

[Registration is now open](#)

[Registration open](#)

OFFICIAL GAZETTE. YEAR LXX. NO. 22580. MAY 9, 1934. PAGE 1.

TABLE OF CONTENTS [\[Show\]](#)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES [\[Show\]](#)

DECREE 944 OF 1934

(May 05)

Regulating Law 31 of 1929 with regard to citizenship cards

STATUS: In force [\[Show\]](#)

The information published in SUIN-Juriscol is for informational purposes only, with the aim of disseminating the Colombian legal system, whose source is the Official Gazette and relevant case law. It is updated periodically. The monitoring and verification of regulatory and jurisprudential developments does not imply a certification function or interpretation of the validity of the regulations by the Ministry.

Subtype: REGULATORY DECREE

The President of the Republic of Colombia,

in exercise of his constitutional powers, and

CONSIDERING

That Law 31 of 1929, in its Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17, established the citizenship card not only to serve as a voter registration card, but also as a necessary requirement for exercising the right to vote;

That the same Law 31 of 1929, in its Article 11, determined that the meeting of the Electoral Juries, responsible for issuing the citizenship card, must take place during the year prior to that in which it becomes valid.

That the period of suspension of the legal texts that authorized the existence of the citizenship card, indicated in Article 1 of Law 60 of 1930, has expired;

That the provisions of Article 9 of Law 7 of 1932 in no way prevent the Government from regulating the citizenship card; and

That it is necessary to amend Executive Decrees Nos. 968, 1016, and 1254 of 1932.

DECREES

Article 1. The citizenship card referred to in Law 31 of 1929 shall be seventeen centimeters square, made of thin paper, and shall be provided with all the security features necessary to prevent forgery. It shall contain the coat of arms of the Republic; the name of the department and municipality to which the Electoral Board issuing it belongs; the date of issue; the name of the person to whom it is issued; their address; their parentage; their age, color, height, hair type and color, forehead, mouth, lips, eyes, nose, any distinctive marks on their head, face, ears, and hands, visible physical defects, and elections in which they may participate. In addition, it shall bear on the back the thumbprint of the right hand of the person in whose favor it is issued.

Article 2. The card shall be signed by the President, Vice President, Secretary of the Electoral Jury, and the citizen in whose favor it is issued, if he or she is eligible to vote in elections for which reading and writing skills are required. The card shall also bear the photograph of the person to whom it is issued, stamped with the seal of the respective Electoral Jury.

Article 3. Four copies of the cards shall be issued in two series, which shall be distinguished by the letters A and B. One copy of series A shall be given to the interested party, and the corresponding stub from the same series shall remain in the files of the Electoral Jury. One copy of series B shall be sent monthly to the National Identification Department of the National Police, and the last copy of series B, which shall remain in the stub book, shall be sent to the Governor of the respective Department, Mayor, or Police Chief. The National Identification Department shall exercise general control and classify the identity cards scientifically, observing all precautions to guarantee their authenticity and prevent fraud.

TEXT CORRESPONDING TO [\[Show\]](#)

Article 4. At the time of issuance of the ID card, a record shall be created containing the biographical and morphological data of each individual to whom an ID card is issued, in accordance with the model provided by the National Identification Department. The record shall also be accompanied by the individual fingerprint of the voter's ten fingers. Both the record and the individual fingerprint shall be sent monthly, together with the series B ID card booklet, to the National Identification Department.

TEXT CORRESPONDING TO [\[Show\]](#)

Article 5. ID cards shall be requested from the Electoral Jury through the Mayor's Office of the respective municipality. Mayors shall respond to citizens' requests on an ongoing basis and shall be responsible for the physical preparation of ID cards and records. The mayors shall pass the duly prepared identity cards to the members of the Electoral Juries so that the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the latter may sign and deliver them, in accordance with the schedule established in this Decree.

Article 6. The photographs that must be attached to the ID cards may be provided by citizens in accordance with the official model adopted. For the issuance of ID cards, a strict order shall be established among the members of the various parties attempting to register, so that one from each party may register alternately, but citizens who provide the corresponding photographs at their own expense shall have preference within that order. If only individuals belonging to the same political party have applied for ID cards, the chronological order of

the application.

Article 7. Mayors and electoral jurors shall allow a representative from each party to inspect the registrations, the rotation, and the issuance of ID cards.

Article 8. The Electoral Juries shall send the local political directors a weekly list of all the cards issued during the week, indicating the number of each card and the persons in whose favor they were issued. This authorization shall be authorized by the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Electoral Jury.

Article 9. The Government shall supply the Electoral Juries, through the Mayors, with citizenship cards in booklets of one hundred each, in the two series A and B, prescribed by this Decree, with their respective stubs.

Article 10. The cards shall be issued free of charge by the respective Electoral Jury. When citizens do not provide photographs, they shall be taken by official photographers, observing a strict order, in the manner prescribed for the issuance of cards, which order shall be subject to inspection and supervision by local political authorities.

Article 11. When a voter changes their place of residence, the provisions of Article 10 of Law 31 of 1929 shall be observed, according to which "when a voter wishes to change their place of residence, they shall cancel their title before the respective Electoral Jury and hand over their ID card and, with the certificate of that cancellation, request another from the Electoral Jury of the District of their new residence." This certificate must be signed by the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Board and shall bear the seal of the corporation.

Article 12. When a voter requests a new card because they have lost the first one, it shall be issued upon payment of twenty cents in legal currency. The sums collected for this purpose shall be deposited in the respective National Treasury Office, and the Electoral Jury shall not issue the new card until it has been certified that payment has been made in the manner established in this article. When there is no National Treasury Collection Office in a municipality, the payment shall be made to the National Treasurer, who shall receive it under his responsibility and send it to the respective National Treasury Administration. The card issued as a duplicate of another shall bear the same number as the first, the mention that it is a duplicate, and shall be of a different color from the original card. It shall bear, like the original, the photograph of the voter provided by the applicant and the other information referred to in this Decree.

Article 13. The Electoral Board shall issue the card to those who request it and who meet the constitutional and legal conditions for voting, observing in all cases the provisions of this Decree. No card shall be issued to individuals who are deprived of their political rights.

Article 14. The list of persons who have received a citizenship card constitutes the permanent electoral roll.

Article 15. Each Electoral Jury shall keep a special book called the permanent electoral register, which shall have its pages divided into columns, in which the following shall be entered: in the first, the name of the person to whom the citizenship card is issued; in the second, the card number;

in the third, the elections in which the person has exercised their right to vote after the card was issued; and in the fourth, any mention of the voter's death, loss of political rights, or change of address, when these circumstances come to the attention of the Board.

Article 16. Notaries and secretaries of councils are required to send the Electoral Jury of the domicile of each deceased person they register in their books a notice of the aforementioned death so that it may be recorded in the permanent electoral census kept by the Electoral Jury. Judges and magistrates who issue judgments decreeing the deprivation or loss of political rights are required to notify the Electoral Jury of the defendant's domicile of these decisions so that they may be recorded in the permanent electoral register. When a citizen is reinstated to the enjoyment of his or her political rights, the Secretary of the Senate shall notify the Electoral Jury of the defendant's last place of residence of the corresponding resolution, so that the appropriate entries may be made.

Article 17. The Electoral Juries shall meet daily for as long as necessary for the signing of the ballots. In accordance with the provisions of Article 302 of Law 85 of 1916, the expenses incurred in the operation of the Electoral Juries, including the salaries or fees assigned to employees during the time they remain in session in the performance of their duties, shall be borne by the Departments.

Article 18. Any irregularity in the issuance of the card or the omission of any of the duties set forth in this Decree shall result in a fine of twenty-five to two hundred pesos for the Mayor and his Secretary, in accordance with Article 255 of Law 85 of 1916. In addition, the complaint, accompanied by the relevant documents, shall be submitted to the Government of the corresponding Department, Intendant, or Commissioner, who shall investigate and decide on it within a non-extendable period of five days.

Article 19. Crimes and misdemeanors committed by members of electoral corporations shall be punished in accordance with the Penal Code and the laws in force.

Article 20. Members of electoral corporations who refuse to issue a citizenship card without sufficient legal reason, for which they must provide a written statement, shall incur the same penalties provided for in Article 231 and related provisions of Law 85 of 1916 for cases of breach of duty by those corporations.

Article 21. Any individual who, by fraudulent means, obtains a citizenship card without being entitled to it, in addition to being punished as a forger in accordance with the Penal Code, shall pay a fine of two hundred pesos, convertible into arrest in accordance with Article 266 of Law 85 of 1916.

Article 22. Electoral juries shall draw up partial lists for voting juries following the numerical order of the corresponding cards, rather than the alphabetical order of the voters' surnames. The numbers of the identity cards belonging to individuals who have been deprived of their political rights, have changed their place of residence, or have died after the identity card was issued shall be noted in red ink on these lists.

TEXT CORRESPONDING TO [\[Show\]](#)

Article 23. After each voter has cast their vote, the Secretary of the Voting Jury shall place a stamp on the back of their citizenship card indicating the day, month, and year of the election being verified. The stamp on the back of the card is a sign that the right to vote has been exercised on the corresponding day of each election.

Paragraph. The National Government shall provide the respective Voting Juries with the necessary stamps to comply with this article in a timely manner.

Article 24. Decrees Nos. 968, 1016, and 1254 of 1932 are hereby repealed.

Affects the validity of: [\[Show\]](#)

Article 25. This Decree shall enter into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

Communicate and publish.

Given in Bogotá on May 5, 1934.

ENRIQUE OLAYA HERRERA

The Minister of Government,

Gabriel TURBAY.