THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

REGISTERING TO VOTE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

This guidance was updated on June 3, 2026. Do not rely on previous versions.

To register and vote in New Hampshire, you must be:

- 18 years of age or older on election day;
- A United States citizen; and
- Domiciled[1] in the town or ward where you seek to vote.

You must prove your identity, age, citizenship, and domicile to register. You may present proof documents in paper, photocopy, or electronic form.

If your name has legally changed, for example through marriage, divorce, adoption, or a court-approved name change, and you will use a document with your former name to prove one your voter qualifications, you must present proof of your legal name change that shows both your prior name as it appears on your proof document and your current legal name as it appears on the voter registration application. Your marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption papers, or the court order approving your name change will usually satisfy this requirement. If the proceeding changing your name occurred in New Hampshire, election officials **may** be able to verify the name change through the statewide voter registration database.

Please see the sections below for examples of qualifying documentary proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile.

For more resources where you can obtain proof of voter qualification visit: www.sos.nh.gov/elections/register-vote

[1] The fundamental idea of domicile is home." *Felker v. Henderson*, 78 N.H. 509, 511 (1917). More information regarding what the term "domicile" means is on page 7 of this document.

Identity

Anyone of the following documents is proof of your identity:

- Photo driver's license issued by any state or the federal government.
- United States passport, passcard, armed services identification or other photo identification issued by the United States government.
- Photo identification issued by local or state government.
- Verification of your identity based on personal knowledge by the moderator or other election official. (Ex: clerk, supervisor of the checklist, registrar, select board member, ward clerk, and their deputy, assistant, or pro tem appointee.)
- Residents of a nursing home or similar facility may prove their identity through verification by the facility administrator or the administrator's designee.
- Any other reasonable evidence that establishes that it is more likely than not you are who you claim to be.
    - *Note: A student identification card **CANNOT** be used to prove identity.*

Citizenship

You may prove your citizenship by providing documentary proof of citizenship, asking your local election official to verify your citizenship through state databases, or completing an affidavit.

Documentary Proof of Citizenship: Any one of the following documents, listing your current legal name, prove your United States citizenship:

- Birth certificate;
- United States passport or passport card;
- Naturalization papers;
- One of the four trusted traveler cards issued by the United States Customs & Border Protection, identifying you as being a U.S. citizen—Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, and FAST cards;
- Proof you were previously or are currently registered to vote in any New Hampshire municipality, such as a marked voter checklist.
- Other reasonable documentation which indicates you are a United States citizen.
    - *Note: A New Hampshire Real ID compliant driver's license **CANNOT** be used to prove citizenship.*

Proving Citizenship with State Database Information: If you do not have documentary proof of your citizenship, you may authorize local election officials to conduct one of the following searches to confirm your citizenship:

- Searching the Statewide Voter Registration System to confirm you were previously or are currently registered to vote in any New Hampshire municipality
- The Statewide Voter Registration System has New Hampshire Vital Records information regarding New Hampshire births, marriages, divorces, adoptions, civil unions, and dissolutions. A search of this information may help prove citizenship for certain voters.
- The Statewide Voter Registration System has information from the N.H. Division of Motor Vehicles regarding citizenship status for individuals who have obtained a N.H. Driver's License or Non-Driver ID. A search of this information may help prove citizenship for certain voters.

Qualified Voter Affidavit-Citizenship: Your citizenship may also be proven by completing a qualified voter affidavit attesting, subject to the penalties for voter fraud, that you are a United States citizen but do not possess some or all of the documents necessary to prove your citizenship.

Age

Any reasonable documentation indicating that you will be 18 years of age or older on the date of the next election, including but not limited to:

- Birth certificate;
- United States passport or passport card;
- Driver's license or non-driver ID.

Domicile

If you possess one of the primary documentary proofs of domicile, you must use it to register to vote. If you complete an affidavit attesting that you do not possess one of those primary documents, you may provide an alternative form of proof. More information about the meaning of "domicile" and "residence" can be found at the end of this document.

Primary Proof of Domicile: If you possess one of the following qualified documents identifying your name and the address you claim as domicile, you must present the document when registering to vote:

- N.H. driver's license or identification card issued under RSA 260:21, 260:21-a. or 260:21-b;
- N.H. resident vehicle registration;
- U.S. government photo identification; or
- Government-issued check, benefit statement, or tax document

Alternative Proof of Domicile: If you do not possess any of the documents listed above, you can sign an "Attestation of Not Possessing Qualified Proof Documents" and provide other reasonable documentation of having established a physical presence at the address you are claiming as your domicile, having an intent to make that place your domicile, and having taken a verifiable act to carry out that intent. The proof of domicile document you offer must establish that it is more likely than not that you have a voting domicile at the address you enter on the voter registration form and intend to maintain that domicile at least until election day.

You may use any one of the following documents as alternative proof of domicile:

- A document from the school that you attend showing that you live in campus housing. A document issued by the school that has your name and the address (on or off campus) where you live qualifies. Many colleges and universities provide students with acceptable documents.
    - Students may use a smart phone or other electronic device to show the election official a page from the college or university's official student electronic records website. The web page must list the student's name and dorm assignment or off-campus residence address. Some universities have established a web page resource specifically for this purpose. Consult your school officials if you cannot find and display this information from your school's system.
- A document showing your claimed domicile address that you claim as domicile listing the name of the owner, property manager (for a college dorm this includes a school official or Resident Assistant), or tenant along with a written statement from the person listed as the owner, property manager, or tenant that you reside at that address. The statement must acknowledge that the person signing does so under penalty of voting fraud if false information is provided.
    - A "Confirmation of Domicile" form for this purpose can be obtained from your clerk or the Secretary of State's office: www.sos.nh.gov/elections/register-vote.
    - A written signed statement containing the same information as the "Confirmation of Domicile" form satisfies the law.

- A rental agreement, lease, or similar document that shows your name, the address of your domicile, and that you are renting or leasing at that address for a period of more than 30 days, to include time directly prior to an election day. The document must show the domicile you plan to have on Election Day.

- A document showing that you own the place you claim as domicile, such as a deed, property tax bill, or other similar document that has your name and domicile address.

- A document containing your name and the address you claim as domicile showing that you enrolled a dependent minor child in an established public or private elementary or secondary school which serves the town or ward of your domicile.

- Any form from the U.S. Post Office showing your name and the physical address where you are domiciled (not a Post Office Box). The confirmation you received by e-mail or U.S. mail when you reported your new address to the post office fulfills the requirement.
    - Canceled mail addressed in your name to your domicile address that shows the U.S. Postal Service delivered the mail to you at that address satisfies the proof of domicile requirement.

- A public utility bill, such as an electric, telephone, water, gas, or other utility bill, with your name and domicile address on it.

- A note from a homeless shelter or other service provider located in the town or ward where you will vote that confirms they will receive U.S. mail sent to you at that address. An optional voluntary form for this purpose can be obtained online from the Secretary of State's office here: www.sos.nh.gov/elections/register-vote.

- Any other reasonable documentation that establishes that it is more likely than not that you are domiciled at the address you have entered on the voter registration application.

  You may call or visit your town or city clerk's office if you have any questions about proof of domicile. Look up your clerk's address and contact information here: app.sos.nh.gov

Bring Proof Documents to Register

You must bring documents that establish your qualifications with you when registering to vote. You may present documentation in paper, photocopy, or electronic form. An applicant without sufficient documentary proof of citizenship may complete a qualified voter affidavit attesting that they are a citizen. An applicant without sufficient documentary proof of identity, age, and domicile will be instructed to retrieve a proof document before they will be allowed to register.

N.H. citizens who moved here from another state may have experienced casting a provisional ballot in their prior state when they failed to bring documentation of their qualifications or Photo ID to the polls. N.H. does not use a provisional ballot. Everyone who meets the requirements to register may vote on a ballot that election officials count on election day.

Do not hesitate to ask the town/city clerk or the supervisors of the checklist at their meeting or at the polls on Election Day if you have any questions about how to register to vote. Your local election officials will help you.

Where to Register:

You may register to vote in person at your municipal clerk's office, in person at a supervisors of the checklist meeting, in person at the polling location on election day. If you qualify, you may also register absentee or using the accessible electronic absentee voter registration.

Municipal Clerk's Office or Supervisors of the Checklist Meeting: You may register to vote by appearing in person at your municipal clerk's office or at a meeting of the supervisors of the checklist.

- Check your town/city website or contact your clerk's office to obtain the schedule for supervisors' meetings. The supervisors are required to meet at least one time every 90 days, including the day before the filing period starts for state and local elections, on dates leading up to town/city elections, and on all election days. For state elections they must also meet 6 to 13 days before primary election and 6 to 13 days before the general election.

Polling Location on Election Day: You may register to vote by appearing in person at your polling location on election day during polling hours.

Absentee Registration: You may register to vote by absentee (by mail) if one of the following is true:

- You will be absent from the town or city on the dates/times when the supervisors of the checklist meet to receive voter registration applications.
    - Absence includes an employment commitment that prevents you from attending a session of the supervisors. The term "employment" includes the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation;

- You cannot appear in public because of observance of a religious commitment;

- You are unable to apply for registration in person because of a physical disability;
- You are a victim of domestic violence and have an active court issued protective order or are participating in the Attorney General's address confidentiality program; or
- You are a person confined to a penal institution awaiting trial or because of a misdemeanor conviction. A person who is incarcerated because of a felony conviction is not eligible to register or vote while incarcerated.

Visit our Register to Vote page at www.sos.nh.gov/elections/register-vote for information on registering to vote absentee.

Accessible Electronic Absentee Voter Registration

You may register through an accessible electronic absentee voter registration process if you meet the state's requirements and qualifications to vote and are unable to register to vote in person because of a print-based physical disability (e.g., blindness, unable to complete a paper form with a pen). You should request an Accessible Absentee Voter Registration Affidavit and an Accessible Standard Voter Registration form directly from your city or town clerk. The Application for an Accessible Electronic Absentee Ballot also allows you to request the electronic forms necessary for absentee electronic voter registration. Download the application for an Accessible Electronic Absentee Ballot at www.sos.nh.gov/elections

What is "domicile"?

"The fundamental idea of domicile is home." *Felker v. Henderson*, 78 N.H. 509, 511 (1917).

"An inhabitant's domicile for voting purposes is that one place where a person, more than any other place, has established a physical presence and manifests an intent to maintain a single continuous presence for domestic, social, and civil purposes relevant to participating in democratic self-government. A person has the right to change domicile at any time, however a mere intention to change domicile in the future does not, of itself, terminate an established domicile before the person actually moves." RSA 654:1, I.

"A student of any institution of learning may lawfully claim domicile for voting purposes in the New Hampshire town or city in which he or she lives while attending such institution of learning if such student's claim of domicile otherwise meets the requirements of RSA 654:1, I." RSA 654:1, I-a.

"A voter can have only one domicile for voting purposes." RSA 654:2, I.

"A domicile for voting purposes acquired by any person in any town shall not be interrupted or lost by a temporary absence therefrom with the intention of returning thereto as his or her domicile. Domicile for the purpose of voting as defined in RSA 654:1, once existing, continues to exist until another such domicile is gained. Domicile for purposes of voting is a question of fact and intention coupled with a verifiable act or acts carrying out that intent." RSA 654:2, I.

"RSA 654:1, I, like common law domicile, requires physical presence and the intent to make one's place of physical presence one's home (that "one place where a person, more than any other place, has established a physical presence and manifests an intent to maintain a single, continuous presence for domestic, social, and civil purposes relevant to participating in democratic self-government")." *Casey v. N.H. Sec'y. of State*, 173 N.H. 266, 274 (2020).

Under New Hampshire law, the terms "domicile" and "residence" are equivalent. Establishing a voting domicile may also trigger certain other residency obligations under state law. These may include the obligation to obtain a New Hampshire driver's license and/or motor vehicle registration. For more information on this, please visit

www.sos.nh.gov/elections/frequently-asked-questions/voter-registration-and-motor-vehicle-law