

# VOTER REGISTRATION IN NEW MEXICO

(from NM Secretary of State—Bureau of Elections Website June 2008)

## How do I register to vote in New Mexico?

- You may register to vote on different forms. The New Mexico Certificate of Registration form or the National Voter Registration Form.
- The New Mexico Certificate of Registration Form ("New Mexico Form") is available at any county clerk's office, the Office of the Secretary of State, or many state agencies that serve specific clients at those offices such as motor vehicle offices (Section 1-4-5.1, 1-4-5.2, NMSA 1978).
- A voter may request the New Mexico form by mail, telephone, or in person. The New Mexico form is on cardstock, is a permanent record and is **not available online. It may not be duplicated.** You may also register with a Third-Party Registration Agent (Section 1-4-5, NMSA 1978).
- The National Voter Registration Form ("National Form") is available online at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov). This form may be downloaded or duplicated by any voter or organization.

## Do I need to present identification when I vote?

- Yes.

## What identification do I need to provide?

- As used in the Election Code, "required voter identification" forms of identification as chosen by the voter:
  - (A) a physical form of identification, which may be:
    - (1) an original or copy of a current and valid photo identification with or without an address, which address is not required to match the voter's certificate of registration or a voter identification card; or
    - (2) an original or copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card or other government document, including identification issued by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo, that shows the name and address of the person, the address of which is not required to match the voter's certificate of registration; or
  - (B) a verbal or written statement by the voter of the voter's name, year of birth and unique identifier; provided, however, that the statement of the voter's name need not contain the voter's middle initial or suffix.
- If a voter fails to provide the required voter identification, the voter shall be allowed to vote on a provisional ballot.
- Each application for an absentee ballot shall be subscribed by the applicant and shall require the applicant's printed name, year of birth and unique identifier to be supplied by the applicant, which shall constitute the required form of identification.
- A first time registrant who submits the registration by mail may only use options under (A)(1) and (A)(2).

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[continued]

## **When does voter registration close?**

- Voter registration closes 28 days prior to an election. (Section 1-4-8 (A)(1),(6), NMSA 1978).
- Hand delivered voter registrations, delivered directly to the county clerk, may be delivered until the Friday after the close of registration if the voter registration is dated and postmarked on or before the 28 days preceding the election and received on the Friday after the close of registration. (Section 1-4-5.1 (E) and 1-4-8 (A)(6), NMSA 1978).

## **Do I need to register for every election?**

- No, registration is permanent in New Mexico as long as you do not move, change your name or party affiliation.

## **Do I need to change my registration if I move? Even if I move to a different address in the same city?**

- Yes, if you do not change your address, a postcard will be mailed to your old address to confirm that you have moved. If you do not respond, your voter registration will be cancelled if you do not re-register or if you do not appear to vote in any election within four years. (PL 103-31).
- You also need to change your voter registration if you change your name or want to change your party affiliation.