



NASS

National Association
of Secretaries of State

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Public Voter Registration Information and Security of State Voter Registration Databases

1. What data is kept in a voter registration list?

State voter registration lists include the information collected through voter registration applications. This information varies by state with state law determining what qualifies as public information. All states collect name, address, birthdate, and certain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as full or partial social security number, drivers' license number, and/or state ID number. Some states also collect political party affiliation, phone number, email address, voting history (if a person voted, not how they voted), and/or voting method (absentee, in-person, etc.).

2. How can voter registration data be obtained from the state?

In most states, voter registration data may be obtained from the state Chief Election Official or local election offices. Some states require a fee. The cost of purchasing the data varies across states, often depending on the amount and type of data requested (county, congressional district, etc.). In some states, voter registration data is always available to the public or for public inspection during specified times. Some states limit distribution of the data to specific entities such as political parties and campaigns.

To be clear, no state shares a voter's social security number, driver's license number, or state ID number.

Additionally, some states limit how the data may be used. Common limitations include for election or governmental purposes only or non-commercial uses. Please note, access or attempted access to information exempt from public disclosure is subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability.

For another resource, visit the National Conference of State Legislatures page [Access to and Use of Voter Registration Lists](#).

3. What are states doing to protect voter registration information?

Election officials continue to work diligently to protect state voter registration databases by implementing security and resilience measures, such as multi-factor authentication and data backup processes. Election officials cannot control the dissemination or protection of voter registration information that has been provided to third parties. However, as noted in #2 above, no state includes a voter's social security number, driver's license number, or state ID number in publicly available lists or lists distributed to third parties.

4. Can bad actors change election results by breaching voter registration systems?

No. Voter registration systems are segmented from vote casting and vote tabulation systems. While voter registration systems are important to election processes, a breach of a voter registration system would not result in access to vote tallies or official election results. Additionally, election officials implement safeguards to protect voter registration systems from attempted breaches and to build resilience in election processes. Voter registration lists are backed up, often daily, and are closely monitored by election officials in



the run-up to an election to detect anomalies.

Technical problems with voter registration systems could result in longer lines at polling places or cause some voters to cast a provisional ballot, but voter registration systems are resilient. There are also methods for verifying your registration status post-election so provisional ballots can be properly processed and counted.

5. What should voters do if they are concerned about their voter registration information?

First, be sure to [check](#) your voter registration information before your state's voter registration deadlines to ensure your information is accurate. Your trusted sources for any election-related information are your state and local election officials. Contact them directly with any questions you have about your voter registration information.

To learn more about your state's specific tools, deadlines, and requirements for registering and ultimately voting or to verify your voter registration status, visit canivote.org—a helpful nonpartisan website created by state election officials to provide eligible Americans with accurate election information.

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