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.

***

**NEBRASKA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Volunteer System:</th>
<th>Optional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training: Official Volunteers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration &amp; Reporting:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For More Information:
- Elections Division
- State Capitol
- 1445 K St., Third Floor
- Lincoln, NE 68509
- (402) 471-2555
- [http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.html](http://www.sos.ne.gov/dyindex.html)
Nebraska maintains an optional official volunteer system (“deputy registrars”). Individuals and organizations are also permitted to conduct voter registration drives outside of the official volunteer system. Under Nebraska law, eligible citizens may register to vote “in person, through a personal messenger or personal agent, or by mail,” and the Secretary of State is required to “make registration applications prescribed by the Secretary of State available.” For registration by mail, Nebraska accepts both the state and federal voter registration forms. Any individual who collects completed voter registration forms is responsible for delivering the forms in a timely manner and late submissions can result in referral to the Attorney General.

A person who wants to become a deputy registrar must (1) successfully complete an application; (2) successfully complete a training session conducted by the election commissioner or county clerk; (3) take an oath; and (4) notify the election commissioner or county clerk of the location and time of the proposed voter registration drive and names and party affiliations of the deputy registrars.

Training for deputy registrars must be completed at least once every three years unless the Secretary of State determines that additional training is required because of substantial changes in the voter registration process. Training sessions may vary in length but cannot exceed four hours. Training sessions vary by county, but the Secretary of State must inspect and review all training programs, procedures, and practices to assure that they are relevant to a deputy registrar. Deputy registrars must register voters in teams of at least two deputies, one of whom is not a member of the same political party as others in the team.

Deputy registrars must return completed registration applications to the office of the election commissioner or county clerk no later than the end of the next business day after the registrations are taken. Noncompliance with any procedure, rule, regulation, or guideline may result in the revocation of the deputy registrar’s designation. A deputy registrar’s willful neglect of duty is considered a felony. County clerks have discretion to approve or reject proposed voter registration drives.

***

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

1 Telephone Interview with Neal Erickson, Deputy Sec’y of State for Elections (Mar. 6, 2012).
5 Telephone Interview with Neal Erickson, Deputy Sec’y of State for Elections (Mar. 6, 2012).