

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.

MISSOURI

Official Volunteer System:	Optional	For More Information: Elections Division 600 West Main Street Jefferson City, MO 65101 (573) 751-2301 http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/
Training:	No	
Registration & Reporting:	Yes	
Return Deadline & Penalties:	7 Days	
Other:	Yes	

Missouri maintains an optional official volunteer system. In addition, Missouri imposes general rules on anyone registering voters, and additional rules on those paid to register voters.

Local election authorities can appoint registered voters in the jurisdiction as “deputy registration officials.”¹ Deputy registration officials must comply with reasonable instruction by the election authorities,² and conduct voter registration at times and places designated by local election authorities.³

Anyone “who is paid or otherwise compensated” for registering more than ten voters must register with the Secretary of State as a “voter registration solicitor,” by providing name, residential and mailing addresses, and the name of the person or organization providing compensation.⁴ The solicitor must affirm under penalty of perjury the truth of the submitted information.⁵ The solicitor’s registration expires the day after the general election. Voter registration solicitors must re-register for the next general election two years later. Only Missouri registered voters may work as solicitors.

All voter registration applications must be submitted to the county election authority with seven days of the receipt of the application from any person, paid or unpaid, who “accepts or receives a voter registration application from another person and agrees or offers to submit” the application. ⁶

Failure to return an application within seven days is a misdemeanor that can result in criminal penalties of up to a year in jail, a maximum of \$2,500 in fines, or both.⁷ Missouri law does not specify that failure to deliver the application within the deadline be knowing or deliberate. Knowing failure of paid solicitors to register carries the same criminal penalties as missing the deadline, but anyone convicted is also permanently disenfranchised in Missouri.⁸

Additionally, registration drives may not compensate individuals based on the number of voters registered, voter registration applications collected, or voter registration applications submitted to election officials.⁹ Violation constitutes a class four election offense,¹⁰ punishable by imprisonment of not more than one year or by a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both.¹¹

View the full report at:

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

¹ MO. REV. STAT. § 115.143(2) (2011).

² MO. REV. STAT. § 115.147(1) (2011).

³ MO. REV. STAT. § 115.147(2) (2011).

⁴ MO. REV. STAT. § 115.205(1)-(2) (2011).

⁵ MO. REV. STAT. § 115.205 (2011).

⁶ MO. REV. STAT. § 115.203(4) (2011).

⁷ MO. REV. STAT. §§ 115.203(5), 115.637 (2011).

⁸ MO. REV. STAT. §§ 115.205(4), 115.635, 561.026(2) (2011).

⁹ MO. REV. STAT. § 115.203 (2012).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ MO. REV. STAT. § 115.637 (2012).