

If the post office cannot deliver the notice to the address you gave when you registered, your name will be placed on the "inactive" list and you may not be able to vote. If you do not receive a notice acknowledging receipt of your registration within three (3) weeks, call your local Board of Canvassers.

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### **What is the deadline for registering to vote in a primary or election?**

You must register at least 30 days before a primary or election in which you wish to vote. In Presidential elections, if you miss the deadline, you can still register and vote only for President/Vice-President at your Board of Canvassers on the day of the election (R.I.G.L. 17-1-3). See our Upcoming Elections section for relevant deadlines.

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### **Can I vote on Election Day if I am not registered to vote, or if I registered after the deadline?**

In most cases, no. Rhode Island requires that a person be registered to vote **30 days or more** prior to a primary or election in order to be eligible to vote in that primary or election. In statewide elections, if you are already registered but have moved to a different address, see our Limited Ballot section for more information. However, in Presidential elections, if you are not registered to vote, or you registered after the deadline, you can go to your City/Town Hall on Election Day and register and vote for President/Vice-President only.

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### **How long do I have to live in a city/town in Rhode Island to vote there?**

You can register to vote as soon as you move to that city/town as long as you intend to make your primary residence here. However, you cannot vote for local candidates or issues until you have been registered at that address for 30 days.

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### **I moved and never changed my address on my voter registration record. Where do I vote?**

You can determine where you vote by viewing our Guidelines for Voter Affirmation, which can be found in our Limited Ballot section. Also, at the bottom of the section you will find a convenient chart with the same information. This information is useful only if have failed to update your address on your voter registration record and the election is less than 30 days away. You should always update your address on your voter registration record anytime you move. You can update your voter registration record by submitting a new voter registration form, located in our Voter Registration section.

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### **How old do I have to be to register to vote?**

You may register to vote if you are at least 16-years-old. However, you must be 18-years-old on Election Day in order to vote.

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### **How do I find out where I vote?**

You can visit the Voter Information Center to find your assigned polling place. Please note, that polling places are subject to change. Generally you will vote at the same polling place in statewide elections. However, in smaller special elections, you may be temporarily assigned to another polling place due to consolidation. It is advisable to always verify your assigned polling place before any election.

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### **Do I have to show identification when I vote at the polls?**

All voters at the polls must present Photo ID. There are various acceptable types of IDs. If a voter is unable to present valid photo ID, they have the right to cast a provisional ballot. More information is available here.

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### **What Senate and Representative district do I live in?**

These district numbers are shown on the acknowledgement letter you were sent when you registered to vote. If you do not have your acknowledgement letter, call your local Board of Canvassers for this information. You may also visit the Voter Information Center and look up your voter registration record to retrieve this information.

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### **I was convicted of a felony, but have served my time and am on probation. Can I register to vote?**

Yes. A referendum question passed on November 7, 2006 election states that "No person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility upon a felony conviction shall be permitted to vote until such person is discharged from the facility. Upon discharge, such person's right to vote shall be restored."

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**I am incarcerated in a correctional facility because I was either charged with a felony (but not convicted), charged with a misdemeanor, or convicted of a misdemeanor. Can I register to vote?**

Yes. If you have **not been convicted** of a felony but are incarcerated in a correctional facility, you are eligible to register to vote, and to vote by absentee ballot. See our Mail Ballot section for more information.

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**I own two residences in Rhode Island in different communities. Am I eligible to vote in both places for local candidates and issues?**

No. You must choose one place as your primary residence and that will determine where you are eligible to vote. Please see R.I.G.L. 17-1-3.1 for the requirements of determining a residence for voting purposes.

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**I have a Power of Attorney for my spouse. Can I register or vote for her/him?**

No. Each person must sign or make a mark on an application when registering to vote or voting. No one can do this for someone else.

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**Do I need to cancel my RI voter registration if I move to another state?**

No. When you register to vote in another state, there will be a place on the form to list the previous address at which you were registered. A notice is then sent to the city/town in RI where you were registered, indicating that you have registered elsewhere. The local board of canvassers in the RI municipality where you were registered will then cancel your RI registration. If you like, you may send written notice to the local board, requesting the cancellation of your registration. You can find the address of your local board here.

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**How do I cancel my voter registration if I no longer wish to be registered?**

You must request cancellation of your voter registration in writing to your local Board of Canvassers.

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**I need help when I vote at the polling place. What are my options?**

You may bring anyone you choose to assist you with voting except your employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your union. You and the person helping you will be asked to sign an affidavit stating that you have requested assistance. Alternatively, you may also ask the Warden/Moderator at the polling place to provide a pair of bi-partisan pollworkers to assist you. See the Voting at the Polls section for additional information.

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**Can I register to vote as an *independent*?**

Rhode Island does not have an "independent" party. You may choose to register as *unaffiliated* which means you will not be considered a member of any political party — unless and until you vote in a political party primary. If you do vote in a party primary you will be considered a member of that party and will not be able to vote in another party's primary until you have been disaffiliated for 90 days. You may complete a "Change of Party Designation" form at the polling place after you have voted in a primary, or you can submit a new Voter Registration form indicating your party change. In either case, under state law changing party takes 90 days to take affect.

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**Are there any special requirements to run as a "Write-In" candidate?**

No, there is no declaration requirement to run as a "Write-In" candidate for any office, including President. However, it is advised that a "Write-In" candidate notify their local Board of Canvassers of their intention to run a "Write-in" campaign. This will allow for local and state election officials to issue additional supplies to the polling place for the handling of "Write-In" ballots. Also, stickers are not allowed to be placed on an official ballot, and could cause damage to the ballot tabulator. Finally, "Write-In" candidates for state or municipal offices are subject to the RI campaign finance laws and must file reports. See our Campaign Finance section for additional information about filing requirements for all candidates.