know the rules
To be eligible to register, you must be:
• A citizen of the United States
• A legal resident of Washington State
• At least 18 years old by Election Day
• Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections
• Not disqualified from voting due to a court order

You must return completed forms to your county elections department no later than five days after you receive them, or before the voter registration deadline (whichever is first). You may return them by mail or in person.

stay in touch!
www.sos.wa.gov/elections/collegecivics

JulieAnne Behar
College Civics Program Coordinator
julieanne.behar@sos.wa.gov
(360) 725-5795

guide to hosting
voter registration drives
College Civics Program
Office of the Secretary of State
College voters have a powerful voice. Hosting a voter registration drive on campus is the first step to gaining greater student representation and visibility in local, state and national politics.

ready?
It doesn’t take much to host a voter registration drive, just remember these two essentials before you begin:
• Washington State voter registration forms
• Internet connection - it’s easy to register online with MyVote!

get set...
• Freebies, such as buttons or stickers, and registration forms must be given to anyone who asks, regardless of their eligibility or intention to register or vote. You may never pay or bribe people to register.
• Partisan materials cannot be handed out in state or public schools as part of a voter registration drive. Partisan groups may be part of the drive, as long as there is equal opportunity for participation.
• As students submit their voter registration forms, check to make sure they filled in all of the required information and signed at the bottom. Incomplete forms could lead to students not receiving their ballots.
• Know the rules. Registering someone who is not eligible, such as an international student who is not a U.S. citizen or a Running Start student who is too young, could violate voter registration laws.

questions?
It’s likely you’ll hear these questions during your drive. Make sure you’re ready to answer!

I don’t know if I’m registered to vote. How can I check?
Look up your voter registration status online with MyVote. If you’re listed as “inactive,” update your address. If you can’t find your voter records, register!

When is the registration deadline?
Applications and updates must be postmarked or submitted no later than 29 days before Election Day.
If you are not already a Washington voter, you may register in person at your county elections department until eight days before an election. Applications and updates submitted after the deadline will take effect after the next election.

Do I need to update my address every time I move?
Yes. You need to update your mailing address when you move to ensure you receive your ballot.

Can I register using my school address? Yes. You may register using either your home or school address.
If you live on campus, you may list your dorm room or campus apartment as your residential address. PO boxes may not be used as residential, but can be used as mailing addresses.

What’s the difference between my residential and mailing addresses?
Your mailing address is where your ballot will be sent.
Your residential address must be a Washington address. This address determines which candidates and measures will be on your ballot.

Can I register in Washington if I’m an out-of-state student? Yes. You may register to vote if you have lived in Washington at least 30 days. You must use your Washington address as your residential address.
Remember, you may vote in only one state. It’s a felony to vote more than once in the same election.

order free vote buttons for your campus
Visit our College Civics Program website to request a set of vote buttons to use at your next voter registration drive. And the best part? They’re free!

You can also order voter registration forms and print your own vote posters.

www.sos.wa.gov/elections/collegecivics