

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)
2. **HOW:** [How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?](#)
3. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)
4. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)
5. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)
6. **PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)
7. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily due to COVID-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?](#)
8. **STUDENT:** [I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?](#)
9. **LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)
10. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?](#)
11. **INCARCERATED:** [I am currently in jail. Can I vote?](#)
12. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** [I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?](#)
13. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** [My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What do I do?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. **AVAILABILITY:** [Is there early voting in my state \(whether called early voting or in person absentee voting\)? When is it?](#)
15. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a reason to vote early?](#)
16. **WHEN:** [When do the polls open/close during early voting?](#)
17. **WHERE:** [Where do I vote during early voting?](#)
18. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE and/or VOTE BY MAIL

19. **AUTOMATIC:** [Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically?](#)
20. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** [What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?](#)
21. **APPLICATION RETURN:** [Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?](#)

22. **APPLICATION - DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME:** [What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?](#)
23. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote absentee whether in person or by mail-in or drop off ballot?](#)
24. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** [How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?](#)
25. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** [I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)
26. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** [How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?](#)
27. **LOST OR SPOILED:** [What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?](#)
28. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?](#)
29. **IN PERSON OPTION:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?](#)
30. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** [What is the deadline for the **ballot** to be mailed and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?](#)
31. **BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)
32. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)
33. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** [Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. **HOURS:** [When do the polls open/close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?](#)
35. **POLLING LOCATION:** [Where do I vote on Election Day?](#)
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required to vote? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** [The polling place is not open. What do I do?](#)
38. **LONG LINES:** [There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?](#)
39. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** [What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?](#)
40. **NO PPE/COVID:** [What if my polling is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?](#)
41. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** [I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?](#)
42. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** [I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?](#)
43. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** [I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?](#)
44. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** [When can I request curbside voting?](#)
45. **CAMPAIGNING:** [What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?](#)
46. **CHALLENGE:** [Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?](#)
47. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** [There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?](#)
48. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** [I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?](#)

QUESTIONS

49. [Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?](#)

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

Check if you are registered to vote using the Tennessee Department of State's Voter Registration Information Lookup webpage: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>.

2. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

You can register to vote online with the Tennessee Online Voter Registration System: <https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/>.

You can also register to vote by downloading and completing the Voter Registration Application (<https://sos-tn-gov-files.s3.amazonaws.com/forms/ss-3010.pdf>) and mailing the application to your county election commission (search at: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php).

If you do not have access to a computer and/or a printer, you can pick up voter registration applications in person at the following locations:

- County Election Commission Offices
- County Clerk's Offices
- Public Libraries
- Register of Deeds Offices

If you register to vote by mail and are voting for the first time, you must either vote in person, or include a copy of your ID along with your absentee mail-in ballot – note that the latter option may require a printer, however. See this site for more information:

<https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/information-first-time-voters-who-registered-mail>.

You can also register to vote in person during a transaction with one of the following agencies:

- Department of Health (WIC program)
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Safety (motor vehicles division)
- Department of Veteran's Affairs

3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

The voter registration form requests certain identifying information, such as the address(es) where you live and receive your mail, your place of birth, and your social security number.ⁱ

4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

The voter registration deadline is Monday, October 5, 2020. If you complete your voter registration online or in person, you must do so by October 5, 2020. If you mail your voter registration, it must be postmarked by October 5, 2020.ⁱⁱ

5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?

Tennessee does not have Same Day Registration.

6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

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.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)¹	Moved from a different state
<p>Yes.ⁱⁱⁱ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During early voting period (Oct. 14 to 29, 2020): Vote at any early voting location within the county to update address and vote. <u>TN encourages this option.</u> ▪ Submit an updated voter registration form online, in person, or by mail, fax, or email to local county election commission office. <u>Form must be signed and received no later than Oct. 30, 2020.</u> ▪ On Election Day, vote by completing an affidavit. Vote at either new polling location or at a central location designated by the county election commission office. 	<p>Yes.^{iv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During early voting period (Oct. 14 to 29, 2020): Vote at any early voting location within the county to update address and vote. <u>TN encourages this option.</u> ▪ Submit an updated voter registration form online, in person, or by mail, fax, or email to local county election commission office. <u>Form must be signed and received no later than Oct. 30, 2020.</u> ▪ On Election Day, vote by completing an affidavit. Vote at either new polling location or at a central location designated by the county election commission office. 	<p>Yes – if register by October 5, 2020.</p> <p>No – if did not register by October 5, 2020.</p> <p>Voter registration does not transfer to other counties in Tennessee.^v</p>	<p>Yes – if register by October 5, 2020.</p> <p>No – if did not register by October 5, 2020.</p> <p>Voter registration does not transfer to other counties in Tennessee.^{vi}</p>

7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?

You can request to vote absentee by mail if you will be outside the county where you are registered during the early voting period (Oct. 14-29, 2020) and all day on Election Day (Nov. 3, 2020).^{vii} Otherwise, you must vote at your polling place in the county where you permanently reside. Find your polling place here: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>.

8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

College students may register at their campus address or choose to remain registered or register at their permanent or home address. Tennessee has published guidelines to help determine where your residency is, for purposes of voter registration: <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/guidelines-determining-residency>.^{viii} You may only be registered and vote in one location. If you are attending college remotely, you should register in the county/state where you are residing, not in the county/state where the college is located.

If you register to vote in Tennessee, you can find your polling place for in-person voting here: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>. You can also vote absentee by mail, if (i) you will be outside the Tennessee county where you are registered during the early voting period (Oct. 14-29, 2020) and all day on Election Day (Nov. 3, 2020),^{ix} or (2) you are a full-time student in an accredited college or university outside the Tennessee county where you are registered.

If you register to vote in another state, check with the Secretary of State for that state to determine where you vote.

9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

You may request an absentee ballot by completing a Federal Post Card application, also known as a Form 76. An overview of the process may be found at FVAP.gov. The Federal Voting Assistance Program provides an online version of Form 76 that a vote may print, complete, sign, and send to the local county election commission. The signed Form 76 may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the local county election commission (search at: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php). Normally, an individual who registers to vote by mail must appear in person in the first election the person votes in after such registration becomes effective. This provision is waived in the case of military personnel, their family members, or overseas citizens.

Even if you are not previously registered to vote, you may still request an absentee ballot using the process described above. In this case, your application for absentee ballot will also be treated as an application for temporary registration.

Your Form 76 must be received by October 27, 2020. Your absentee ballot must be received by 8 pm ET / 7 pm CT on November 3, 2020.^x

10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Your eligibility to vote depends upon the crime you were convicted of and the date of your conviction.^{xi}

- If you were not convicted of a crime that is a felony in Tennessee, you can vote.
- If you were convicted on or after May 18, 1981 of a crime that is a felony in Tennessee, whether by a Tennessee court, a court in another state, or a federal court, you forfeit your eligibility to vote. You may regain your eligibility to vote if you have your conviction expunged or if you have your voting rights restored. However, you are never eligible to register and vote if you were convicted of specific felonies within specific date ranges:

After July 1, 1986

- Voter fraud
- Treason
- First-degree murder
- Aggravated rape

After July 1, 1996, to June 30, 2006

- Voter fraud
- Treason
- Any degree of murder or rape

After July 1, 2006

- Voter fraud
- Treason
- Any degree of murder or rape
- Certain felonies involving bribery, misconduct
- involving public officials and employees, or
- interference with government operations
- Sexual offenses or violent sexual offenses that are felonies where the victim was a minor

- If you were convicted between January 15, 1973, and May 17, 1981 of a crime that is a felony in Tennessee, whether by a Tennessee court, a court in another state, or a federal court, you are eligible to vote. You do not need to have your rights restored, but the Division of Elections will need to verify you were convicted during this time period.
- If you were convicted prior to January 15, 1973, you still have the right to vote unless you were convicted of:
 - Abusing a female child
 - Arson and felonious burning
 - Bigamy
 - Bribery
 - Burglary
 - Felonious breaking into a business house, outhouse other than a dwelling house
 - Felonious breaking and entering a dwelling house
 - Larceny
 - Horse stealing
 - Robbery
 - Stealing bills of exchange or other valuable papers
 - Receiving stolen property
 - Counterfeiting
 - Forgery
 - Destroying a will
 - Incest
 - Rape
 - Sodomy
 - Buggery
 - Perjury
 - Subornation of perjury

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Even if you were convicted of a crime listed above, you still have the right to vote if you can show that at the time of your conviction the judge did not render you “infamous,” if your conviction was reversed on appeal or expunged, if you received a full pardon, or if you have your voting rights restored. For more information about this, call the office of the Tennessee Secretary of State at 1-877-850-4959 or visit their website at <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/restoration-voting-rights>.

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?

By October 13, 2020, incarcerated individuals who are eligible to vote may request an absentee ballot using Form SS-3060, which is provided to each jail by the Administrator of Elections in each county. The incarcerated voter will fill out the ballot at a designated location in the jail. The incarcerated voter must provide the proper postage to mail the absentee ballot to his or her home county election commission office. An attesting official, sent to the jail by the county election commission, must deposit the ballot in the nearest United States Post Office. The ballot must be received by mail by the county election commission no later than the close of polls on Election Day (November 3, 2020).

Any person who is incarcerated in any federal, state, or local jail or prison and is otherwise eligible may also register to vote. When registering to vote, an incarcerated inmate is presumed to live at the last address where he or she resided before being incarcerated, known and referred to as the last free-world address and should register accordingly. However, when the inmate is incarcerated in a county other than where he or she last resided, the inmate may register at the address of the prison where he or she is located if the proper affidavits of residency have been completed (Forms SS3033B, SS-3034, SS-3035, SS-3036, and SS-3038).^{xii}

12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

Yes, in this case you have the right to vote using a provisional ballot.

13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?

Once properly registered to vote in Tennessee, a person remains permanently registered unless the election commission must remove the registration from its records as a result of acts that require purging a voter.^{xiii} A voter's name may be removed from the list of registered voters only in the following circumstances:

- Upon receipt of a request to purge by the voter.
- Upon learning that a voter has had a name change for ninety (90) days or more, except by marriage, and the voter has failed to notify the election commission.
- Upon the death of the voter.
- Upon receiving official confirmation that the voter has been convicted of a felony (see Question #10 above).
- Upon written confirmation that the voter has moved outside the county of registration or has registered to vote in another jurisdiction.
- If the voter fails to respond to a confirmation notice, and if the voter fails to otherwise update the voter's registration over a period of two (2) consecutive regular November elections following the date the notice was first sent.

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

You can register to vote if there is still time to register to vote (see Question #4 for information about the voter registration deadline). If there is not time, you have the right to vote using a provisional ballot

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?

Yes. Tennessee has early in-person voting for anyone, and early voting by mail for individuals who meet certain criteria (see Question #23).^{xiv}

15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

Anyone can vote early in person. Only individuals meeting certain criteria may vote early by mail (see Question #23).^{xv}

16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?

The early voting period in Tennessee runs from Wednesday, October 14, 2020 to Thursday, October 29, 2020. Generally, you may vote early on any Saturday that falls during this period. However, dates and hours may vary based on where you live. For details regarding times and early voting locations, a person must contact the local county election commission office (find yours here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php).

17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

Contact your local county election commission office to find out where to vote during early voting. Find your local county election commission office here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?

A federal or Tennessee state ID containing the voter's name and photograph is required for early voting, unless an exemption applies.^{xvi} Exemptions in the case of early in-person voting include voters with a religious objection to being photographed, and voters who are indigent and unable to obtain a photo ID without paying a fee.

Any of the following IDs may be used, even if expired:

- Tennessee driver license with your photo
- United States Passport
- Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
- Photo ID issued by the federal or Tennessee state government
- United States Military photo ID
- Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

College student IDs and photo IDs not issued by the federal or Tennessee state government are NOT acceptable. This includes county or city issued photo IDs, such as library cards, and photo IDs issued by other states.

If you registered by mail and are voting in your first election, you are required to provide a current photo identification with your name and photo, OR, if the photo identification is expired, you must also present one of the following: a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.

If you are unsure or have questions about whether your photo ID is acceptable, contact your county election commission (find it here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php) or the Division of Elections at 1-877-850-4959.

If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free photo ID to vote from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security at any participating driver service center across the state. Visit the Department of Safety and Homeland Security's Voter Photo ID page for more information (<https://www.tn.gov/safety/driver-services/photoids.html>).

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?

You must request an absentee ballot by following the process outlined here: <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/absentee-voting>. An absentee ballot may be requested no more than 90 days before an election and no less than 7 days before the election—for this November 3rd election, by October 27, 2020. If a voter provides to the county election commission at least 7 days before an election an affidavit of their licensed physician stating that they are permanently medically unable to vote in person, they will qualify for inclusion on the permanent absentee voting list, and will be sent an absentee ballot for each subsequent election.

20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

The deadline to request a ballot by mail is (received by) Tuesday, October 27, 2020. In other words, the request for an absentee ballot must be received by Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Absentee ballots must be returned by mail (USPS, FedEx, UPS, etc.).

22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?

The application to receive an absentee ballot must be received by the election commission no later than seven (7) days before the election. October 27, 2020 is the deadline for the November 3rd election. There are not allowances for late requests.

23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?

Yes, you can vote absentee by-mail if you fall under one of the following categories:

- You are sixty (60) years of age or older.
- You will be outside the county where you are registered during the early voting period and all day on Election Day.
- You are hospitalized, ill or physically disabled and unable to appear at your polling place to vote (this includes persons who have underlying medical or health conditions which in their determination render them more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 or at greater risk should they contract it). For a list of underlying health conditions that makes a person more susceptible, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>. A physician's statement is not required to check this box.
- You are the caretaker of a person who is hospitalized, ill, or disabled (this includes caretakers for persons who have underlying medical or health conditions which in their determination render them more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 or at greater risk should they contract it). For a list of underlying health conditions that makes a person more susceptible, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>. A physician's statement is not required to check this box.
- You or your spouse are a full-time student in an accredited college or university outside the county where you are registered.
- You reside in a nursing home, assisted living facility or home for the aged outside your county of residence.
- You are a candidate for office in the election.
- You are observing a religious holiday that prevents you from voting in person during the early voting period and on Election Day.
- You serve as an Election Day official or as a member or employee of the election commission.
- You will be unable to vote in-person due to jury duty.
- You have a physical disability and an inaccessible polling place.
- You or your spouse possess a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) or Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card and you will be working outside the state or county of registration during the open hours of early voting and Election Day and have no specific out-of-county or out-of-state address to which mail may be sent or received during such time.
- You are a member of the military or are an overseas citizen.
- You are on the permanent absentee list (medically unable to vote in person as noted by a signed statement from your physician).^{xvii}

Please note that litigation with respect to the legal reasons to vote by mail is ongoing.

24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?

The state of Tennessee has provided a website (<https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>) for voters to find voter registration information and the status of absentee ballots.

25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

Notice of rejected absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots will be given to the voter in writing. The voter will then be able to correct and resubmit the absentee ballot application. Rejected absentee ballots will note the reason for rejection which can be addressed by the voter. ^{xviii}

26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?

The voter should complete the absentee ballot, sign the appropriate relating affidavit, and submit the absentee ballot by mail. There must be a wet ink signature on the absentee ballot submitted. Voter signatures on absentee ballots will be compared to the voter signature on record. ^{xix}

If the voter registered by mail, they must include a copy of a valid ID along with their mail-in absentee ballot. Acceptable forms of ID include copy of either a current and valid photo identification issued by the federal or Tennessee state government (such as driver's license) or current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

If the voter submitted a copy of their ID with your by-mail registration form, or registered online through the online registration form, or if they are a UOCAVA voter, an ADA voter with an inaccessible polling place, a voter on the permanent absentee list, or a voter enrolled in the "Safe-at-Home program," they do not need to send a copy of their ID along with their mail-in absentee ballot.

27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

Voters who do not receive or ruin their absentee ballot should contact the county election commission for a replacement (https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php).

28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

Please see item 27 above.

29. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Voters who want to vote in person after requesting an absentee ballot will vote on provisional ballots when voting in person. Please note that provisional ballots are counted within four (4) business days after Election Day (November 3, 2020).^{xx}

30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

Absentee ballots must be received by the time that the polls close on Election day.^{xxi} In light of possible mail delays, absentee voters should be encouraged to mail their ballots early.

31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?

Ballots must be submitted via mail. Please see item 21 above.

32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?

Ballots must be submitted via mail. Please see item 21 above.

33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?

Please see item 29 above.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?

Polls in Tennessee open at 8am close at 7pm (Central) / 8pm (Eastern). Please note that polling times vary from county to county. Tennessee law requires that everyone in line before the time at which the polls close be allowed to vote regardless of when the polls opened.^{xxii}

Voters who are in line to vote before the polls close and are told they will not be able to vote should remain in line and call a voter protection hotline (e.g. 1-866-OUR-VOTE or complain to the Department of Justice (1-800-253-3931) if they are not allowed to vote.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

Voters must look up their polling location based on their address (<https://web.go-vote-tn.elections.tn.gov/locations?>). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions #6 and 7](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been 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.

36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?

A federal or Tennessee state ID containing the voter's name and photograph is required to vote, unless an exemption listed below applies.

Any of the following IDs may be used, even if expired:

- Tennessee driver license with your photo
- United States Passport
- Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
- Photo ID issued by the federal or Tennessee state government
- United States Military photo ID
- Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo

College student IDs and photo IDs not issued by the federal or Tennessee state government are NOT acceptable. This includes county or city issued photo IDs, such as library cards, and photo IDs issued by other states.

You are exempt from the identification requirement if:

- You vote absentee by mail (see Question #23 for eligibility)
- You are a resident of a licensed nursing home or assisted living center and you vote at the facility
- You are hospitalized
- You have a religious objection to being photographed
- You are indigent and unable to obtain a photo ID without paying a fee

If you registered by mail and are voting in your first election, you are required to provide a current photo identification with your name and photo, OR, if the photo identification is expired, you must also present one of the following: a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.

If you are unsure or have questions about whether your photo ID is acceptable, contact your county election commission (find it here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php) or the Division of Elections at 1-877-850-4959.

If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free photo ID to vote from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security at any participating driver service center across the state. Visit the Department of Safety and Homeland Security's Voter Photo ID page for more information (<https://www.tn.gov/safety/driver-services/photoids.html>).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

If the polling place is not open or is not open on time or is closed during voting hours, please contact your county election commission (https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php) immediately.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

See Question 34 for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down. If a voting machine stops working while in use, the ballot will be cleared. The voter may then vote on another machine or by paper ballot as determined by officials present.^{xxiii}

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

Guidance from the Secretary of State has provided the COVID-19 precautions including the use of facemasks by polling officials, hand sanitizer, single use pens, and social distancing (6 ft. apart). Voters are encouraged but not required to wear facemasks. There is not an enforcement mechanism for these new procedures.^{xxiv}

41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Voters have the right to request that the machine operator or a polling official tell the voter the order of the offices on the ballot and how to operate the machine.^{xxv}

42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

All polling locations are required to be accessible to disabled voters, unless the state election commission and the state election coordinator, determine that the location cannot reasonably be made accessible to disabled voters. Each election commission will provide to the coordinator of elections a list noting which polling locations are and are not accessible to the disabled.^{xxvi}

43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Voters who are blind, illiterate, or have another physical disability that does not allow them to mark the ballot can have the ballot marked or a voting machine used by a person of the voter's selection or by one of the judges present of the voter's selection. Records of each declaration will be maintained. ^{xxvii}

44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?

Tennessee does not allow for curbside voting.

45. CAMPAIGNING: What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?

No campaigning of any kind (e.g. posters, signs, and solicitation) is allowed within one hundred (100) feet of the entrance of any polling place. People should not be approaching you about an election campaign within this radius. ^{xxviii}

46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?

If your vote is challenged, you may be required to answer questions under oath as the judges deem necessary. A vote can only be challenged on the basis that the voter is the following: (1) is not a registered voter in Tennessee and did not vote a provisional ballot, (2) is not a resident of the precinct where the person seeks to vote, (3) is not the registered voter under whose name the person has applied to vote, (4) has already voted in the election, or (5) has become ineligible to vote in the election being conducted at the polling place since the person registered. ^{xxix}

47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?

No police or law enforcement are allowed to be within ten (10) feet of any polling place or enter any polling place without the requested to do so by an election official or to vote. ^{xxx}

48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Provisional ballots should only be provided in the below instances:

- The voter's eligibility cannot be determined by the computer signature list or by examination of the permanent registration records on file with the county election commission;
- An election official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote (i.e., a challenge);
- A voter is unable to present evidence of identification; or
- The situation is similar to those above, in that the voter believes they are entitled to cast a ballot (e.g., the voter thinks they are at the correct polling place, but are unsure).

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot and should request a regular ballot. ^{xxxi}

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

QUESTIONS

49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Contact your local county election commission office with questions about any of the information above. Find your local county election commission office here:

https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

You may also contact the Tennessee Secretary of State: Coordinator of Elections, (615)-741-7956; Tennessee.Elections@tn.gov; and Division of Elections, 1-877-850-4959.

-
- ⁱ Tennessee Mail-In Application For Voter Registration, <https://sos-tn-gov-files.s3.amazonaws.com/forms/ss-3010.pdf>.
- ⁱⁱ T.C.A 2-2-109; Register to Vote, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/register-vote>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ How do I update my voter registration information?, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/how-do-i-update-my-voter-registration-information>.
- ^{iv} How do I update my voter registration information?, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/how-do-i-update-my-voter-registration-information>.
- ^v How do I update my voter registration information?, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/how-do-i-update-my-voter-registration-information>.
- ^{vi} How do I update my voter registration information?, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/how-do-i-update-my-voter-registration-information>.
- ^{vii} Absentee Voting, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/absentee-voting>.
- ^{viii} See also T.C.A. § 2-2-122.
- ^{ix} Absentee Voting, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/absentee-voting>.
- ^x Military/Overseas (UOCAVA) Absentee Information, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/militaryoverseas-uocava-absentee-information#4>.
- ^{xi} Eligibility to Vote after a Felony Conviction, <https://sos-tn-gov-files.tnsosfiles.com/forms/Eligibility%20to%20Vote%20after%20Felony%20Conviction.pdf>; *see also* Tenn. Const. Art. 1, § 5; T.C.A. § 40-20-112.
- ^{xii} Inmate Voting, <https://www.shelbycountyttn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2322/Inmate-Voting-2008-Summary-from-Election-Commis?bidId=>.
- ^{xiii} T.C.A. 2-2-105 and 2-2-106; Purging Voter Registration Information, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/purging-voter-registration-information>.
- ^{xiv} Early Voting – In Person, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/early-voting-person>.
- ^{xv} Early Voting – In Person, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/early-voting-person>.
- ^{xvi} What ID is required when voting?, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/what-id-required-when-voting>.
- ^{xvii} Absentee Voting, <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/absentee-voting>.
- ^{xviii} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-204.
- ^{xix} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-202; <https://www.shelbyvote.com/voting-absentee>.
- ^{xx} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-301(a).
- ^{xxi} <https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/absentee-voting>.
- ^{xxii} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-127.
- ^{xxiii} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-119.
- ^{xxiv} <https://sos-tn-gov-files.tnsosfiles.com/COVID-19%20Election%20Information.pdf>.
- ^{xxv} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-113.
- ^{xxvi} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-109.
- ^{xxvii} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-116.
- ^{xxviii} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-111.
- ^{xxix} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-124.
- ^{xxx} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-103.
- ^{xxxi} Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-112(a)(3)(A).