

# Voter Registration

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## Key Facts and Findings

- Voter information receives different scrutiny prior to voting
- Voter records may be inaccurate on election day
- Registration and voting by ineligible persons occurs
- Various organizations provide registration services, but barriers remain

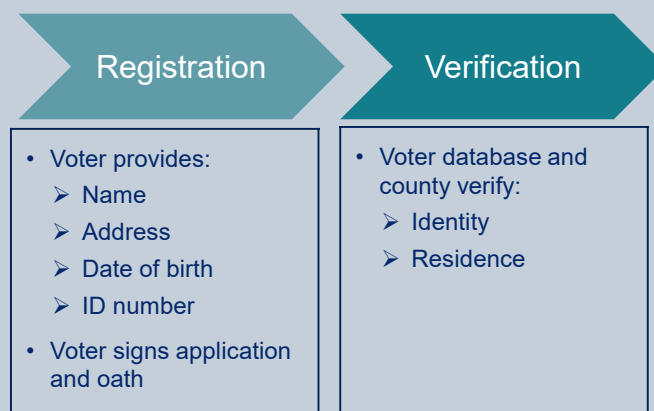
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State of Minnesota  
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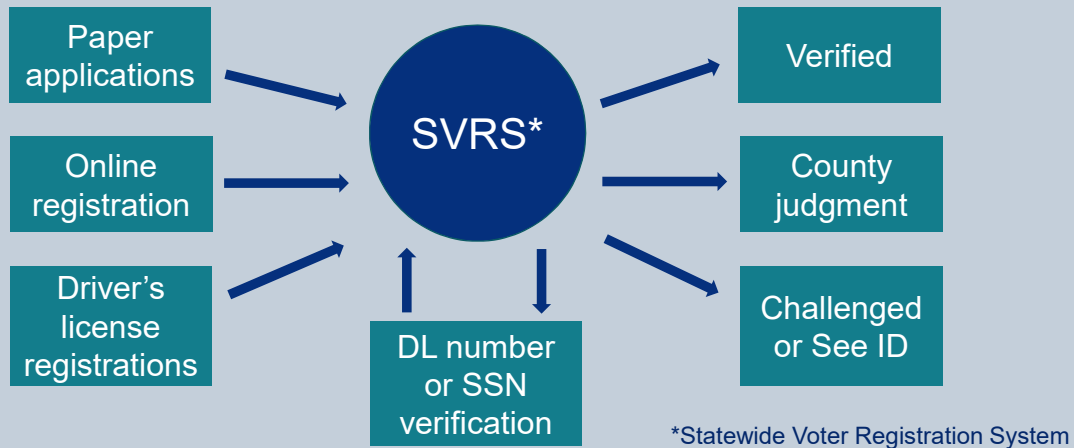
## Statutory requirements for voter eligibility

Eligible	Ineligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 18</li> <li>• U.S. citizen</li> <li>• MN resident for 20 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serving a felony sentence</li> <li>• Under guardianship with right to vote removed by a court</li> <li>• Declared by a court to be legally incompetent</li> </ul>

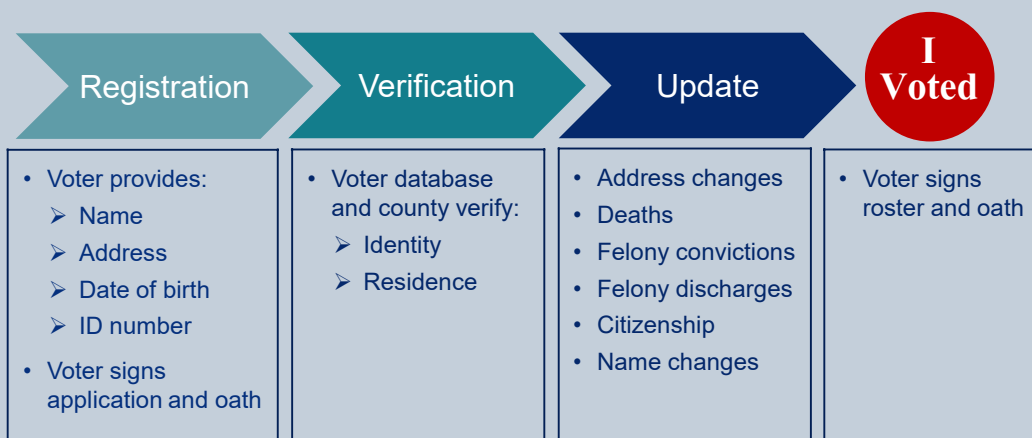
## Registration involves several steps



## SVRS verifies voters' data against other data



## Registration involves several steps



## Steps to voter registration differ

### Registration **before** election day



### Registration **on** election day



## Information on the roster affects access to voting

Must register on election day if:

- Voter information on roster is incorrect
- Not on roster

Must complete an oath for challenged voters if:

- Challenged on the roster, for most challenges

## Most 2016 election-day registrants updated their registration or registered for first time

Registration Type	Approximate Election Day Registrants
Updated	153,000
First-time	115,000
Reactivated	89,000

## Postal returns were behind most “challenged” voter records in 2017

Challenge Type	Approximate Challenges
Postal return	17,900
Felony	7,800
Other	4,900

## A voter's listing in the roster may be inaccurate on election day

### County Practices

- Incorrect updates
- Timeliness

### Data Quality

- Timeliness
- Completeness
- Inaccuracies

## Apparent inaccuracies in felony challenges occurred in both directions

In some cases, it appeared that challenges:

- Should not have been on the voter's record
- Should have been on the voter's record

***Recommendation:*** The Secretary of State should develop a report to identify inactive, challenged voters who register on election day.

## Nearly two years of reports show ineligible persons register and vote

- Reports suggest 69 cases of persons registering or voting while ineligible
- Most investigations did not find registration or voting by an ineligible person

## Agencies reported providing voter registration services in 2016

Law requires agencies to provide voter registration services to employees and the public

- 14 of 23 cabinet-level state agencies did
- 9 provide services to employees only

***Recommendation:*** *The Legislature should clarify expectation of state agencies to provide voter registration services to the public.*

## **Community Action agencies identified registration barriers**

- Understanding registration requirements
- Feeling disconnected/disinterested
- Lack of transportation
- Language
- Literacy
- No proof of ID or residence

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