

STATE OF COLORADO
Department of State

1700 Broadway
Suite 250
Denver, CO 80290



Bernie Buescher
Secretary of State

Judd Choate
Director, Elections Division

Foreclosure and Voter Registration
September 28, 2010

The Colorado Secretary of State's office recognizes that foreclosure is a serious and prevalent issue affecting many Colorado residents. Individuals and families in foreclosure face considerable challenges and stresses. Concerning elections, foreclosure may cause additional worry and confusion regarding whether losing ownership of one's home may affect or hinder an elector's ability to exercise his or her right to vote. Our office acknowledges this uncertainty and realizes that misunderstanding has the potential to wrongfully disenfranchise electors. As one of the states reported to be most heavily affected by foreclosure, we feel it is crucial to provide clarification about how foreclosure may affect voter registration and voting in order to promote and preserve elector participation.

If you are faced with foreclosure, please be reassured that receipt of a foreclosure notice does not affect residence for the purposes of voter registration and voting. You may register or remain registered to vote at your current address. Additionally, if you stay in your home through Election Day, you may register or remain registered to vote at the address of the foreclosed property.

The situation that appears to cause the most confusion is where an elector no longer lives in the foreclosed property. Simply moving to a temporary home does not affect your voting residence. You may still register or remain registered to vote at the address of the foreclosed property until the end of the right of redemption or appeal process unless you establish a new permanent residence.

However, if you leave your home and adopt a new permanent residence prior to the voter registration deadline, you will need to update your voter registration and vote in the precinct for your new residence. Colorado electors may now update their voter registration records, including address information, online at www.GoVoteColorado.com. If you do not update your residence information before the registration deadline, you may complete an emergency change of address in person at your county clerk and recorder's office to update your information and vote in your new precinct.

While a voter may be challenged for failure to meet the elector requirements, including residency, please know that appearance on a foreclosure list alone is not an appropriate basis to challenge a registered elector's eligibility to vote. As stated above, even if the elector has moved but maintains the foreclosed home as his or her permanent residence until the end of the right of redemption or appeal process, such elector remains eligible to vote at the address of the foreclosed property.

For more information, please visit www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/FAQs/FAQsMain.html to access frequently asked questions regarding foreclosures and voting or contact our office at 303-894-2200 or via email at sos.elections@sos.state.co.us.

Main Number (303) 894-2200
Administration (303) 860-6900
Fax (303) 869-4860

TDD (303) 869-4867
Web Site www.sos.state.co.us
E-mail administration@sos.state.co.us