

New Mexico Voter Qualifications

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What qualifications are required for someone to register to vote in New Mexico?

Voters must be U.S. citizens, must be at least eighteen on or before election day, and must reside in New Mexico. Application may be made in person or by mail, but note the identification requirements below for applications made by mail.

The County Clerk's office is located just inside the west entrance of the County Administration Building, on the west side of Ashley Pond in Los Alamos.

What **type of identification**, if any, must be presented in order to register to vote in New Mexico?

For mail-in ballots, if the applicant is registering for the first time in New Mexico, the applicant must submit, together with his completed and signed application form, a copy of one of the following types of identification showing both the name and the NM address of the applicant:

- * a current and valid photo ID such as a driver's license (note that the DMV can issue similar IDs to non-drivers)
- * a utility bill
- * a bank statement
- * a government check, paycheck or other government document.

If the applicant has not submitted the required identification before the election, s/he may be required to do so when voting for the first time, whether in person or absentee. Currently the identification requirements are not interpreted to apply to applications collected by third parties, such as the League, but this ruling may yet be appealed.

No identification is required if a voter is merely changing his registration (name, address and/or party affiliation) within the state of New Mexico.

How will the applicant know that his registration has been accepted?

The applicant should receive a voter registration card from the **County Clerk** within 15 days. This card will list the voter's polling place and districting information.

What if the voter arrives at the polls on election day and finds that his name is not on the list of registered voters?

The voter shall be permitted to vote using a **provisional paper ballot** provided that

1. his residence is within the county in which he offers to vote,
2. his name is not on the list of persons submitting absentee ballots, and
3. he executes a statement swearing or affirming that to the best of his knowledge he is a qualified elector, eligible to vote in that county, and that he has not cast a ballot or voted elsewhere in that election.

Use of a provisional ballot will also be required if the voter did not submit required identification at the time of registration and does not present identification to the election judge. (In this case the voter's name may appear on the signature list but this roster will indicate that identification is required before the voter can cast a regular ballot.)