**Disclaimer:** This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

**Note:** This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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### 1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Missouri Secretary of State’s “Elections & Voting” website ([https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/](https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/)). You can also ask voters if they received a voter notification postcard in the mail from their election authority, which is sent to all registered voters in advance of each election.

### 2. Where do I vote?

You can determine a voter's proper polling place by checking the Missouri Secretary of State's voter outreach portal ([https://voterooutreach.sos.mo.gov/PRD/VoterOutreach/VOSearch.aspx](https://voterooutreach.sos.mo.gov/PRD/VoterOutreach/VOSearch.aspx)). With the exception of voters in St. Louis County only, voters in Missouri must cast a ballot at their correct polling place.
place. If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question #6.

*NOTE: due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been closed, moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

3. When do the polls open and close?

The polls must be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. central time on Election Day. Anyone in line at 7 p.m. must be allowed to vote.

If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in line by 7:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location, escalate the ticket and contact your hotline captain/command center. Please refer to Question #16 for information on absentee voting.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

In order to register ahead of Election Day, voters must apply to register to vote by the fourth Wednesday before an election in which they intend to vote. If registering by mail, your voter registration must be postmarked by such date. Voters in Missouri can register online (at https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register). If registering online, the application must have been submitted before midnight on the election deadline.

The deadlines to register to vote in the upcoming 2020 elections (https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/calendar) are:
  - For the March 11, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary Elections – registration deadline Feb. 12, 2020
  - For the April 7, 2020 Municipal Elections (moved to June 2, 2020) - registration deadline March 11, 2020
  - For the August 4, 2020 Primary Elections - registration deadline July 8, 2020
  - For the November 3, 2020 General Elections – registration deadline October 7, 2020

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Missouri voters must show some form of ID to vote, but it does not need to be a state-issued photo ID. If a voter does not possess any of the acceptable forms of identification, they may still vote.

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1 Missouri has precinct-specific voting, requiring voters to cast ballots at their assigned polling place. However, in St. Louis County only, voters will be able to cast ballots at any polling place in the jurisdiction this year because their new voting machines allow them to print an individual precinct-specific ballot for each voter. Voters in all other jurisdictions must appear at their correct poll.
5 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.427 (pre-2006 version of § 115.427: 2006 amendments were declared unconstitutional in Weinschenk v. State, 203 S.W.3d 201, 222 (Mo. 2006)).
cast a provisional ballot that will be counted only if the voter returns to the polls with valid ID or if their signature matches their voter registration.

Missouri law, 115.427 RSMo. sets forth forms of ID acceptable to vote. A Jan. 2020 Missouri Supreme Court decision in Priorities USA v. State of Missouri blocked a portion of the current iteration of the law. The Supreme Court’s ruling (1) prohibits use of an affidavit for voters who present non-photo ID’s and (2) prohibits the state from disseminating materials indicating that a photo ID is required to vote. As a result, all Missouri voters can cast a regular ballot upon presenting any one of the photo or non-photo forms of identification specified in Section 115.427, including:

- Identification issued by the state of Missouri, an agency of the state, or a local election authority of the state (such as a driver’s or non-driver’s license);
- Identification issued by the United States government or agency thereof (such as a Passport or Military ID);
- Student identification issued by an institution of higher education, including a university, college, vocational and technical school, located within the state of Missouri; or
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains the name and current address of the voter (including the voter notification card the voter received in the mail from the election authority).

Voters who do not have one of these forms of ID but are registered can cast a provisional ballot but that provisional ballot will be counted only if the voter returns to their polling place before close of polls on Election Day with valid photo ID, or if the signature on the provisional ballot is found to match the signature on their voter registration record.

See https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/ElectionGoVoteMissouri/AcceptableIDstoVote--01.17.2020.pdf for a list and images of acceptable IDs to vote in Missouri.

Examples of voter ID circumstances to flag as problematic:

- voters asked to present a photo ID
- voters asked to present a secondary form of ID if not presenting a photo ID
- voters told that the voter notification card is not acceptable to vote
- voters not offered a provisional ballot if they present no ID

6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

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6 Priorities USA v. State, 591 S.W.3d 448 (Mo. banc 2020)
Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same precinct</th>
<th>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</th>
<th>Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The voter can update their address at their polling place. They voter may also file a change of address and vote at the central polling location.</td>
<td>The voter should go to the appropriate polling place serving their new address. They will have to confirm their new address. They voter may also file a change of address and vote at the central polling location.</td>
<td>The voter must complete a new registration prior to the registration deadline in order to be eligible to vote a full ballot in the voter’s new jurisdiction. If they moved after the registration deadline, the voter may vote a limited absentee ballot for statewide and federal offices and issues.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* NOTE: St. Louis City and St. Louis County are separate and distinct election jurisdictions, governed by different election authorities. And Kansas City city limits is a separate election jurisdiction from the remainder of Jackson County. Voters who move from St. Louis City to St. Louis County; or voters who move from Kansas City to another part of Jackson County would have to register to vote anew.

7. **What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?**

Voters should immediately notify the election judges if the voting equipment breaks down – or if the machines are not calibrating properly – while the polls are open. The election judges must immediately notify the election authority. If there is no working voting equipment available, voters have a choice of casting a paper ballot. A voter may otherwise choose a paper ballot. If a machine is not calibrating properly, the poll supervisor should immediately take that machine out of service and call to Election Board Headquarters to request technical assistance.

If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, flag this ticket for follow up and notify your hotline captain, who will notify a voting machine expert or speak with election officials immediately.

If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify the command center, which will notify a voting machine expert. Remember, a voter can use a paper ballot if no other machines are available. Voters may request paper ballots if they are not offered them.

8. **I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the polling place where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?**

7 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.265
With the exception of St. Louis County, a voter must vote in their assigned polling place. If a voter believes they are registered at that polling place but their eligibility cannot be determined by the election official, the voter is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots cast at the wrong polling place will not count, so the poll worker must direct the voter to her correct polling place if it is determined that the voter is in the wrong location. If a voter appears at the polling place but their name can not be found on the roster at check in, the following steps should occur:

- The poll worker should check the inactive voter list. If a voter is listed as inactive, they are still registered and must be allowed to vote. Their act of voting will reactivate their status.
- If the poll worker cannot find the voter’s name on the precinct roster, the poll worker (or poll supervisor) should contact the local election authority before turning the voter away or giving them a provisional ballot. The Election Authority will do a further check of the voter’s status.
- If it turns out that the voter is in the incorrect polling place, the poll worker must direct the voter to their correct polling place and inform the voter that a vote cast at the incorrect polling place will not count.
- If the voter’s eligibility cannot be determined, or if the voter is not willing to go to their correct polling place (in cases where it is determined the voter is at the incorrect location), the voter must be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.

When the voter casts a provisional ballot, the poll worker should provide them with information regarding a free access system (a toll-free number) where the voter may determine whether their vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.

9. My name isn't popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

A voter’s name may only be removed from the list of registered voters if:

- The voter confirms in writing that the voter has changed residence to a place outside the jurisdiction;
- The voter fails to respond to a non-forwardable notice by mail and has not voted in two general elections after the date of the notice;
- The election authority (i.e. the board of elections or county clerk) receives notice from another election authority that a voter has subsequently registered in another jurisdiction; or
- The election authority receives notice of a voter’s death or judicial judgement of incapacity, conviction of a felony, or conviction of a misdemeanor connected to the right to vote.

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8 Missouri has precinct-specific voting, requiring voters to cast ballots at their assigned polling place. However, in St. Louis County only, voters will be able to cast ballots at any polling place in the jurisdiction this year because their new voting machines allow them to print an individual precinct-specific ballot for each voter. Voters in all other jurisdictions must appear at their correct poll.

9 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(2)
10 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13)
11 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193(1)
12 Id.
13 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.165(4)
If a voter’s eligibility cannot be immediately established by examining the precinct register, the poll worker is required to contact the election authority. If the voter is registered at a different polling place then the one at which they have appeared, the poll worker should direct the voter to her correct polling place. If the election authority believes that the name of any voter was improperly removed from the registration records, it may, by telephone or in writing on Election Day, authorize election judges to permit the voter to vote. Voters who have been improperly removed from the rolls may petition the duty judge in their jurisdiction to have their name reinstated and that they be allowed to vote. A voter may also update or correct errors (i.e., typos or misspellings of name or address)

If the election authority cannot immediately establish that a voter is eligible to vote, the voter shall be notified that they are entitled to cast a provisional ballot. If the voter appears to be eligible to vote at another polling place, the election judge shall inform the voter that they may cast a provisional ballot at the current polling place or travel to either the correct polling place or a central polling place and cast a regular ballot.

Any voter whose name was removed from the voter registration list on the basis of a determination of ineligibility who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must reregister.

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (see Question 1)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see Question 1 and Question 6)
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter’s name, especially for hyphenated names, or people who have multiple family members with the same name (i.e, juniors and seniors) which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (see Question 1)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

10. **I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?**

In Missouri, a person is ineligible to vote: (1) while under a sentence of imprisonment, (2) upon conviction of a felony (or a misdemeanor related to voting); or (3) while they are under state supervision for conviction of a felony. Those convicted of a felony do not become eligible until discharged from probation or parole (also known as being “off paper.”). Although they are automatically restored to eligibility, any person whose name was removed from the voter registration list on the basis of a criminal conviction who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system. People who are in jail on pretrial detention or awaiting trial – as well as anyone who has not been convicted - have a right to vote absentee.

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15 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b)
16 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193(4)
18 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).
19 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.4
20 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133
21 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.199
22 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.1
A person convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor related to voting is ineligible to vote, even after serving their sentence, unless such person is pardoned by the governor and, after such pardon, the election authority determines that such person is eligible to vote.

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

The voter should inquire why he or she was offered a provisional ballot. The voter should only be offered a provisional ballot for one of the following reasons:

- The voter’s name does not appear on the list of registered voters and their eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established;
- The voter refuses to vote at their correct polling place or a central polling place;
- The voter requests an absentee ballot in person, but such voter’s eligibility cannot be immediately established;
- The voter voted pursuant to a court order extending the time of poll closing;
- The voter appears at a polling place without any acceptable identification, or
- The voter is on record as having submitted an absentee or mail in ballot but insists that they did not return an absentee or mail in ballot.

A provisional ballot should be a last resort, because such ballots will be counted only if the election authority determines before the election is certified that the voter is registered and eligible to vote at that polling place. Provisional ballots cast at the wrong polling place will not be counted. However, if the voter must cast a provisional ballot, the election authority should provide them with information on a free access system where the voter may determine whether the vote was counted and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.

If the voter casts a provisional ballot, the voter should ask the poll worker if the voter should take any additional steps to make sure the ballot is counted.

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes. A college student who meets the generally applicable registration requirements may register to vote at their school address if they presently intend to make it their residence either permanently or indefinitely. Such voters must register by the voter registration deadline.

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

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23 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.2(3)
24 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.197
25 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.199
26 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(1)
27 Id.
28 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(4)
29 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.14
30 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.427(4)
31 Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.430(5)(1)
32 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13)
33 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133; Chomeau v. Roth, 72 S.W.2d 997, 999 (Mo. Ct. App.1934)
If a voter has a physical disability, and their polling place is not accessible, the election authority in any jurisdiction must designate an alternate polling place accessible to the disabled voter. The voter may have their polling place permanently re-assigned, and the election authority may also assign members of the disabled voter’s household and caregiver to the alternate location. Each election authority is also required to designate at least one common site as a central polling place accessible to voters who have physical disabilities. Such sites must conform to nationally accepted accessibility standards.

Voters who have disabilities or for other reasons believe they can not enter the polling place or wait in long lines inside the polling place also have the right to request “curbside” voting from their car. For any voter within 200 feet of a polling location who believes they would be unsafe or unable to enter the location or wait in line due, two election judges (one from each party) must take the ballot and necessary equipment to the voter in the car to place their vote. If paper ballots are unavailable, the judges shall use an absentee ballot. Voters do not need to present any paperwork or divulge any medical information to avail themselves of curbside voting. A voter who believes she needs this assistance is entitled to it.

Persons with permanent disabilities or who are homebound can request to be placed on a designated list to automatically be mailed an absentee ballot application prior to each election. Persons who were hospitalized after the absentee application request deadline can request a team of election officials to bring the ballot to the hospital on Election Day.

14. **I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English (or have limited English proficiency) and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?**

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting due to disability, blindness, or inability to read or write (including an inability to read or write English) is entitled to have a person of their choice (except their employer or union representative) mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. The chosen assistant does not need to be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen or a registered voter. Alternatively, the voter may seek assistance from a bipartisan team of poll workers.

15. **I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?**

The election authority must provide, for each polling place, instruction cards on how to operate voting equipment and must post voting instructions in a visible place at each polling place, including in the voting booth. A voter may request a demonstration of the voting equipment by the poll workers. If, after entering the voting booth, the voter asks for further instructions, two election judges of different

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34 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436(3)
35 Id.
36 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.115(5)
37 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436
38 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.284
39 Missouri is **not** among the jurisdictions required by Sec. 203 of Voting Rights Act to provide bilingual voting materials to voters.
40 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(1)
41 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(2)
42 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.421(2)
43 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(2)
political parties shall give such instructions. Missouri law does not place a limit on the time voters can spend in the booth.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

Missouri does not have early voting. Registered voters who expect to be prevented from going to their polling place on Election Day may vote absentee beginning six weeks prior to an election. Absentee voters must submit an application for an absentee ballot listing one of the following reasons they expect to need to vote absentee:

1. Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such voter is registered to vote;
2. Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability (NOTARY NOT REQUIRED);
3. Religious belief or practice;
4. Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than such voter's polling place;
5. Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained; or
6. Certified participation in an address confidentiality program established because of safety concerns.
7. For an election that occurs during the year 2020, the voter has contracted or is in an at-risk category for contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (NOTARY NOT REQUIRED)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a new law SB 631 is in effect for 2020 that expands options to vote absentee or by mail:

- Voters who have or who are in an at-risk category for contracting or transmitting COVID-19, can cast absentee ballots under 115.277.1(7). Ballots cast for this reason do not require a notary to sign the ballot envelope. Voters deemed at-risk and eligible to vote absentee without a notary include any voter:
  - 65 years or older
  - in a long term care facility,
  - chronic lung disease or moderate/severe asthma
  - serious heart condition,
  - Immunocompromised,
  - diabetes,
  - liver disease,
  - chronic kidney disease/dialysis
- All other registered voters can cast "mail-in" ballots without a reason under a newly created section, 115.302. Those ballots do need to be notarized.
- Both of these provisions are limited to elections in 2020 and expire at year's end.

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44 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445(2)
45 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277(1)
46 *Note: in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, some but not all, election authorities have interpreted 115.277.1(2)'s “illness/confinement” excuse to apply to voters who expect to confine themselves to avoid contracting or spreading COVID-19 at a polling place on election day. A legal challenge on this question, NAACP v Missouri - which also challenges notary requirements for mail/absentee ballots, is pending.
17. What are the Absentee Ballot deadlines?

Requests for absentee ballots can be made by mail, email, fax or in person. **Absentee ballot requests must be received by 5p.m. the second Wednesday before Election Day.**

- For the August primary elections – absentee requests must be received by July 22
- For the November general elections – absentee requests must be received by Oct. 21

Voters may submit applications anytime, though the election authority will not begin sending and processing absentee ballots until 6 weeks before election day.

- Absentee ballots may be requested by email, fax, mail or in-person
- Mail-in ballots may be requested by mail or in-person

Voters who did not request a ballot by mail by the deadline can cast an absentee ballot in person until 5p.m. the day before Election Day. **In-person requests must be done in the office of the local election authority by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.** Voters casting ballots in person must show a form of ID, listed above.

Voters must return their absentee or mail ballot in a postage pre-paid envelope provided by the election authority. Voters do not need to provide additional postage.

Voters must complete and sign the form on the absentee and mail ballot mailing envelope. Absentee ballots cast due to excuse #2 “illness/confine ment”; excuse #7 (at risk for COVID) or absentee ballots cast by permanent absentee voters or by overseas/military voters do **not** need to be notarized. All other absentee and mail in ballots must be notarized. Failure to complete the form can result in the ballot being rejected.

First time voters who registered by mail (people who have not voted in person since registering) must include with their absentee or mail ballot application a copy of a form of ID, either: (1) an ID issued by the Federal Government, state of Missouri, or a local election authority; (2) ID issued by a Missouri institution (public or private) of higher education; or (3) a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains your name and address.

**DEADLINE: Completed absentee ballots returned must be received by the election authority by the close of polls on Election Day.**

- Absentee ballots can be returned in-person or by mail, by the voter or a close relative (2nd degree of consanguinity) of voter.
- Mail-in ballots may be returned only by mail.

18. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

A voter may vote in person after having requested an absentee or mail in ballot ballot if that ballot has not been submitted, received and recorded in the precinct register by the election authority by Election Day.

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47 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279(3)
48 *Id.*
49 If the statements on any ballot envelope have not been completed, the absentee ballot in the envelope shall be rejected.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.295.2
A voter can bring her uncast absentee ballot to the polling place or local election authority, surrender that ballot (”spoil” it) and vote a REGULAR ballot in-person.

- A voter who requested and received, but did not submit an absentee or mail ballot can bring the ballot to the polls or local election authority, surrender that ballot and vote a REGULAR ballot at the polls.

- A voter who requested but did not receive an absentee or mail ballot can complete a “Lost Ballot Affidavit” at the polls or election authority and vote a REGULAR ballot on Election Day

- A voter who lost their absentee or mail ballot and did not return a cast ballot may complete a “Lost Ballot Affidavit” at the polls or election authority and vote a REGULAR ballot on Election Day

- A voter eligible to vote absentee may vote absentee in person at the local election authority until 5p.m. the day before the Election.

A voter may not vote by both absentee ballot and regular in-person ballot on Election Day.50

19. Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

No, Missouri does not have Same Day Registration. Voters must register by the 4th Wednesday in advance of Election Day. 51

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50 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.297
51 Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.135