

Who Can Vote?

Voter Registration Guidelines



Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Voter Engagement Project

Who CAN register to vote in Washington?

- ✓ Must be citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Washington State, and at least 18 years old by Election Day.

AND, did you know:

- ✓ Persons previously convicted of a felony and community members experiencing homelessness can vote! *(Please see specific guidelines below.)*

The Rights of Community Members Previously Convicted of a Felony

Effective July 2009, the right to vote and register to vote for people convicted of felonies is **automatically restored** when they have completed their time in incarceration and served any required community custody supervised by the Department of Corrections. Owing legal financial obligations to the state no longer removes the right to vote.

If someone was convicted in a federal court, or a state court outside Washington, their right to vote is automatically restored when they are released from incarceration. If a person was convicted in a state court in Washington, their right to vote is automatically restored when they are released from incarceration and no longer on community custody. People unsure whether they are on community custody should call the Department of Corrections at 360.725.8213. Being convicted of a misdemeanor or juvenile offense does not revoke the right to vote.

The Rights of Community Members Experiencing Homelessness

Experiencing homelessness does not disqualify people from voting. However, it does present a number of challenges—especially in a vote-by-mail system. The residential address required on registration forms does not need to be a valid mailing address, but is used to determine what precinct the person votes in. From the Secretary of State's website:

"Washington State law states that a voter who lacks a traditional residential address can register at the shelter, park, motor home, intersection or other identifiable location they consider their residence. This location will be used to determine which precinct you will vote in. ([RCW 29A.08.112](#))"

The Privacy Rights of Survivors of Domestic Violence

Survivors concerned with revealing their residential address may register under the Secretary of State's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). This must be done through a domestic violence program advocate who is certified to enroll someone in ACP. To get help enrolling in the ACP please contact the **Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline: 800.568.6025.**

To learn how your organization can register people to vote, contact:

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