

VOTER REGISTRATION
Qualifications and Disqualifications

Q. Who can register to vote?

A. Any person who possesses the constitutional and statutory qualifications and none of the disqualifications.

The registrant must be a U.S. citizen, at least 17 years old but cannot vote until reaching the age of 18 and will have resided in his/her county 30 days by the time of the election. The registrant must not possess the requisite criminal or mental disqualifications. **N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.**

Q. What are the criminal disqualifications?

A. Any person who has been convicted of an indictable offense under any federal or state law and is serving a sentence, or is on probation or parole, is not allowed to register to vote. **N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.**

Q. What are the mental disqualifications?

A. The State Constitution bars any person who "...has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting..." **N.J. Const.** Art. 2, Section 1, Paragraph 6. No election official, family member or friend of the registrant can make such a determination. **Carroll v. Cobb**, 139 **N.J. Super.** 439 (App. Div. 1976).

DEADLINE

Q. Is there a voter registration deadline?

A. Yes, a person must register to vote by the 21st day before an election. **N.J.S.A. 19:31-6.1.**

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Q. How does a person register to vote?

A. One can register by mail. Forms are available online at **Elections.NJ.gov** or they can be picked up at a voter registration agency or other public agency. **N.J.S.A. 19:31-6.3.**

In-person voter registration is also available at a municipal clerk's office or county commissioner of registration's office. The location of these offices is listed on the above website. Additionally, pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act, 42 **U.S.C.** 1973gg, **et. seq.**, and state conforming legislation (**N.J.S.A. 19:31-6.3**), any person appearing at a Motor Vehicle Commission ("MVC") agency for an initial driver's license or renewal must be asked if he or she wishes to register to vote. Such "active" registration activity by a governmental agency also applies to offices that serve the disabled and administer public assistance.