

Voter Status FAQ

Active Status

What does it mean if my registration is active?

You are registered and your county will continue to mail you ballots as long as your status remains active.

Are inactive and canceled essentially the same thing?

No. If you are an inactive voter you are still registered. You can update your registration any time before 8 p.m. on Election Day and receive a ballot. If you are a canceled voter you are no longer registered and must re-register no later than the 21st day prior to an election in order to receive a ballot for that election. For example, if your status is canceled and you register after October 18, 2016 you will not be eligible to vote in the election on November 8, 2016.

Inactive Status

What does it mean if my registration is inactive?

You are registered, but your county received evidence that information on your registration may have changed. You will not receive a ballot unless you provide your county with updated registration information to change your registration status to active.

How can my status change to inactive?

An active voter can become inactive due to:

- An undeliverable ballot or other election mail
- A challenged ballot
- No voting or registration activity in 5 years
- Incarcerated due to a felony conviction

How does a voter become inactive due to an undeliverable ballot or other election mail?

The most common example of this would be a ballot being returned as undeliverable. For security, ballots cannot be forwarded. This helps ensure that ballots only get mailed to the correct address for the voter. If a ballot is returned undeliverable the county inactivates the voter.

The same process applies to other official election mail. For example, after a registration or update your county mails you a Voter Notification Card (VNC). If this is returned undeliverable your county changes your status to inactive.

Does my county take steps to let me know I've been inactivated due to undeliverable election mail?

Absolutely. After changing your status to inactive your county sends you a Voter Confirmation Card (VCC). This *can* be forwarded, increasing the chance that it will reach you. The Voter Confirmation Card asks you to update your address so your county can continue to send you ballots, or to let your county know that you've moved out of state.

How can I get inactivated for no activity in 5 years?

If you do not vote or update your registration for a period of five years, your county may change your status to inactive. Your county will send you a Voter Confirmation Card (VCC) explaining this. This card provides you the option of sending it back to return your status to active.

How does a voter get inactivated for being incarcerated?

In Oregon, an individual who has been sentenced for a felony loses the right to vote. A county inactivates that registration to prevent the delivery of ballots to someone ineligible to vote. Under Oregon law the right to vote is restored automatically upon release from incarceration.

My status is inactive. What actions can I take to become active again?

You can return your status to active by:

- Completing and returning a voter registration card to your county clerk
- Completing and submitting an online voter registration form at OregonVotes.gov

My status is inactive. What actions might my county take to make me active again?

Your county may automatically update registrations with change of address information received from:

- National Change of Address (NCOA) service
- The Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicles Division (DMV)
- The voter

If your status is inactive and your county uses this information to update your registration, this returns your status to active.

How can my county change my status to active through National Change of Address (NCOA)?

State law requires the Oregon Elections Division to subscribe to the U.S. Post Office National Change of Address list. This is the list of people who have filed a change of address with the Post Office. The Oregon Elections Division matches this list to voter registration data and provides the county elections offices with data on voters who have moved. The counties can use this information to automatically update your address and reactivate you.

Counties also use the information on the yellow forwarding labels used by the Post Office to update your registration address.

How can my county change my status to active through change of address at the DMV?

The DMV sends the Oregon Elections Division a list of address changes on driver's licenses, permits and identifications. This list is matched against the list of registered voters. If you're already registered, the Elections Division sends this information to your county so they can promptly update your address.

Canceled status

What does it mean if my registration is canceled?

You are no longer registered to vote and you will not receive a ballot.

How can a registered voter (active or inactive) become canceled?

A registered voter will become canceled for the following reasons:

- Deceased
- Registered to vote in another state
- Voter requests to be removed from the voter rolls
- County Clerk determines the registration is not valid

How does a deceased voter become canceled?

The Oregon Elections Division receives information from Vital Records and shares this information with the counties so they can promptly cancel deceased voters. Counties can also receive notifications from other reliable sources to remove a voter from the rolls.

How does registering to vote in another state cancel a voter's registration?

States have several means of sharing registration data. If evidence is received that someone has a more current registration in another state, the county will cancel that voter's registration in Oregon.

How does a voter-requested cancellation work?

A voter can cancel their registration at any time by contacting their county elections office. Contact information for your county can be found at www.oregonvotes.gov/counties.

My status is inactive. Can I become canceled due to not voting?

Yes. If your status is inactive and you do not vote in two federal elections your county may cancel your registration.

This cancellation after two federal elections occurs *after* you have been inactivated. The trigger date to start the two general elections toward cancellation is the date you are inactivated.

Example: If you are inactivated for no activity in five years and then two more general elections go by without activity, your county may cancel your registration.

Second example: If you are inactivated for an undeliverable ballot and then two general elections go by without activity, your county may cancel your registration.

Challenged ballot

What is a challenged ballot?

Virtually all challenged ballots in Oregon are due to signature problems. County elections officials trained in signature verification match the signature on *every* ballot to the signature on file for the voter. If the signature does not match, the county sends you a letter giving you the opportunity to resolve the issue and have your ballot count. The deadline to resolve the issue with your county elections official is 14 days after the election.

How does a challenged ballot inactivate a voter?

If you do not resolve a challenged ballot your registration will be inactivated. You can reactivate by resolving the issue that caused the challenged ballot. For example, if your signature has changed over time you would provide your county with an updated signature. This helps ensure the integrity of our elections by allowing us to verify every signature on every ballot.

What if there's not enough time to send me a ballot?

You can go to your county elections office to update your registration information and request a ballot. If your status is inactive, you must be in line before 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to receive a ballot for that election. If your status is cancelled you must register to vote at least 21 days before the election.