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Guarding your eligibility

Is my registration permanent?

Your registration is permanent if your residence is unchanged and if you vote in a statewide primary, runoff primary or general election at least once every eight years.

What happens when I change my residence?

When you change your residence, you must appear before a voter registrar to change your voter registration. If you have been registered before, be sure to tell the voter registrar.

What if I decide to change my political affiliation?

You may change your political affiliation any time registration is open except during the period between July 1 and September 30 in even-numbered years. You must appear before a voter registrar in the county of your residence to change your political affiliation. The registrar will take your old voter identification card and issue a new one to you that shows your new political affiliation.

What do I do if the election officials make a mistake?

Be sure to keep the voter identification card you received when you registered to vote. If an administrative error is made and the election officials at the polling place have no record



of your registration, you still can vote by presenting your voter identification card and signing an affidavit. After the election, your signature on the affidavit will alert county election board personnel to find the error and to correct it before the next election.

How do I learn to mark my ballot?

It is important that you know how to mark your ballot properly before you vote. There always will be instructional materials posted at the polling place, including some materials inside the voting booth. If you have any questions, ask the election officials. They will be glad to explain anything you don't understand. If you do make a mistake when you mark your ballots, return all the ballots to the election officials. They will destroy them and issue a new set to you.

Whom do I ask for help?

The election officials – at the State Election Board office, the county election board office and at the precinct polling place – are there to serve you. If you have questions, whether about the correct way to mark your ballot or your rights as a voter, ask the election officials. They will help you in any way the law permits. You should understand, however, that they cannot tell you how to vote on any issue or office. Voting is an opportunity to express **your** opinion. Guard your eligibility by exercising your right to vote in every election in which you are eligible – school, municipal, county, state and federal.

Voter Information From The State Election Board

text by Suzanne Cox