the election for an absentee ballot during regular office hours up to 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. Photo identification is required when voting in-person absentee.

By Mail: The voter must complete an Absentee Ballot Application Form (https://sdsos.gov/electionsvoting/voting/absentee-voting.aspx) and return it to their county auditor. When absentee voting becomes available, a ballot will be sent to the voter.

Find Your Polling Place

» The Secretary of State offers a polling place look-up at (https://sos.sd.gov/Elections/VIPLogin.aspx).

» Also can download the VOTE605 Mobile App at (https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/voting/VOTE605.aspx)

Tips for Avoiding Problems

» Check your voter registration status and polling place at https://sos.sd.gov/Elections/VIPLogin.aspx as early as possible.

» Vote before Election Day, using early in-person or mail-in voting.

» If you vote on Election Day, the polls will be busiest before and after work hours.

» Bring some form of identification if you have it, even if it’s not required for most people.

» Ask for help if you need it.

» Take your time—it’s your vote!

Language Assistance

» You have the right to have anyone assist you in casting your vote including a translator, except for your employer or labor union representative.