

# New Hampshire

## Registration Deadline

Forms must be received 10 days before an election, but the applicant may also register to vote on Election Day.<sup>1</sup>

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## Database Implementation Status

New Hampshire is in the process of converting its current statewide database into a top-down centralized system, in which municipal supervisors have direct access to a full statewide database.<sup>2</sup>

## Entering Voter Registration Information

*Who inputs voter registration information?* Municipal election supervisors or town clerks will generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the statewide system.

*What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies?* Because it offers Election Day registration, New Hampshire need not accept registration forms at various state agencies under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Most registration forms are received in person at the municipal election supervisor’s office.<sup>3</sup>

*How are most forms submitted?* In the Election Assistance Commission’s 2004 survey, New Hampshire did not report the distribution of how its voter registration forms were submitted.<sup>4</sup>

## Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

## Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

*How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number?* The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number. If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered.

*How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number?* The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number. If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered.

*How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible?* If uncorrected (see below), the application will be rejected.

## Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

*What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records?* Identifying number, first name, last name, and date of birth.

*How precise is the match standard?* New Hampshire will use a “substantial match” standard to match information on forms with a driver’s license number. New Hampshire uses the standard AAMVA criteria for matching information on forms with SSN digits: exact match of the SSN-4, first name, last name, month of birth, and year of birth.

*How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched?* For matches of information on forms with driver’s license numbers, municipal election supervisors have the discretion to determine whether a likely match exists among the possible matches returned. For matches of information on forms with SSN digits, the process is automated. If the identifying numbers are returned as unverified, the officials are encouraged to re-enter the application to account for any possible typing errors.

*Description of matching process:* New Hampshire has not fully implemented its matching system. When a New Hampshire voter registration application with a driver’s license number is entered into the system, the system will automatically check the DMV records for a “substantial match” and return a list of probable matches for the election official to review. Information on forms listing SSN digits will be automatically checked against the SSA database through the standard AAMVA process: the county elections official will submit an entered record to the DMV database, which will automatically submit the appropriate fields to the SSA and return a code indicating whether the record was successfully matched or not.

*What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match?* If uncorrected (see below), the application will be rejected. Nonetheless, New Hampshire law does provide that individuals who are not put on the voter checklist may vote if “in the opinion of the supervisors of the checklist, it clearly appears that the name of a qualified voter has been omitted from the checklist by clerical error or mistake.”<sup>5</sup>

## Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form?* Yes. The applicant may correct missing or incomplete information within 30 days of notice regarding an error. If the applicant has not done so by Election Day, she may submit a new registration form on Election Day.

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match?* Yes. The applicant may submit information to resolve a failed match within 30 days of notice regarding an error. If the applicant has not done so by Election Day, she may submit a new registration form on Election Day.

*If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Yes, if the information is corrected within 30 days of the notice of invalidity.*

*Description of notice and correction process:* The municipal elections official will attempt to notify by mail an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified. The applicant may offer information to correct or resolve any difficulty within 30 days. If an error remains unresolved, the application will be rejected. The applicant will be able to submit a new registration form on Election Day.

## Identification Requirements at the Polls

*Who must provide identification at the polls?* Every voter attempting to register must provide proof of citizenship, age, and residence at registration; citizens registering on Election Day must provide such proof at the polls.<sup>6</sup>

### Forms of ID:

Election Day registrant:	any reasonable proof of citizenship any reasonable proof of age any reasonable proof of residence affidavit
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*What forms of identification are accepted?* Proof of citizenship, age, and residence; any “reasonable documentation” is permitted, including an affidavit.<sup>7</sup>

*What are the consequences of failing to show identification?* The voter will not be able to cast a ballot.

## Statutes and Regulations

N.H. REV. STAT. ANN., tit. 63, ch. 654 generally concerns registration. N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 654:45 directs the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration system. There are no applicable regulations.

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 654:27.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*; electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 20.

<sup>3</sup> Certain voters – voters temporarily resident in another location, military voters, disabled voters, or voters prevented from registering in person due to a religious belief – may register by mail. William M. Gardner, Secretary of State, State of New Hampshire: 2005 State Plan Draft 4 (June 24, 2005).

<sup>4</sup> Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at [http://www.eac.gov/NVR\\_Spreadsheets/NVRA\\_table\\_2.html](http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html).

<sup>5</sup> N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 659:12.

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<sup>6</sup> *Id.* §§ 654:7-a, 654:12.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* § 654:12. The statute specifies that “[w]ithout limiting the acceptance of other forms of proof of domicile or identity deemed reasonable by the supervisors” of elections, a New Hampshire driver’s license, vehicle registration, or federal government photo ID may be used to prove domicile; and a photo driver’s license, or other government photo ID may be used to prove identity. *Id.*

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

RSA 654:7

1. LAST NAME (including suffix if any)		FIRST NAME	FULL MIDDLE NAME		FOR OFFICIAL USE <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>New Voter</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Name Change</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Address Change</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Party Change</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Deletion</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	Party Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deletion
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Voter														
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change														
<input type="checkbox"/>	Address Change														
<input type="checkbox"/>	Party Change														
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deletion														
2. RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Street & House (Apt.) Number )		TOWN OR CITY	City Ward	ZIP CODE											
3. MAILING ADDRESS (If different from residence address)		TOWN OR CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE											
4. PLACE OF BIRTH (Town/City and State)		COUNTRY (If not USA)		DATE OF BIRTH											
5. IF NATURALIZED CITIZEN, GIVE NAME OF COURT WHERE NATURALIZED (Town/City and State)				DATE NATURALIZED											
6. PLACE LAST REGISTERED TO VOTE ( Street & House (Apt.) Number)		(Town or City & Ward )	( State and Zip Code)												
7. NAME UNDER WHICH PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED, IF DIFFERENT			8. PARTY AFFILIATION (if any)												
9. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	STATE (If not NH)	IF NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE, PROVIDE THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER													

AFFIDAVIT

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . I am today registering to vote in the city/town of \_\_\_\_\_ , New Hampshire. I understand that to vote in this city/town, I must be 18 years of age, I must be a United States citizen, and I must be domiciled in this city/town.

I understand that a person can claim only one state and one city/town as his or her domicile at a time. A domicile is that place, to which upon temporary absence, a person has the intention of returning. By registering or voting today, I am acknowledging that I am not domiciled in any other state or any other city/town. I understand that if I am domiciled in another state or city/town, I may be entitled to vote in elections held within that state or city/town by absentee ballot.

In declaring New Hampshire as my domicile, I am subject to the laws of the State of New Hampshire which apply to all residents, including laws requiring me to register my motor vehicles and apply for a New Hampshire's driver's license within 60 days of becoming a resident.

In declaring New Hampshire as my domicile, I realize that I may be forfeiting benefits or rights, including the right to vote in another state.

If I have any questions as to whether I am entitled to vote in this city/town, I am aware that a supervisor of the checklist or registrar of voters is available to address my questions or concerns.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above qualifications for voting and do hereby swear, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, that I am qualified to vote in the above-stated city/town on this day, and if registering on election day, that I have not voted and will not vote at any other polling place this election.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR OF CHECKLIST/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



*In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.*