



Information for Voting Virgins

You might be scared about your first time, but you don't have to be. Here are all the facts you need to know about registering to vote and voting for the first time.

Are there any restrictions on registering to vote using a P.O. Box, college campus, or dorm address?

A person may register to vote using any address he or she considers to be his or her legal residence. Residence requires both domicile and a place of abode. Relevant factors in this determination include employment, residence of parents, spouse and children, sites of personal and real property owned, and motor vehicle and other personal property registration. A P.O. Box is sufficient as a mailing address, but insufficient to establish residency. College students should list the street address of their dorm and specify the room, floor, or apartment they occupy.

If I enter or leave the state because of work or school, can I register to vote?

Yes. Use of a college or work address is permissible provided that you consider that address to be your legal residence. However, if you are claimed as a dependent on your parents' income tax return, their address is *probably* your legal residence. Other considerations in determining legal residence include scholarship restrictions, insurance and future residency plans.

Students who want to vote are protected by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This means that they cannot be treated differently than any other citizen when it comes to voting. Specifically, students should neither be forced to fill out additional information that non-students do not have to fill out nor can election officials require students fulfill additional obligations that non-students do not have to satisfy. Of course, no one can register and vote in two places but if a student considers her dorm or her address at school her residence, she can register to vote there; if she feels that the address where her parents live or the address she lived before going to school is her residence, she can register to vote there and vote by absentee ballot

Do I need to show photo ID at the polls?

Yes, but only to verify your identity. A voting card, a social security card, any federal, state or employee issued ID, regardless of address, is fine.

**Compiled from the National Campaign for Fair Elections, Voting Rights Project
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