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Voter Registration U.S. Citizenship Requirements and Voter Identification at the Polling Place

On March 26, 2026, Governor Larry Rhoden signed Senate Bill 175 into law. The Act contained an emergency clause and was therefore effective immediately.

South Dakota law recognizes a bifurcated voter registration system under SDCL 12-4-1.3.

- Complete Registration: Allows participation in all federal, state, and local elections.
- Federal-Only Registration: Limits participation to federal offices (President, Vice President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives).
 - An individual may be designated a federal-only voter due to failure to meet residency requirements, or due to failure to provide documentary proof of citizenship at the time of registration.

Senate Bill 175 is not retroactive and does not affect currently registered voters.

The following individuals are not subject to the new proof of citizenship requirement:

- Currently registered voters
- Inactive voters who remain on the voter rolls

The requirements apply to:

- Individuals registering to vote for the first time in South Dakota
- Individuals registering to vote after having previously been removed from the voter registration list in South Dakota

Acceptable Documentary Proof of Citizenship for Voter Registration Only:

Under Senate Bill 175 Section 3, or at SDCL 12-4-1.4, acceptable proof of citizenship for voter registration includes:

1. A South Dakota driver license or nondriver identification card issued after July 1, 2025;
2. A driver license or nondriver ID card from another state indicating citizenship has been verified;
3. A tribal identification card; or
4. A photocopy of one of the following:
 - Birth certificate;

- U.S. passport;
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad issued by the U.S. Department of State;
- The individual's certificate of naturalization; or
- Any other documentation permitted under 42 C.F.R. 436.407.

What you need to know before you go to your polling place on Election Day:

- South Dakota requires a deadline of 15 days prior to any election to register to vote in that election. You must be registered 15 days prior to Election Day.
- You do not need to provide proof of citizenship every time you vote, only when you initially register to vote. Therefore, if you are already registered to vote, you will not need to provide proof of citizenship at the polling place.
- If you are unable to provide documentary proof of citizenship when you register to vote, you may still be registered as a federal-only voter and be eligible to receive a federal-only ballot.
- You must still present a valid form of identification to vote or complete a Personal Identification Affidavit. This has not changed with Senate Bill 175 and was already required by SDCL 12-18-6.1 and 12-18-6.2.
 1. A South Dakota driver's license or nondriver identification card;
 2. A passport or an identification card, including a picture, issued by an agency of the United States government;
 3. A tribal identification card, including a picture; or
 4. A current student identification card, including a picture, issued by a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, including a university, college, or technical school, located within the State of South Dakota.
- If you have questions regarding your voter registration, please contact the Auditor's Office or visit the Voter Information Portal at: <https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLLogin.aspx>.