

## 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.

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## WASHINGTON

<b>Official Volunteer System:</b>	No	<b>For More Information:</b> State Elections Office PO Box 40229 Olympia, WA 98504-0229 (360) 902-4180 <a href="http://www.vote.wa.gov">www.vote.wa.gov</a>
<b>Training:</b>	No	
<b>Registration &amp; Reporting:</b>	No	
<b>Return Deadline &amp; Penalties:</b>	5 Days	
<b>Other:</b>	Yes	

Washington law requires a person or organization collecting voter registration applications to transmit the forms to the Secretary of State or a county auditor within five business days. The registration date on such forms will be the date they are received by the Secretary of State or county auditor.<sup>1</sup> Offering or accepting compensation based on a fixed per-registrant basis is prohibited.<sup>2</sup>

Intentionally failing to return another person's completed voter registration form to the proper state or county elections office by the applicable deadline is a gross misdemeanor,<sup>3</sup> punishable by a maximum of a year in prison, or a maximum fine of \$5,000, or both.<sup>4</sup> Any person who intentionally disenfranchises or discriminates against a person eligible to vote by denying voter registration is guilty of a misdemeanor<sup>5</sup> punishable by as much as 90 days in prison, or a \$1,000 fine, or both.<sup>6</sup> Violation of the prohibition against offering or accepting compensation on a per-registrant basis is a class C felony punishable by five years imprisonment, or a maximum \$10,000 fine, or both.<sup>7</sup>

The county auditor shall keep a supply of voter registration forms available at all times for political parties and others interested in assisting in voter registration, and shall make every effort to make these forms generally available to the public.<sup>8</sup>

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*View the full report at:*

[http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/state\\_restrictions\\_on\\_voter\\_registration\\_drives/](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/state_restrictions_on_voter_registration_drives/)

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<sup>1</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 29A.08.115 (2011).

<sup>2</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 29A.84.130 (2011).

<sup>3</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 29A.84.050(2) (2011).

<sup>4</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 9A.20.021(2) (2011).

<sup>5</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 29A.84.120 (2011).

<sup>6</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 9A.20.021 (2011).

<sup>7</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 9A.84.130 (2011).

<sup>8</sup> WASH. REV. CODE § 29A.08.260 (2011).