

IV. STATE-BY-STATE SURVEY

When states regulate voter registration drives, it directly affects who participates in the electoral process, and who is permitted to assist them. This survey provides a state-by-state snapshot of the following four categories of restrictions.

1) Official Volunteer Systems

- Laws requiring official certification or authorization to conduct voter registration drives.

2) Training Programs

- Laws offering or requiring a specified course of training before conducting voter registration drives.

3) Registration & Reporting Requirements

- Laws requiring groups to first register with the State and maintain or submit various records and reports related to drives.

4) Return Deadlines & Penalties

- Laws requiring the submission of collected voter registration applications prior to the general book closing deadline, and imposing penalties for violations of the return deadline or violations of other rules.

For almost every state, the Brennan Center provided the chief election official with an opportunity to edit the summary. Revised drafts were returned to the official for final review.

These summaries are not intended as, and do not constitute, legal advice. They are provided for informational and educational use only. For more information, including specific voter registration requirements, or any revisions to the laws described, contact the elections office listed for each state.

MAINE

Official Volunteer System:	Optional	For More Information: Elections Division 101 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0101 (207) 624-7736 http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec
Training:	No	
Registration & Reporting:	No	
Return Deadline & Penalties:	21 days before book closing	
Other:	Yes	

Maine has an optional official volunteer system (“deputy registrars”). Deputy registrars are appointed by registrars and serve at the registrars’ will.¹ Deputy registrars must be 18, a resident, and may not be candidates for state, county, or local office, officers of state, county, or municipal political party committees, or employed by a party or candidate.² They may be compensated for their services by local election officials.³

Voters may also register through private voter registration drives.⁴ Although Maine has same-day voter registration for voters who register in-person, registration applications submitted through voter registration drives must be received in the registrar's office by the 21st day before the election for the voter to be registered.⁵ An applicant who attempts to register within 30 days of an election with the assistance of a voter registration drive “must be advised that the registrar might not receive the application before the deadline for mail or third-person registration, but that the applicant may register in person” no later than the deadline for in-person registration.⁶

The Maine Secretary of State requires that voter registration drives complete a “VRC request form” to obtain voter registration cards. Statewide candidates may obtain up to 2,000 voter registration cards per week, or a maximum of 10,000 before an election. Other groups may request up to 1,000 per week, or a maximum of 5,000. Groups can also make unlimited free copies of the voter registration card, which is [available online](#).⁷

View the full report at:

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/state_restrictions_on_voter_registration_drives/

¹ ME. REV. STAT. tit. 21-A, § 102 (2011).

² ME. REV. STAT. tit. 21-A § 101(1) (2011).

³ ME. REV. STAT. tit. 21-A §§ 102(1), 101(5) (2011).

⁴ *See generally* ME. REV. STAT. tit. 21-A §§ 121(1-A), 130 (2011).

⁵ ME. REV. STAT. tit. 21-A § 121 (1-A) (2011).

⁶ ME. REV. STAT. tit. 21-A § 121 (1-A) (2011).

⁷ Maine Secretary of State, Voter Registration Card Distribution Policy, *available at* <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/data.htm>.