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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COLORADO

| Official Volunteer System: | No |
| Training: | Yes |
| Registration & Reporting: | Yes |
| Return Deadline & Penalties: | 15 Days |
| Other: | Yes |

For More Information:
Elections & Voting
1700 Broadway, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80290
(303) 894-2200 ext. 6307
http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/
Colorado requires all voter registration drives to register with the state. This requirement applies to any two or more persons who distribute and collect voter registration applications for delivery to election officials.

Colorado law requires that the organizer of a drive must file a signed “statement of intent” listing the name and contact information of the organization, the name and contact information of the person organizing the drive and an agent who is a resident of Colorado. Any changes to the statement of intent shall be filed within three business days after the changes occur. The “statement of intent” may be filed up to 30 days before a general election, and it expires at the end of the calendar year.

Groups cannot conduct voter registration drives until they successfully complete training and testing. The organizers of voter registration drives must complete the state-provided, online training, which requires taking a test and answering all questions correctly. The training and test must be repeated each calendar year the organizer conducts a drive. Organizers who pass the test must train individual circulators using materials provided by the Secretary of State and keep on file signed attestations from each circulator.

The regulations provide that the Secretary of State shall assign a unique number (the “VRD number”) to each voter registration drive after the organizer completes the training. The Secretary may deny a VRD number if the Secretary cannot verify the information on the “statement of intent,” or if the organizer has not scored 100 percent on the test. Organizations may not engage in voter registration drives until the Secretary issues a VRD number. Once the Secretary of State approves the voter registration drive, the name of the organization and a contact person is posted on the Secretary of State’s website.

Voter registration drives must use registration application forms approved by the Secretary of State. The regulations authorize use of both the federal form and special state forms, but use of state forms is encouraged. The state forms include a tear-off receipt, and voter registration organizers are required to write the VRD number on the application form and on the tear-off receipt, and ensure that the applicant receives the receipt. If the voter registration organization provides a link to a voter registration application on its
website, it must direct the applicant to send the form to the appropriate county election official, not to the organization.\textsuperscript{19}

All voter registration circulators are required by law to submit completed registration forms to the voter registration organizer. It further requires the organizer to deliver or postmark the applications to the appropriate county election officials within 15 business days after the application is signed, and within five business days during the 30 days prior to a book-closing deadline.\textsuperscript{20}

A voter registration drive organizer who either conducts a voter registration drive without filing a statement of intent, fails to maintain a designated agent with the state, who uses a voter registration application form other than one approved by the Secretary of State,\textsuperscript{21} or who fails to complete the training requirements mandated by the Secretary of State,\textsuperscript{22} can face a civil fine of up to $500.

Willful failure to submit a voter registration application to the proper county clerk and recorder in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed turnaround time can result in a maximum fine of $50 per each business day of violation past the turnaround deadline.\textsuperscript{23} An organizer who has been fined three or more times for such failure may be fined an additional $1,000.\textsuperscript{24} Any intentional failure to deliver a form within the specified period is punishable by a fine up to $5,000.\textsuperscript{25}

Additionally, a voter registration drive organizer can face a fine of up to $1,000 if a circulator is compensated based on the number of forms circulated or collected.\textsuperscript{26}

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View the full report at:
http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/state_restrictions_on_voter_registration_drives/

\textsuperscript{19} \textsc{Colo. Code Regs} § 1505-1 (44.4.6) (2012).
\textsuperscript{20} \textsc{Colo. Rev. Stat.} § 1-2-702(2) (2011).
\textsuperscript{21} \textsc{Colo. Rev. Stat.} § 1-2-703(1) (2011).
\textsuperscript{22} \textsc{Colo. Rev. Stat.} § 1-2-703(2) (2011).
\textsuperscript{23} \textsc{Colo. Rev. Stat.} § 1-2-703(3)(a) (2011).
\textsuperscript{24} \textsc{Colo. Rev. Stat.} § 1-2-703(3)(b) (2011).
\textsuperscript{25} \textsc{Colo. Rev. Stat.} § 1-2-703(3)(c) (2011).
\textsuperscript{26} \textsc{Colo. Rev. Stat.} § 1-2-703(4) (2011).