

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.

VIRGINIA

Official Volunteer System:	No	For More Information: State Board of Elections Washington Building, First Floor 1100 Bank Street Richmond, VA 23219 (804) 864-8901 http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Index.html
Training:	Optional	
Registration & Reporting:	Optional	
Return Deadline & Penalties:	10 Days	
Other:	Yes	

Individuals or groups using the federal form are not required to register or undergo training, but Virginia law provides that any person or group that obtains 25 or more state forms will be required to register with the State Board.¹ Unless directed by the applicant, the registration application may not be pre-populated with information the applicant is required to provide.²

Individuals or groups utilizing the state forms will also be required to receive training as approved by the State Board and sign a sworn affidavit on a form prescribed by the State Board attesting that such individuals or organizations will abide by all Virginia laws and rules regarding the registration of voters.³

Virginia law also provides that any person or group collecting voter registration forms provide a receipt to the applicant upon completion of the form.⁴ The receipt must be “completed by the person receiving the form from the applicant.” The receipt must include the name of the office, group, or person receiving the registration application; the date that the office, group, or person received the registration application from the applicant; “and the phone number of the general registrar or the toll-free phone number of the State Board of Elections that the applicant may call to confirm his registration.”⁵ Virginia has a publicly available [guide](#) for individuals and organizations conducting drives.⁶

Applications must be mailed or delivered to the appropriate general registrar, State Board of Elections, or other designated voter registration agency within 10 days of signature, or by book-closing deadline, whichever comes first.⁷ Intentional failure to comply with this deadline by failing to timely deliver or by destroying the application is a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum of one year in prison, or a maximum fine of \$2,500, or both.⁸ Individuals and organizations involved in voter registration drives are subject to several other criminal provisions related to voter registration misconduct. These offenses are described in the State’s voter registration [guide](#).⁹

View the full report at:

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

¹ VA. CODE ANN. § 24.2-416.6 (2013).

² VA. CODE ANN. § 24.2-418 (2013).

³ VA. CODE ANN. § 24.2-416.6 (2013).

⁴ VA. CODE ANN. § 24.2-418.1(A) (2011).

⁵ VA. CODE ANN. § 24.2-418.1(A) (2011).

⁶ VA. STATE BD. OF ELECTIONS, GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES (2013), *available at* <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationDrives/guidevoterregdrive.pdf>.

⁷ VA. CODE ANN. § 24.2-1002.01 (2013).

⁸ VA. CODE ANN. § 24.2-1002.01 (2011); VA. CODE ANN. § 18.2-11(a) (2011).

⁹ VA. STATE BD. OF ELECTIONS, GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES 6-8 (2013), *available at* <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationDrives/guidevoterregdrive.pdf>.