

Your Vote Matters – Know Your Rights!

HOW TO SIGN UP (REGISTER) TO VOTE

To vote in Rhode Island elections, you must be *registered to vote*. That is the language we use for signing up to vote or getting on the official voter list. You can register to vote at age 16 and vote at age 18.

If you have a RI License or State ID, you can register to vote or update your registration on-line at the RI Department of State's Voter Information Center at <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/>.

You can fill out a Voter Registration Form and return the form to your city or town election office called the Local Board of Canvassers. To get a form, go to the on-line Voter Information Center and click on the box for Publications and Forms. If you have questions, call us. **We can help!**

VOTING RIGHTS

- **Voters have a right to vote privately and independently:** No one can tell you how to vote or stop you from voting if you are eligible. It is your choice. Your vote is private, and you can keep it a secret.
- **Voters have the right to an accessible polling place:** Federal laws require all polling sites to be physically accessible. These laws ensure equal access for people with disabilities, including voters who use wheelchairs, have vision loss, and who have service animals.
- **Voters have the right to help with marking their ballot:** Help can be provided by someone you choose including a friend, family member, caregiver, or someone working at the polls. The person providing help cannot be the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an agent or officer of the voter's union.
- **Voters have the right to use an accessible voting system by mail or in-person:** In RI, the in-person accessible voting system is called the ExpressVote and it is available at every polling place and early voting location. For a demonstration go to the RI Department of State ExpressVote Guide at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvQuzCOJWr0>. For information about accessible mail ballot voting for voters with print disabilities go to the RI Department of State Voter Information Center's webpage for Accessibility and Voting Assistance or call 401-222-2340.

- Voters with a legal guardian have a right to vote unless there is a written court order specifically stating they are not allowed to vote: Your guardian cannot decide whether or not you can vote.
- Voters have a right to register and vote upon release after a felony conviction. If you are a person convicted of a felony who was registered to vote in Rhode Island and plan to stay in the state, you will have your voter registration restored when you are released from prison. Make sure to update your registration if your address has changed. If you are sentenced to home confinement, probation or parole, you are eligible to vote.
- Voters have the right to file an administrative complaint about voting rights violations.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

To find out what will be on your ballot, voters may call DRRI or the Local Board of Canvassers about 30 days before an election and ask them to send a sample ballot or voters can visit the RI Department of State's Voter Information Center at <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/> to check their voter registration status and find a sample of their ballot. Contact DRRI if you need help.

WAYS TO VOTE

Voters may vote:

- In-person **at the polls** on Election Day
- In-person at **Early Voting** in the 20 days prior to Election Day
- **By mail.**

Voters may find the location of their polling place or early voting by calling:

- DRRI
- The Secretary of State's office at (401) 222-2340, or their Local Board Canvassers

Voters may also get information about the location of their polling place by visiting the RI Department of State's Voter Information Center at <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/>.

To vote by mail, contact the Local Board of Canvassers at your City or Town Hall to ask about the deadlines to meet when applying for a mail ballot.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION (ID)

For in-person voting, Rhode Island law requires all voters to present a VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION (ID). ID is valid if it is unexpired or expired no more than six months prior to voting. **Voters will need to present one of the following forms of PHOTO ID:**

- RI License
- RI Voter ID card issued by the Secretary of State's Office (these cards are free)
- U.S. Passport

- U.S. educational institution ID
- U.S. military ID
- ID card issued by U.S. or RI with a photo such as a RIPTA bus pass
- Government issued medical card
- Tribal ID.

CALL US: Contact Disability Rights Rhode Island (DRRI) at **401-831-3150** or **1-800-733-5332** if you:

- **Need help to register to vote**
- **Have questions about voting rights or how to vote**
- **Your voting rights have been violated**
- **To request that we provide training about voting**

Please call us if you experience a disability-related barrier to accessing your polling place or casting a ballot and you wish to request our assistance.