

ARIZONA'S DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

What You Need to Know to Register Voters in Arizona

In June 2018, Campaign Legal Center reached a settlement agreement with the Secretary of State of Arizona and the Maricopa County Recorder over a lawsuit challenging the state's overly burdensome voter registration process. Going forward, Arizona must treat all registrants the same regardless of whether they use a state or federal form to register to vote. Here's what you need to know to register voters in Arizona going forward.

Do voters need to provide documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) to register?

Voters do NOT need DPOC to register to vote in *federal* elections but DO need DPOC to vote in *state and local* elections. If a voter has DPOC, s/he should provide a copy of it. But if s/he does not have DPOC, s/he should still register to vote and s/he will be able to vote in *federal elections only* (e.g. President, Senator, Congressperson) until s/he provides a form of DPOC.

Does it matter what registration form I use for running my voter registration drives?

No. **Voters are treated equally regardless of what form you use.** Previously, county recorders treated state and federal registration forms differently. That is no longer the case.

The Secretary of State will accept all forms without DPOC for federal elections and will check all forms against the Motor Vehicles Division database for proof of citizenship. Feel free to use the state or federal form for your registration drive.

What counts as DPOC?

The following will suffice:

- Driver's license number (s/he can write this on the registration form)
- Photocopy of birth certificate
- Photocopy of U.S. passport

- Naturalization documents or naturalization certificate number
- Tribal card number (s/he can write this number on the registration form)

What if a voter has moved from another county and is updating their voter registration?

S/he needs to re-submit DPOC with the updated registration. By 2020, the system will be automated so this will not be necessary but for now, re-submit DPOC.

What if a voter doesn't have any DPOC?

S/he can still register to vote! S/he will be registered for *federal elections only* (e.g. President, Senator, Congressperson) until s/he provides a form of DPOC. If the Arizona Motor Vehicles Division has proof of his or her citizenship in their database, s/he will be registered for *all* elections (federal, state, and local).

What if voters don't have DPOC on them when you encounter them at a voter registration drive?

That's OK! S/he can still register to vote with your drive to make sure s/he is registered before the deadline, which is 29 days before any election. If s/he submits a registration form to you without DPOC, s/he will receive a notice in the mail from the County Recorder asking for DPOC and a form for submitting it. S/he can provide DPOC to the County Recorder *after* the registration deadline and still qualify to vote for all elections. **S/he has until 5 p.m. Thursday before Election Day** to submit DPOC.

Remember, regardless of DPOC, s/he can still vote in federal elections!

How does a voter submit DPOC after they already submitted a voter registration form?

S/he should receive a notice from the County Recorder that includes a form to accompany the DPOC. S/he can submit DPOC by mail with that form.

Encourage voters to include the submission form provided by the County Recorder with their DPOC to make the process easier.

S/he can also go in person to the County Recorder to submit DPOC.

What if a voter submits DPOC but misses the deadline for submitting DPOC before an election?

S/he will only be able to vote in federal elections for this election.
S/he will be able to vote in federal, state, and local elections in future elections.

What if a voter submits DPOC but already received a federal only ballot in the mail?

S/he has the right to vote using a provisional ballot and vote in *all* elections on the ballot or s/he can vote the federal only ballot.

What if a voter has moved from another county and is updating their voter registration?

S/he needs to re-submit DPOC with the updated registration. By 2020, the system will be automated so this will not be necessary but for now, re-submit DPOC.

What if a naturalized citizen has an Arizona driver's license but got it before s/he became a citizen?

If a registrant recently became a citizen and s/he received his or her driver's license *before* s/he naturalized, the driver's license data will indicate that s/he is not a citizen. Therefore, s/he needs to submit a copy of his or her naturalization documents either with his or her registration or afterwards in order to ensure s/he will be registered to vote in any election.

What if a voter's registration was already rejected because s/he didn't provide DPOC?

S/he should re-register to vote. Under a new settlement agreement, s/he is now entitled to be registered for at least federal elections if s/he submits a registration form without DPOC.

Will the Arizona Elections Procedures manual be updated with these changes?

Yes! The Secretary of State is working on updating the Election Procedures Manual to show these changes right now.

Will the state form be updated to make clear that DPOC is not required for federal elections?

Yes! The Secretary of State is updating the registration form but that form may not be available until October 2018. You should assure voters that the new procedures are in effect even though the form has not yet changed.

Will the Secretary of State's website be updated to explain these new procedures?

Yes, the Secretary of State must update her website by July 18, 2018 and encourage the County Recorders to do the same.

What about all those voters that submitted state registration forms without DPOC and were previously rejected?

You should encourage those voters to resubmit their applications.

The Maricopa County Recorder will be going back retroactively one year and notifying those previously rejected voters that they are now registered for at least federal elections. If their data matches with MVD, they will be registered for all elections.

The Secretary of State is informing other County Recorders that they can also go back one year and register those previously rejected voters as well. You should encourage your County Recorder to do so.

What if my county recorder has not been following these new rules?

The Secretary of State should be informing all County Recorders of these new rules. If they are not, (such as rejecting outright forms without DPOC, not notifying voters by mail of their status, etc.) contact Danielle at Campaign Legal Center.

Contact

For more information, questions or concerns in registering voters, contact CLC Senior Legal Counsel Danielle Lang at dlang@campaignlegal.org.