

alaska prisoners rights voting guide

Voting while incarcerated

Incarcerated people can vote unless they have been convicted of a felony.

If a person has a felony conviction, they may not vote in state, federal, or municipal elections from the date of the conviction until the date of the unconditional discharge of the person. Unconditional discharge means you are no longer under the supervision of the Department of Corrections, which includes probation, parole, or any court supervision.

Requesting an absentee by mail ballot while incarcerated

How to request an absentee ballot. If a person is incarcerated while awaiting trial or has been convicted of a misdemeanor, they can request an application to receive an absentee-by-mail ballot from the Division of Elections through the correctional facility where they are detained.

If the facility fails to provide it, someone can print the application (www.elections.alaska.gov/voter-information/absentee-and-early-voting) and mail it to the incarcerated person to complete and return by mail to the Division of Elections by October 3, 2024.

Addresses to include ★★★★★

- A person registering to vote should use their last place of residency before incarceration as their “Alaska residence address” on the application form, **not the correctional facility** where they currently reside.
 - If a person was unhoused before incarceration, they can list any address where they resided and intend to return. A hotel, shelter bed, facility, or even a park bench would be sufficient for the listed address.
- The person should also put their last place of residency before incarceration as the “permanent address where they receive mail.” However, **the “ballot mailing address” should be the address of the jail or prison where they currently reside.**



Voting after incarceration

Check your voter registration. If you've been incarcerated and have not voted in more than eight years, you need to check your voting status and register to vote again. Under current law, a person can miss two elections (four years) before getting a warning letter from the Division of Elections that they are in threat of being purged from voter rolls. A person then has two years in which they will be mailed a letter each year warning their registration will be labeled inactive. Once that second letter is sent, they have two years before they are removed from the voter rolls. [Check your voter registration status online here](https://myvoterportal.alaska.gov) (myvoterportal.alaska.gov).

Department of Corrections (DOC) should send you a letter saying your voting rights were restored. An incarcerated person, even someone with a felony, is eligible to register to vote if they have completed their sentence and have been unconditionally discharged from probation and parole supervision. DOC is supposed to send you a Notification of Restoration of Voting Rights Letter. If you receive one, make sure you keep it. But it's okay if you don't --- just make sure you have dismissal or discharge papers that prove you are no longer on probation or parole.

How to register to vote after incarceration. There are two options to register to vote after incarceration.

- **Register to vote in-person** at Division of Elections Offices, DMV Offices, Vocational Rehabilitation Offices, Participating Tribal Government Offices, Legislative Information Offices, United States Armed Forces Assistance Offices, Public Assistance Agencies, City or Borough Clerk's Offices, Participating Public Libraries, Voter Registrars. When you register to vote, you should bring your dismissal or discharge papers to prove you are no longer on probation or parole.
- **Register to vote via mail or online.**
 - **By mail.** Print a paper form to complete and sign. Send the completed form by mail, fax, or email attachment to a Regional Elections Office. When registering to vote, send a copy of either your current driver's license, state ID, passport, or birth certificate with your paper form. Ensure documents are attached directly to email, including dismissal/discharge papers.
 - **Register online.** [Register through the Division of Elections' online site](https://voterregistration.alaska.gov) (voterregistration.alaska.gov). Be prepared to upload documents including dismissal/discharge papers.

Once the voter registration application has been processed, the Division of Elections will send the voter an identification card. The card takes approximately 4-6 weeks to arrive. The voter should then proceed to vote as normal.



Having issues with voting while incarcerated or navigating the elections process after incarceration? Write us a letter or send an email to Natalie Cauley at ncauley@acluak.org. Please remember that lead time is needed given the deadlines for registering and mailing ballots.

ACLU
Alaska

Alaska Absentee Ballot Application – For Federal and State Elections

Check the status of your absentee ballot application at myvoterinformation.alaska.gov

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|---|----|---|--|---|
| Elections | 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All in Calendar Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary (August) | <input type="checkbox"/> General (November) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> REAA (October) | <input type="checkbox"/> Special | |
| Eligibility If you answer 'No' to either question, you cannot register. | 2 | Are you a citizen of the United States? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | Are you at least 18 years of age or within 90 days of your 18 th birthday? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Print your name | 3 | <u>Moose</u> | <u>John</u> | <u>River</u> |
| | | Last | First | Middle Suffix |
| Other information | 4 | Former name (if changed): | Voter number (if known): | |
| Alaska residence address - Provide an Alaska residence address. Do not use PO, PSC, HC and Box or out-of-state address. | 5 | <u>123</u> | <u>Main Street</u> | <u>1</u> <u>Fairbanks</u> Alaska |
| | | House # | Street Name | Apt # City State |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> *Keep my residence address confidential. Mailing address in 6 MUST be different than residence in 5. | | |
| The address where you receive mail (Permanent) | 6 | <u>123 Main Street Unit 1</u> <u>Fairbanks, Alaska</u> <u>99703</u> | | |
| Identifiers You MUST provide ONE . | 7 | <u>1234</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have an SSN or AK driver's license or State ID | |
| | | *SSN or Last 4 | *Alaska driver's license or State ID No. | |
| Birthdate and Gender You MUST provide Birthdate | 8 | *Birthdate <u>01/15/1975</u> | Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
| Political party affiliation | 9 | Write political affiliation (For options, see instructions): <u>Undeclared</u> | | |
| Military and Overseas Voters Check your status and how you want your ballot sent. | 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Active member of the Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine, or commissioned corps or an eligible spouse or dependent. <input type="checkbox"/> OR, I am residing temporarily or permanently overseas and I intend to return to Alaska. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mail – Complete box 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Online – Provide email in box 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Fax – Provide fax in box 13 | | |
| In remote Alaska or overseas? | 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I will be in remote Alaska or overseas where mail service is limited. If yes, a 45-day advance ballot will be mailed to you. | | |
| Ballot mailing address. Ballots WILL NOT be forwarded. Provide an address where you will receive mail. | 12 | <u>Fairbanks Correctional Center, John Moose # 12345</u> <u>1931 Egan Avenue</u> <u>Fairbanks, Alaska 99701</u> | | |
| Contact information Include all state and international prefixes. | 13 | Day Phone: <u>907-458-6700</u> | Evening Phone: | |
| | | Email: | Fax No.: | |
| Certificate Read and Sign Your signature must be handwritten. A typed or digital signature is not valid. | 14 | I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that: The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and I am eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, I am not requesting a ballot from any other state, and I am not voting in any other manner in this (these) election(s). I further certify that I am an Alaska resident and that I have not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, or having been so convicted, have been unconditionally discharged from incarceration, probation and/or parole. I am not registered to vote in another state, or I have taken the necessary steps to cancel that registration. WARNING: If you provide false information on this application you can be convicted of a felony and/or misdemeanor. (AS 15.56.040; AS 15.56.050) *Signature: <u>John Moose</u> Date: <u>09/15/2024</u> | | |



For Office Use

Registrar or Official Name:

Voter No. or last 4 of SSN:

*Items are kept confidential by the Division of Elections and are not available for public inspection except that confidential addresses may be released to government agencies or during election processes as set out in state law.

*A person registering to vote should use their last place of residency prior to incarceration as their voting address. If a person was unhoused before being incarcerated, they can list an address that is a "place in which the person's habitation is fixed and whenever that person is absent from that place, has the intention to return." A hotel, shelter bed or facility, or even a park bench would be sufficient as the listed address.