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Speaking up

Why?

Voting is your opportunity to have a voice in the operation of the government at every level, from the school down the street to the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The vote you cast — or don't cast — ultimately is translated into actions that affect every area of your life, from the subjects your children study in school to the quality of the food you eat and the air you breathe. Your vote is your voice, but before you can be heard, you must register.

What?

Registering to vote only takes about five minutes, and you won't need to take any special information with you. When you appear before the voter registrar, you will be asked to give your name, address, age, height, weight and other facts. You are required to declare a political affiliation when you register. You may register as a member of any political party recognized in Oklahoma or as an Independent. If you register as an Independent, you will not be eligible to vote in political party nominating primaries.

W/ho?

If you are 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the United States and a resident of Oklahoma, you are eligible to register to vote.

(Persons who have been convicted of a felony may not register to vote until a period of time equal to their original judgement and sentence has expired. Persons who have been adjudged mentally incompetent in a court of law may not register. Mentally retarded persons may not register.)



When?

(Registration occasionally may be open on Sundays and holidays but is not required to be.) Registration closes for a period of time beginning ten days before and ending three days after every election. If you become 18 years old on or before the day of an election, but after registration has closed, you are entitled to register during the last 30 days before registration closes for that election.

Registration is open Monday through Saturday.

How?

In Oklahoma, registration with the county election board in the county of your residence is required for you to be eligible to vote. Once you have registered with the county election board, you are entitled to vote in school elections, municipal elections, county elections, state elections and federal elections. Military personnel and citizens living overseas may vote, even if they are not registered.

W/here?

and address of a voter registrar near you. The county election board's telephone number is in the phone book. If you have difficulty contacting the county election board, call or write the State Election Board. The telephone number is (405) 521-2391, and the address is P.O. Box 53156, State Capitol, Room 3, Oklahoma City 73152.

The county election board will give you the name

Voter Information From The State Election Board

text by Suzanne Cox