Online Lookup Tools for Voters

Looking for an online lookup tool? This important online tool can help voters find the information they need to make an informed decision at the ballot box. Here are some examples of states that offer online lookup tools.

NOTES:
- Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, and New Hampshire do not issue absentee ballots.
- North Dakota does not require voter registration.
- Wyoming issues a small number of provisional ballots and does not have voter registration.

A Look at the States

Online lookup tools are widely available, with 44 states offering some form of online tool in 2012. However, some states do not offer the full suite of tools that would be most useful to voters. The states that offer a full suite of tools are:

- District of Columbia: Official election websites for the 2012 November election.
- Colorado: Sample ballot.
- Florida: Voter registration status lookup tool.
- Georgia: Sample ballot.
- Illinois: Absentee ballot status lookup tool.
- Iowa: Sample ballot.
- Louisiana: Voter registration status lookup tool.
- Michigan: Sample ballot.
- Nevada: Sample ballot.
- New Hampshire: Sample ballot.
- New Jersey: Sample ballot.
- New York: Sample ballot.
- Ohio: Absentee ballot status lookup tool.
- Oregon: Absentee ballot status lookup tool.
- Pennsylvania: Sample ballot.
- Texas: Sample ballot.
- Washington: Sample ballot.
- Wisconsin: Sample ballot.

Five important online election tools to help voters find the information they need the most are summarized, and their availability in all 50 states and the District of Columbia is shown below.

- Absentee ballot status lookup tool
- Registration status lookup tool
- Polling place lookup tool
- Sample ballot
- Voter registration status lookup tool

The District of Columbia’s official election websites for the 2012 November election need the most are summarized, and their availability in all 50 states and the District of Columbia is shown below.

- District of Columbia: Official election websites for the 2012 November election.
- Colorado: Sample ballot.
- Florida: Voter registration status lookup tool.
- Georgia: Sample ballot.
- Illinois: Absentee ballot status lookup tool.
- Iowa: Sample ballot.
- Louisiana: Voter registration status lookup tool.
- Michigan: Sample ballot.
- Nevada: Sample ballot.
- New Hampshire: Sample ballot.
- New Jersey: Sample ballot.
- New York: Sample ballot.
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- Wisconsin: Sample ballot.

By the Numbers

- 32 states offer the full suite of tools that would be most useful to voters.
- 19 states offer at least three of the five tools.
- 20 states offer only two of the five tools.
- 25 states offer only one of the five tools.
- 6 states offer none of the five tools.


ACROSS AMERICA

CASE STUDY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District of Columbia is the only state that has a full suite of tools available online. The website offers an absentee ballot status lookup tool, registration status lookup tool, polling place lookup tool, sample ballot, and voter registration status lookup tool.

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