

Legal Requirements

— Important —

All persons and/or organizations who are issued Voter Registration Cards must comply with the following requirements. Noncompliance may result in referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Receipt – A person who assumes responsibility for returning another person's completed Voter Registration Card to the elections official must complete the green affidavit portion of the Voter Registration Card by signing, dating, and listing his or her name, address, and telephone number on both the card itself and on the receipt portion of the card. (California Elections Code §2158)

Return of Cards – Persons distributing Voter Registration Cards must return all completed cards in their possession within three working days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays, and no later than 15 days prior to an election in order for the voter to participate in that election. Retaining completed cards for more than three days, or denying the voter's right to return his or her completed card, is a misdemeanor. All blank cards must be returned to the elections official immediately after the 15th day preceding a statewide primary or general election, and whenever instructed to do so by the elections official. (California Elections Code §2138, §2139 and §18103)

Unsolicited Mailing – Any mailing of a Voter Registration Card to a person who did not request one must be accompanied by a letter or other notice with each card, instructing the recipient to disregard the card if he or she is currently registered to vote and does not wish to change his or her name, address, political party preference, or other registration information. This notice may be stamped on the card. (California Elections Code §2158)

Note: Organizations must promptly send all cards they receive from prospective registrants to the elections official, whether the cards are completed in whole or in part. This includes cards containing irregularities or minimal information. The elections officials, not the organization distributing or receiving cards, will determine the validity of the registration.