



# 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 personal information. All states collect name, address, 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. Who can access voter registration data?

A portion of voter registration information, such as name and address, is designated as public information under state laws.

Subject to state laws and policies, the majority of states make some voter data available to political parties, campaigns and other third parties, like researchers, for non-commercial use. States use varying methods to balance transparency requirements with privacy protections for PII such as social security numbers, drivers' license numbers, and state ID numbers. Examples of these methods include restricting access to PII and imposing conditions for data use. 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. How can voter registration data be obtained from the state?

In most states, voter registration data is made available for purchase from the state Chief Election Official or local election offices. The cost of purchasing the data varies across states, often depending on the amount and type of data requested (county, congressional district, etc.).

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

### 4. 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 the answer to Question #3, no state includes a voter's social security number, driver's license number, or state ID number in lists sold or provided to third parties.



**5. 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 affect official election results. Additionally, election officials are working daily 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.

**6. What are states doing to protect the November 8, 2022 election from cyber threats?**

Along with other efforts, states implement cybersecurity assessments, penetration testing, intrusion detection, and recommended cybersecurity practices such as multi-factor authentication. States have also increased cybersecurity training, built robust cybersecurity teams within their offices, and utilized information-sharing protocols designed to improve communication between election officials and their local, state, federal, and private-sector partners.

**7. 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.

Additionally, 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](https://canivote.org)—a helpful nonpartisan website created by state election officials to provide eligible Americans with accurate election information.

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