

Nevada's Elections

The Secretary of State is Nevada's Chief Election Official and is responsible for the execution and enforcement of the provisions of Title 24 of NRS and all other provisions of state and federal law relating to elections in Nevada.

The Secretary of State, through the Elections Division, exercises an oversight function for elections administration while day to day administration occurs at the local government level by the local election official in each of Nevada's 17 counties. Specifically, the Elections Division:

- Administers Candidate Contribution and Expenditure Reports;
- Maintains the official statewide voter registration list, in consultation with each county and city clerk;
- Reports and certifies the results of state primary and general elections;
- Facilitates the state's Confidential Address Program for victims of domestic violence;
- Oversees voting system certification; and
- Implements with federal election regulations.

County Clerk

The County clerk is an elected position in 4-year terms (NRS 246.010). The Clerk is the election board officer designated or assigned to make the record of the election in the roster, tally list and challenge list in the precinct or district where appointed (NRS 293.040).

Registrar of Voters

The Registrar of Voters office exists only in counties with a population of 100,000 or more. Currently only Clark and Washoe Counties have Registrars of Voters. The Board of County Commissioners is authorized to create and appoint the office of Registrar of Voters, prescribe the qualifications, duties and compensation for that office, and make appointments to that office (NRS 244.164). Similar duties are also assigned to City Clerks for the administration of city elections throughout the state.

The Registrar of Voters exercises all of the powers and duties vested in and imposed upon the County Clerk with respect to elections, except the duties imposed by NRS 293.393 to make out and deliver certificates of election.

Among other things, the duties of local elections officials are to:

- Register voters and maintain the registration records;
- Train Field Registrars to assist with voter registration drives;
- Train employees of designated voter registration agencies who are responsible for registering voters (e.g. DMV, Welfare offices, Armed Forces Recruitment offices);
- Conduct candidate filing for political districts contained entirely within the county;
- Process petitions (initiative, referendum, and recall);
- Recruit and train Election Day polling place and early voting poll workers;
- Perform pre- and post-election testing of voting equipment and programs;
- Tabulate ballots cast and transmit election results to the Secretary of State;
- Conduct recounts; and
- Perform post-election auditing and certification.

Voter Registration

Nevada law requires that a person who registers to vote must be:

- 18 years of age or over;
- A citizen of the United States;
- Continuously resided in this State and in the county 30 days; and
- Continuously resided in the precinct 10 days next preceding the day of the next election.

A person who has been declared by a court to be mentally incompetent is not eligible to register to vote. Under Assembly Bill 431, which took effect on July 1, 2019, the restoration of voting rights for Nevada residents applies automatically upon the individual's release from prison. It does not matter if the individual was convicted of a felony in another state or in a federal court. The automatic restoration of voting rights applies in all cases upon the individual's release from prison. For more information, see [Restoration of Voting Rights](#) in Nevada on the Secretary of State's website at www.nvsos.gov.

Where to Register

A person may register to vote or obtain voter registration materials at the following offices:

- Online at RegisterToVoteNV.gov (requires a Nevada driver's license or State issued ID card)
- County Clerks/Registrar of Voters;
- At any Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles office;
- At State Social Services offices that have been designated as voter registration agency;
- At Armed Forces recruitment offices; and
- Other locations providing voter registration applications.

Additionally, any individual or organization may conduct "voter registration drives" or distribute voter registration applications to citizens and/or assist applicants with the completion or submission of applications. Information about organizing and conducting voter registration drives is available online at www.nvsos.gov.

Voter Registration Status

Nevada voters can verify the status of their voter registration online at www.nvsos.gov/votersearch or by contacting their county election office. A list of county election offices is available on the Secretary of State's website at www.nvsos.gov.

There are several types of voter registration statuses. The most common voter registration statuses in Nevada are Active, Inactive, and P-17.

Active voters are the number of voters that are reported and used for statistical purposes as defined by Nevada requirements.

Inactive voters are still registered to vote and can cast a ballot. An inactive voter has not responded to an election-related piece of mail that is returned by the post office as undeliverable to the voter at that address. A voter who is on inactive status may return to active status at any time by updating his or her address, requesting a ballot, or submitting a new voter registration application. This process is pursuant to state and federal law. Only if a registration remains on inactive status through two consecutive federal general elections, can

a registration be cancelled. This is in compliance with state law and the federal National Voter Registration Act.

P-17 voters are not 18 years of age at the time he or she submitted the application to register to vote, but are 17 years old will automatically become an active registered voter on his or her 18th birthday.

To check the status of your voter registration, please contact your county election office or go online to www.nvsos.gov/votersearch. This website also has information about your election day polling location as well as election information relevant to you.

When elections take place

Federal and State elections occur in even-numbered years. The Primary Election takes place the second Tuesday in June of each even-numbered year (NRS 293.???) while the General Election occurs on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (NRS 293.12755). Specific dates for 2020 are:

- Primary Election Early Voting: May 23, 2020 through June 5, 2020
- **Primary Election: Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

- General Election Early Voting: October 17, 2020 through October 30, 2020
- **General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

For more information about Early Voting dates, locations, and times, please contact your county election office. A list of Early Voting information is usually available on county websites, published in local newspapers of general circulation, and available on the Secretary of State's website at www.nvsos.gov.

All voters registered in the State of Nevada may vote in the Primary, General or Special Elections. In Federal and State elections, Federal, State, County and select City offices are up for election. Ballot questions may also be included in the General Election. Voters may vote only for offices and ballot questions that are applicable to their specific county and precinct. **Nevada does not permit write-in candidates on any election ballot (NRS.293.270).**

Primary and General Elections

A Primary Election is a preliminary (or nominating) election. The purpose is to select the candidates who will run for office in the General Election. Voters select these candidates, rather than delegates at a convention.

In some instances not all candidates and offices up for election may appear in the Primary Election ballot. Some of the reasons are:

- If Only One Candidate from a Major Party runs for a Partisan Office: The candidate will only appear on the general election ballot.

- If Only Two Candidates from Only One Major Party run for a Partisan Office (no independent, minor party or opposing major party candidates run): The candidates and office will only appear on the general election ballot.
- Minor Party and Independent Candidates running for Partisan Offices: Will only appear on the general election ballot.
- If Only Two Candidates run for a Nonpartisan Office: That office and those two candidates will only appear on the general election ballot.
- Special District Offices and Candidates (e.g. Moapa Valley Water District, Virgin Valley Water District, Moapa Valley TV Maintenance District and Overton Power District): Will only appear on the general election ballot.

Nevada has **CLOSED** Primary Elections. In a **CLOSED** election, voters chose candidates only from the party in which they are registered. That means that in a Nevada Primary election, only registered Democrats may vote for Democrats and only registered Republicans may vote for Republicans. In other words, you cannot vote for candidates from a party other than your own. All voters may vote for non-partisan candidates, however.

Nevada has **OPEN** General Elections. In an **OPEN** election any person may vote for any candidate listed on the General Election ballot, regardless of your party affiliation. Ballot questions may also appear in the General Election.

Not all candidates and offices up for election may appear in the General Election ballot. Here are some of the reasons:

- If Only One Candidate runs for a Nonpartisan Office (other than Justice of the Supreme Court): The candidate will only appear on the Primary Election ballot.
- If Only One Candidate runs for a Special District Office (e.g. Water Districts, TV Maintenance Districts, and Power Districts). The candidate will be declared elected, i.e., will not appear on the General Election ballot.

Ballot Language and Ballot Questions

Nevada’s ballots are organized according hierarchy of the type of contest (e.g. federal, state, county, city, and local contests). Candidates are listed in alphabetically and their political party is abbreviated immediately following the candidate’s name. Questions presented for State and Local issues are listed after candidate contests. (NRS 293.2673 and NRS 293.268)

None of These Candidates

"None of These Candidates" Option: You may vote for “None of These Candidates” in presidential and statewide contests (U.S. Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Controller, Attorney General, Justice of the Supreme Court) (NRS 293.269).

Constitutional Initiatives

A constitutional initiative is the process by which a citizen or group can petition to place a proposed amendment on the ballot at the next election by obtaining the signatures of a certain number of registered voters. If the amendment gets majority support, it becomes part of the constitution (The American Democracy, 9th Edition). In Nevada the process for amending the constitution is *spelled out* in Article 19, section 2(4) of the Nevada Constitution and NRS 295.015 and 295.009.

A proponent of an amendment to the constitution who intends to circulate it shall file a copy with the Secretary of State before beginning circulation and not earlier than September 1 of the year before the year in which the election is to be held. After circulation it shall be filed with the Secretary of State not later than 90 days before the general election.

To qualify for the ballot, petitioners must obtain the required number of signatures of registered voters that equals at least 10 percent of the voters who voted at the last preceding General Election.

Statutory Initiatives

A **Statutory Initiative** proposes a statute or an amendment to a statute and is provided for pursuant to Article 19, section 2(3) of the Nevada Constitution and NRS 295.015 and 295.009. The person who intends to circulate it shall file a copy with the Secretary of State before beginning circulation and not earlier than January 1 of the year preceding the year in which a regular session of the Legislature is held. After its circulation, it shall be filed with the Secretary of State not less than 30 days prior to any regular session of the Legislature.

Referendum

A **referendum** is the process by which voters decide an issue. In Nevada the referendum is used for letting the voters decide on the approval or disapproval of a statute or resolution enacted by the legislature. This is permitted pursuant to Article 19, section 1 of the Nevada Constitution.

The person intending to circulate the petition shall file a copy not earlier than August 1 of the year before the year in which the election will be held. Ten percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election is required in order for the petition to be placed on the ballot and must be filed with the Secretary of State not less than 120 days before the next general election.

Voting Systems and Election Technology

Nevada uses a voting system commonly referred to as a 'hybrid' of paper and electronic ballots. Most ballots are cast and tabulated using a Direct Recording Electronic system called a 'DRE.' Other votes are cast on paper ballots either as a Mail Ballot or Absentee Ballot. Mail ballots are certain areas permitted by state law where electors receive and return their ballot by mail instead of going to a polling place to cast their ballot. Mail ballots are most commonly used in rural or in election for municipal districts such as a water or education district. For more information about municipal elections, please contact your county election office. A list of county election offices and contact information is provided in 'Appendix F' and is available online at www.nvsos.gov. State law requires that voting systems used in Nevada are tested and certified to be in accordance with federal voting system standards. Voting systems are tested to industry standards higher than those practiced in similar industries such as standards applied to banking and ATM technology. In combination with exemplary industry standards, state and local election officials utilize numerous security measures and best practices to ensure all votes are accurately cast and tabulated. Examples of state and local voting system and ballot security measures include, but are not limited to several testing procedures, using tamper evident security devices,

implementing a chain-of-custody and securely storing ballots and equipment. For more information about voting systems, standards, and security practices, please contact your county election office or the office of the Secretary of State. Additionally, information about the voting system equipment used in each county is available online at <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/election-resources/voting-system>.

Nevada utilizes several technologies to provide and ensure a smooth election process. These technologies range in use from providing the public with information to creating access to the election process.

Election Night Reporting is an online portal that allows the Secretary of State's office to collect, organize and report the number of votes counted to the public in an easy to understand format. These votes are collected for hundreds of ballot contests and races from across the state. This portal also provides historical election results and can be accessed online at SilverStateElection.com.

Online Voter Registration allows all Nevada residents to register to vote or update certain voter registration information online. This technology reduces errors and hours of staff time required to manually input voter registration information into the Statewide Voter Registration List. Nevada residents that met the voter registration requirements can register to vote or update their voter registration information online at RegisterToVoteNV.gov.

My Voter File/Voter Search is a web application that permits registered electors to access election information such as the status of their voter registration, their polling location, information about their ballot, and contact information for county and state election offices. This service is available on the Secretary of State's website at www.NVSOS.gov/VoterSearch.

Military and Overseas Citizens are often away from their voting residence on election day and are permitted by federal laws to received election materials in alternative formats and earlier than regular voters to account for the additional mailing time required to provide and return election materials outside the United States. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) allows active military, their spouses and dependents absent from their voting residence as well as citizens residing overseas to receive their ballots 45-days before Election Day. Additionally, the Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act amended UOCAVA permitting election jurisdictions to transmit UOCAVA voters their election materials including ballots electronically. In addition to the changes permitted by federal law, other provisions have drastically improved participation in the election process by members of the military, their spouses and dependents, and citizens residing overseas. More information can be obtained on the Secretary of State's website at www.nvsos.gov or on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov.

Accessibility and Language Requirements are required by federal law. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that certain voting system have the ability to assist individuals with disabilities, primarily those with visual impairments and limited mobility, to have improved access to the election process and be able to cast their ballots privately and independently. Additionally the Voting Rights Act requires election materials to be provided in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language. The US Department of Justice has determined that only Clark County meets these requirements for Spanish and Tagalog languages. More information on these subjects can be obtained on the US Department of Justice website at www.justice.gov.

Campaign Finance

All candidates for statewide, county and local elected office in Nevada are required by law to file Campaign Contributions and Expenses Reports with the proper filing officer (statewide and multi-county candidates file with the Secretary of State; single county and local office candidates file with their respective County Clerk/Registrar of Voters).

Several types of reports are required. Contributions and Expenses Reports (C&E Reports), Annual Reports, Financial Disclosure Statements. All reports filed with the Secretary of State are scanned and made available on the agency's website within 24 hours of receipt while Legislative and judicial candidate reports filed with Clerks/Registrars are later transmitted to the Secretary of State and are also placed on the agency's website within 24 hours of receipt from the Clerk/Registrar.

Reports available on the Secretary of State's website are:

- Ballot Advocacy Groups;
- Candidates/Incumbents;
- Political Action Committees;
- Recall Committees;
- Independent Expenditures;
- Political Parties; and
- Committees Sponsored by Political Parties.

Important Election Dates in 2020

Following are some important dates for the 2020 Election Cycle:

December 30, 2019: Party Change Deadline - No person may be a candidate of a major political party for partisan office in 2020 if he or she changed political affiliation to Democrat or Republican after December 30, 2019.

January 2 – June 19, 2020: Independent Candidate Petition Filing - Period during which an independent candidate must submit his or her petition of candidacy to the appropriate filing officer for verification. Prior to circulating the petition, a copy must be submitted to the filing officer.

January 6 - 17, 2020: Judicial Candidate Filing - Period during which judicial candidates for State Supreme Court, District Court (including Family Division) and Justice of the Peace may file to run for office in 2020.

January 28, 2020, 5:00 p.m.: Last Day to Withdraw Judicial Candidacy

March 2 - 13, 2020: Candidate Filing (Non-Judicial) - Period during which candidates (other than judicial) may file to run for office in 2020.

March 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m.: Last Day to Withdraw Candidacy (Non-Judicial)

May 12, 2020: Voter Registration by Mail Deadline - The last day to register to vote online at RegisterToVoteNV.gov and be eligible to vote in the Primary Election. Submission must be completed prior to 11:59 pm.

May 19, 2018: Voter Registration by Personal Appearance Deadline - Last day a person may register to vote by appearing in person at the office of the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters.

May 21, 2020: Online Voter Registration Deadline - The last day to register to vote online at RegisterToVoteNV.gov and be eligible to vote in the Primary Election. Submission must be completed prior to 11:59 pm.

May 23 - June 5, 2020: Early Voting - You may vote before Election Day at various locations throughout the State. Hours and days vary by site.

June 2, 2020, 5:00 p.m.: Absentee Ballot Request Deadline - Last day for County Clerks/Registrars of Voters to RECEIVE WRITTEN absentee ballot requests.

JUNE 9, 2020, PRIMARY ELECTION (FEDERAL/STATE) - Vote 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

October 6, 2020: Voter Registration by Mail Deadline - The last day to register to vote online at RegisterToVoteNV.gov and be eligible to vote in the Primary Election. Submission must be completed prior to 11:59 pm.

October 6, 2020: Voter Registration by Personal Appearance Deadline - Last day a person may register to vote by appearing in person at the office of the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters.

October 29, 2020: Online Voter Registration Deadline - The last day to register to vote online at RegisterToVoteNV.gov and be eligible to vote a regular ballot in the General Election.

Submission must be completed prior to 11:59 pm.

October 16-29, 2020: You may register to vote or update your existing registration online on the Secretary of State's website at www.registertovotenv.gov, but may only vote a provisional ballot in person at any early voting site or Election Day Vote Center or polling place. New registrants must show current and valid Nevada DMV ID at the voting site.

October 17 – October 30, 2020: Early Voting – Registered voters may vote before Election Day at various locations throughout the State. Hours and days vary by site. You may register to vote or update your existing registration in person at any early voting site or Election Day vote center or

polling place, but for the current election may only vote a provisional ballot. New registrants must show current and valid Nevada DMV ID at the voting site.

For the November 2020 General Election, an Absentee Ballot will be mailed to all active registered voters under the provisions of Assembly Bill 4 (32nd Special Session).

Registered voters may request to permanently receive an absentee ballot by October 14, 2020

NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL ELECTION (FEDERAL / STATE) - Vote 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.