



Frequently Asked Questions

Missouri – General Election 2022

Last Updated: 11/2/2022

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.

REGISTERING TO
VOTE

ELECTION DAY

EARLY VOTE

VOTE BY MAIL

ABSENTEE

POLLING PLACE
ISSUES

ACCESSIBILITY
/ ASSISTANCE

QUESTIONS

Table of Contents

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?
2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?
3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?
4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?
5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?
6. **DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?
7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?
8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?
9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?
10. **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?
11. **LIVING ABROAD:** I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

- 12. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?
- 13. **INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

- 14. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?
- 15. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?
- 16. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line? ?
- 17. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?
- 18. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** Can I vote without providing identification?
- 19. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?
- 20. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING (in some states called "in-person absentee")

- 21. **AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?
- 22. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I have to have a reason to vote early?
- 23. **WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?
- 24. **WHERE:** Where do I vote during early voting?
- 25. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

- 26. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?
- 27. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?
- 28. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?
- 29. **APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?
- 30. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?
- 31. **RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?
- 32. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?
- 33. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or ballot?
- 34. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
- 35. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?
- 36. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?
- 37. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?
- 38. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 39. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 40. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

- 41. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?
- 42. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

- 43. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?
- 44. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?
- 45. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?
- 46. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?
- 47. **APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?
- 48. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?
- 49. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
- 50. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?
- 51. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?
- 52. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?
- 53. **BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 54. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 55. **LOST OR SPOILED:** What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?
- 56. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it?
- 57. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?
- 58. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

- 59. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?
- 60. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?
- 61. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?
- 62. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
- 63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?
- 64. **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?
- 65. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?
- 66. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?
- 67. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?
- 68. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?
- 69. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

- 70. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?
- 71. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?
- 72. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

QUESTIONS

- 73. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

To be eligible to register to vote in Missouri, a voter must

- 1. Be a citizen of the United States,
- 2. Be a resident of the State of Missouri, and
- 3. Be 17 years and 6 months of age (must be 18 by Election Day).

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?

Registered voters can vote in the primary election. Missouri does not require voters to “affiliate” with any political party when they register. Missouri has an “open” primary. In an open primary, voters may take a ballot for any party and vote for those candidates.

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

You can confirm 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/>). Voters may also directly contact their local election authority which updates the rolls. 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.

Also, if you have recently registered to vote, you will receive verification of registration. Within 7 to 10 business days of receiving your voter registration, the local election authority will send verification that your registration was received and processed. If you do not receive this confirmation, you should contact their local election authority. You can look up contact information for your local election authority using the tool at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localelectionauthority>.

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

You can register or update your registration through several different methods: entirely online (if you have access to a touch screen device on which you can sign your name); print & mail your application; register in person at your local election authority; or request an application to register to vote.¹ The Secretary of State's website has links to assist with all of these methods.

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register>

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

A person registering to vote before an election authority or registrar must present proof of United States citizenship and a form of personal identification, such as a valid Missouri Driver's License.² Documents proving citizenship include a birth certificate, a Native American tribal document or other citizenship documents.³ People who register online or by mail do not need to present these at the time of completing the application, but must present such identification the first time they cast a ballot.

6. **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 election deadline for the November 8, 2022 election is Wednesday October 12, 2022, however there are some special circumstances with different deadlines.

Generally, Missourians must apply to register to vote no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday prior to the election in which they intend to vote. If applying to register by mail, the 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 be submitted before midnight on the election deadline.

However, there are some circumstances where Missouri residents may register with a different deadline:

- Active members of the armed forces and their dependents who miss the registration deadline may still vote for federal offices only.
- Voters who moved to Missouri after the registration deadline for a presidential election are entitled to register and vote only a presidential and vice presidential ballot in their new jurisdiction.
- If you plan to register in person at a public building such as at the Department of Motor Vehicles Office, Armed Services Recruitment Offices, library, or other public building, registration must be completed before the normal closing time of the public building where registration is being held by the fourth Wednesday prior to Election Day. (October 12, 2022 for

¹ See MO Voter Eligibility and Registration Palm Card at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WvuxvscRgm2scFwn2WcE8rsq_u-fy1Da/view?usp=sharing (updated Sept. 2022)

² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.135(2)

³ MO Rev Stat § 115.135(2)

the November 8, 2022 election).

- A Missouri voter that was overseas, or a Missouri voter that is part of the United States Uniformed Services returning to the United States after the deadline to register to vote, and who is otherwise qualified to register to vote, may register to vote in an election in person before the election authority until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day. ⁴

Any eligible Missourian registering after the registration deadline will be registered to vote in future elections. The deadlines to register to vote in upcoming elections are available at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/calendar/>.

Under a new law that went into effect on August 28, 2022, Missouri voters who move no longer need to meet the voter registration deadline in order to update their voting address. Voters who move between election jurisdictions may now update their registration at any time, including on election day at the election office.

7. SAME DAY: [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

Missouri does not have same day voter registration. However, voters may update their registration addresses anytime, including at the election headquarters on Election Day, if they have moved within Missouri.

A registered voter who moved to a different address within the same county, or who moved from one county to another within Missouri may change their registration address anytime up to and including on Election Day at their new polling place or for those move from one jurisdiction to another, at the central polling location and cast a full regular ballot.

8. PERMANENT MOVE: [I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)

Locate the local election authority for your new address using the tool at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localelectionauthority>. Then, refer to the table below.

Moved within the same precinct	The voter should go to the appropriate polling place serving their new address. They will have to confirm their new address. The voter may also file a change of address and vote at the central polling location. The voter is not required to re-register in their new jurisdiction prior to the registration deadline, they may update their address at the polls.
Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	
Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)	
Moved from a different state	The voter must register anew in Missouri prior to the registration deadline. Voters who move to Missouri after the registration deadline can vote only a Presidential and Vice Presidential ballot in their new jurisdiction.

⁴ MO Rev Stat § 115.135(4)

* **NOTE:** *St. Louis City and St. Louis County are separate and distinct election jurisdictions, governed by different election authorities. And KC city limits is a separate election jurisdiction from the remainder of Jackson County.*

9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** *I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?*

If the voter has moved temporarily and still intends to return to their previous home, they can either vote in person at the polling place for their permanent address, or (if qualified) may request an absentee ballot to vote there. If the voter has no intention to return to their previous home and intends to make where they are living their residence either permanently or indefinitely, then they should register where they intend to permanently reside.⁵

10. **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?*

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 (for example, while they are in school).⁶ Such voters must register in the jurisdiction where they intend to vote by the voter registration deadline.

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

Missouri voters that are currently overseas, and Missouri voters that are part of the United States Uniformed services, National Guard, Federal Service, their spouse or dependent; any active military member whether stationed in the United States or overseas can use the Military and Overseas Voting Access Portal at <https://movotesportal.sos.mo.gov/movotes/voter/login.aspx>. to register to vote and request and receive their absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots for military/overseas voters are available 46 days before an election. Relatives within the second degree (spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) may complete an absentee ballot application absentee in person at the office of the voter's local election authority for an eligible voter wishing to vote. Absentee ballots can also be requested through the Military and Overseas Voting Access Portal or by completing a Federal Post Card Application and mailing it to their local election authority. Absentee ballots must be received by the voter's local election authority no later than 12:00 p.m. CST on the Friday following Election Day. For the November 8, 2022 general election, absentee ballots must be received by 12:00 p.m. November 11, 2022.

Active members of the armed forces and their dependents who missed the registration deadline may still vote for federal offices only. They can access a ballot at the Military and Overseas Voting Access Portal (<https://movotesportal.sos.mo.gov/movotes/voter/login.aspx>), or fill out the Federal Write-In Absentee ballot (FWAB) at <https://www.fvap.gov/portal/login/welcome.html> and mail it to their local election authority <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localelectionauthority>.

Voters serving or living overseas in a combat zone, hostile fire, or imminent danger area may return their

⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133; *Marre v. Reed*, 775 S.W.2d 951 (Mo. 1989).

⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133; *Chomeau v. Roth*, 72 S.W.2d 997, 999 (Mo. Ct. App.1934).

voted ballot and accompanying absentee affidavit by mail, fax, email, or through the Military and Overseas Voting Access Portal. A list of qualifying combat zones, hostile fire, or imminent danger areas is available at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/ElectionGoVoteMissouri/HostileFirezones.pdf>.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: [I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?](#)

In Missouri, a person is ineligible to vote upon conviction of a felony while they are under state supervision. A person may not 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 (i.e., probation or parole) for conviction of a felony.⁷ Those convicted of a felony do not become eligible until discharged from probation or parole (also known as being “off paper”).⁸ 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ Under a new law, those working as first responders, health care workers and law enforcement now also have a right to vote absentee.

13. INCARCERATED: [I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?](#)

In Missouri, a person is ineligible to vote upon conviction of a felony, but retains voting rights if incarcerated if the person has not yet been convicted. People who are incarcerated awaiting trial or conviction may apply for an absentee ballot.¹¹ Under a new law, those in jail who retain the right to vote no longer need to have their absentee ballots notarized.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

14. HOURS: [When do the polls open/close on Election Day?](#)

Missouri polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7:00 p.m., you will be permitted to vote so long as you do not leave the line.

***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.

15. POLLING LOCATION: [Where do I vote on Election Day?](#)

⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.4

⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.4.

⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.199.

¹⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.1(5)

¹¹ Mo. Rev. Stat §115.277.1(5)

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to questions #7 and #8

Individuals registered to vote can find their polling place at the Missouri Voter Information Lookup page. <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/>.

With the exception of St. Louis County, voters can only vote at their assigned polling place or, at the central polling place.¹²

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Following the COVID-19 Pandemic and Redistricting, polling places may 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.

16. CLOSING: What if the polls close when I am already in line? ?

Missouri polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7:00 p.m., you will be permitted to vote so long as you do not leave the line.

***Note to hotline volunteers:** 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.

17. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

¹³ ¹⁴ Missouri voters must show one of the following forms of photo ID to vote in person absentee or in person at the polls:

- Non-expired Missouri Driver's license or nondriver's license;
- A non-expired document issued by either the United States or Missouri which shows a photograph of the voter, contains the name of the voter which matches the most recent signature in the voter's registration record, includes an expiration date;
- Any photo ID issued by the Missouri National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces (including the Space Force), or the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs that is not expired or does not have an expiration date.

Voters who do not have one of these forms of ID but are registered can cast a blue 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. Voters should be reminded to ensure they complete and sign the form on the blue provisional envelope so it can be counted.

¹² Note: St. Louis County allows voters to cast a ballot at any St. Louis County polling location, as they have the ability to print individualized precinct-specific ballots for each voter. St. Louis City expects to use several centralized vote centers for the November 2022 elections as well.

¹³ Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.427 (as amended by H.B. 1878); legal challenge pending.

¹⁴ A Jan. 2020 Missouri Supreme Court decision in *Priorities USA v. State of Missouri* blocked part of Missouri's voter ID 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.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to new photo ID law (which is subject to litigation, and was not in effect for August 2, 2022 elections), we expect confusion by voters and poll workers on acceptable ID. Please escalate any reports of improper ID requests of voters.

Examples of voter ID circumstances to flag as problematic:

- voters asked to present one specific kind of photo ID, i.e., a driver's license
- voters asked to present a secondary form of ID
- Voters told their non-expired government photo ID is insufficient, or questioning whether the photo resembles the person
-
- voters not offered a provisional ballot if they present non-compliant ID
- Voters who are not directed to their correct polling place if not in their correct polling place (provision ballot will not count if cast in wrong polling place)

18. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

Under a new law, Missouri voters must present specific government-issued photo identification to cast a regular ballot in person. If you do not possess an approved form of identification (see Question #17) but you are a registered voter, you may cast a provisional ballot. Your ballot will count if either

1. You return to your polling place after casting your provisional ballot with a valid Missouri or federal photo ID before polls close on Election Day; or
2. The signature on your provisional ballot envelope is determined by your local election authority to match the signature on file with your voter registration record.

If you cast a provisional ballot, you will receive a stub from your provisional ballot envelope with instructions on how to verify that it is counted.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to new photo ID law (which is subject to litigation, and was not in effect for August 2, 2022 elections), we expect confusion by voters and poll workers on acceptable ID. Please escalate any reports of improper ID requests of voters.

Examples of voter ID circumstances to flag as problematic:

- voters asked to present one specific type of photo ID, i.e., a driver's license
- voters asked to present a secondary form of ID
- Voters told their non-expired government photo ID is insufficient, or questioning whether the photo resembles the person
- voters not offered a provisional ballot if they present no government issued photo ID
- Voters who are not directed to their correct polling place if not in their correct polling place (provision ballot will not count if cast in wrong polling place)

19. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

Missouri requires precinct-specific voting. In most jurisdictions, this means that a voter must vote in their assigned polling place (St. Louis County being a notable exception)¹⁵ or at central headquarters. If a voter believes they are registered at that polling place but their eligibility cannot be determined by the election official after calling the local election authority, the voter is entitled to cast a yellow provisional ballot.¹⁶

Provisional ballots cast at the wrong polling place will not count. If a voter appears at the polling place but their name cannot 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 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 (or central headquarters) 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 or central headquarters (in cases where it is determined the voter is at the incorrect location), the voter must be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.¹⁷

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.¹⁸

20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: *If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?*

If a voter's eligibility cannot be immediately established by examining the precinct roster, the poll worker is required to contact the election authority.¹⁹ If the voter is registered at a different polling place than 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

¹⁵ Missouri has precinct-specific voting, requiring voters to cast ballots at their assigned polling place. However, in **St. Louis County** voters may cast ballots at *any* polling place in the jurisdiction because their voting machines allow them to print an individual precinct-specific ballot for each voter when they check in to vote. In Kansas City, a voter may cast a ballot at any poll in the jurisdiction only *if* they are using an electronic voting machine to cast their ballot but cannot do so if voting by paper ballot. Voters in all other jurisdictions must appear at their assigned poll.

¹⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(2).

¹⁷ Under a new law (MO HB 1878) Missouri voters who move to a new election jurisdiction are no longer required to update their registration address by the voter registration deadline. Now voters who move may update their registration address at any time, up to and including on election day. The voter should inform the election worker they have moved and need to update their address. This is new for the November 2022 elections. This is likely to generate some confusion among voters and poll workers. Flag any poll worker refusal.

¹⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13).

¹⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

permit the voter to vote.²⁰ 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 local Election Protection attorney can assist them if needed). A voter who is registered in the jurisdiction may also update their registration or correct errors at the polls (ie., typos or misspellings of name or address); Missouri voters who have moved from one county to another can update their registration at election headquarters.

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.²¹ 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.²²

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](#)) (Note: Missouri's voter registration lookup is case sensitive and should not include suffixes like "road, blvd., street" etc)
- 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?
- **Ask:** Did the voter receive a postcard or mailing from their local election authority shortly before the election? This is sent pursuant to state law to everyone the local election authority has on their rolls as eligible to vote in that election.

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

(in some states called "in-person absentee")

21. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Missouri does not have "early voting," but under a new law, MO HB 1878, which into effect Aug. 28, 2022, voters **will be allowed to cast no-excuse absentee ballots in person only at their election authority two weeks before election day AND only upon presentation of a non-expired state issued photo ID.** However, voters who expect to be unable to vote at the polls may vote absentee beginning 6

²⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193(4).

²¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

²² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

weeks before Election Day until the day before Election Day. Any registered Missourian may cast an absentee ballot in person at the election authority or designated satellite locations beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying in advance or providing a reason for voting absentee. However in-person absentee voters are required to present requisite valid Missouri or Federal photo ID. No excuse absentee voting runs October 25, 2022 - 5pm on November 7, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election).

If a voter wishes to vote absentee prior to the second Tuesday before Election Day, the voter may cast excuse-based Absentee Ballot in-person at their local election authority or by mail beginning 6 weeks before election day.²³ Excuse-based absentee voting runs from September 27, 2022 - 5pm on November 7, 2022. Refer to Questions 43–58 for additional information.

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

Two weeks of no-excuse absentee voting: Beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day, any registered Missourian may cast an absentee ballot in person without providing a reason for voting absentee.

Six weeks of excuse-based absentee voting: A voter who wishes to vote absentee prior to the second Tuesday before Election Day may only do so if they expect to be prevented from going to their polling place on Election day. A list of acceptable reasons a voter expects to need to vote absentee are listed in Question 43. A new law makes changes to eligibility requirements to vote absentee.

23. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Excuse-based absentee voting: Registered Missourians who expect to be prevented from going to their polling place on Election Day may vote absentee in person or by mail beginning six weeks prior to an election. To be counted, completed absentee ballots must be received by the election authority at or before the polls close on Election Day (7:00 p.m.).

- For the November 8, 2022 elections, Excuse-Based mail or in-person Absentee voting begins September 27, 2022.

No-excuse required absentee voting: Registered Missourians may cast an absentee ballot in person only beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying for an absentee ballot or providing a reason for voting absentee. (October 25, 2022 - 5pm November 7, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election).

Voters can vote by absentee in the office of their local election authority (or designated satellite locations) until 5:00 pm the night before Election Day —Mon. Nov. 7 for the November 8, 2022 elections.

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

²³ Under a new law, MO HB 1878, which into effect Aug. 28, 2022, voters will be allowed to cast no-excuse absentee ballots in person only at their election authority two weeks before election day, and only upon presentation of a non-expired state issued photo ID. If the challenged photo ID provision is struck down, the no-excuse absentee voting is void and not available.

The voter may cast their Absentee Ballot in-person at their local election authority (or designated satellite locations) or by mail beginning 6 weeks before election day.

If voting in person on Election Day, with the exception of St. Louis County (where voters can vote at any location) voters can vote at their assigned polling place or at the central polling place. Individuals registered to vote can find their polling place at the Missouri Voter Information Lookup page. <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/>.

25. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

Application: First time-voters who registered by mail must provide a copy of their ID when they apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot.

Notarization: Voters must complete and sign the form on the absentee ballot mailing envelope. Absentee ballots cast due to excuse #2 "illness/confinement"; those in jail 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 signed in front of a notary, who may require a form of ID. Failure to complete and sign the form on the absentee ballot return envelope can result in the ballot being rejected.

Under a new law, in person Absentee voting now requires valid Missouri or Federally issued photo ID, the same as required for Election Day voting. Persons voting absentee in person will complete the application at the time they vote, and do not otherwise need to have their ballot notarized. Approved forms of identification are listed in Question 17.

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 if they did not provide a copy with their registration, either:

- A nonexpired Missouri driver or non-driver license;
- A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's ID card;
- A nonexpired United States passport; or
- Another photo ID issued by the United States or the state of Missouri which is either not expired or expired after the date of the most recent general election.

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

26. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

No. If a Missouri voter wishes to vote by mail, they must apply for an absentee ballot. Voters on the permanent absentee voter list will automatically receive an *application* (not a ballot) in the mail from their local election authority. An absentee ballot application is available at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/ElectionGoVoteMissouri/AbsenteeBallotrequestformfillable.pdf>.

Voters can also call or email their local election authority. Requests for absentee ballots can be made by mail, email, fax or in person.²⁴ Be sure to check one of the reasons for voting absentee and make sure the application is signed.

Voters casting an absentee ballot in person will complete the application at the same time they get their ballot.

Under a new law in effect beginning August 28, 2022, it is a Class 1 Election Offense (a felony) for anyone to “solicit” a voter into obtaining an absentee ballot application. This provision is being challenged in court.

27. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then any registered Missourian may cast can vote by mail ballot in person only beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying in advance or providing a reason for voting absentee. (Begins October 25, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election).

A voter who wishes to vote absentee by mail or in-person prior to the second Tuesday before Election Day may only do so if they expect to be prevented from going to their polling place on Election Day. Under a new law, some of those reasons have changed for the November 2022 elections. Such voters must submit an application for an absentee ballot listing one of the following reasons they *expect* to need to vote absentee:²⁵

1. Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such voter is registered to vote (typically meaning that they’ll be outside their county of residence).
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 and who resides at the same address²⁶ (NOTARY NOT REQUIRED);
3. Religious belief or practice;
4. Employment as (a) 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; (b) a first responder, (c) a health care worker or (d) a member of law enforcement²⁷
5. Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained (no notary required); or
6. Certified participation in the Missouri Safe at Home Program, an address confidentiality program established because of safety concerns.

The application for an absentee ballot must indicate ONE reason the voter is needing to vote absentee and must be signed. The election authority will vet the information on the application and, upon determining the voter is eligible to vote absentee, will mail the voter a ballot, along with an envelope to return their ballot.

²⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279(1).

²⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277(1). Note, this is based on the voter’s good faith expectation that one of the reasons (being out of town, or being ill) could prevent them from going to the polls on election day.

²⁶ Under a new law that went into effect on August 28, 2022, caretakers must now reside with the incapacitated individual to qualify to vote absentee by mail.

²⁷ Under a new law that went into effect on August 28, 2022, being employed as first responders, health care worker or law enforcement is now a valid basis to vote absentee.

An absentee ballot application may be submitted by mail, email, fax or in person, by the voter or by a close relative (within two degrees of consanguinity)

Under a new law in effect beginning August 28, 2022, it is a Class 1 Election Offense (a felony) for anyone to “solicit” a voter into obtaining an absentee ballot application. The statute does not define what activity constitutes soliciting an absentee ballot application. This provision is being challenged in court.

28. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then any registered Missourian may cast an absentee ballot in person at the election office or designated satellite locations beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying or providing a reason for voting absentee. (Begins October 25, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election). Those voting absentee in person prior to October 25, 2022 must check one of the acceptable reasons on the application. In person absentee voters must provide valid state-issued photo ID.

If a voter wishes to vote absentee by mail, their application must be completed by the voter. Applications to request a ballot by mail must be *received* by the election authority by 5:00 pm on the second Wednesday prior to an election.

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for the November 8, 2022 election is 5pm Wed. Oct. 26, 2022

Voters who did not request a ballot by mail by the deadline can cast an absentee ballot in person at the office of the local election authority (or satellite locations if available) until 5 p.m. the day before Election Day. **In-person requests must be done in the office of the local election authority or designated satellite locations by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.**²⁸

If a voter becomes hospitalized or confined after the mail ballot request deadline (October 26, 2022), upon the request of the voter or close relative, the election authority will appoint a team to deliver and witness and return the voter’s absentee ballot.²⁹ Voters needing this option should contact the election authority as soon as practicable after they realize they will be confined on election day. The Missouri Election Protection team can provide assistance in getting the election authority to deliver the voter a ballot.

Voters who cast absentee ballots in person may complete the application at their local election authority at the same time they cast their ballot.

29. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then applications for absentee ballots by mail can be made by mail, email, fax or in person.

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.2

Applications to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be *received* by the election authority no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday prior to Election Day. (Voters can cast an absentee ballot in person at their election authority until 5pm the day before Election Day). Voters requesting an absentee ballot by mail who have registered by mail and have not yet voted in person are required to submit a copy of their personal identification unless they provided a copy with their registration application.

Relatives within the second degree (spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) may complete an absentee ballot application, in person, on behalf of the voter who wishes to vote by absentee.³⁰

Such relatives may also deliver the completed ballot in person to the election authority on behalf of the voter who is voting absentee.³¹

30. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then voters must complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope (typically confirming their name address and reason for voting absentee), and sign the ballot envelope, in the presence of a notary if required. Ballots with incomplete statements or missing signature will likely be rejected.³²

Absentee Voters do not need to provide ID with their return ballot by mail. However, first-time voters who registered by mail must provide a copy of their ID with their ballot application if they've never voted before in Missouri. These are the same forms of identification required to cast a ballot: Examples of acceptable identification are:

- A nonexpired Missouri driver or non-driver license;
- A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's ID card;
- A nonexpired United States passport; or
- Another photo ID issued by the United States or the state of Missouri which is either not expired or expired after the date of the most recent general election.

See Question 25 for additional details.

31. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then according to the [form to request](#) a vote by mail ballot on the Missouri Secretary of

³⁰ Under a new law, MO HB 1878, slated to go into effect Aug. 28, 2022, it will be illegal to assist a voter in obtaining an absentee ballot application, or to pre-fill any portion of the form. We will be filing suit to challenge this provision.

³¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(2).

³² Under a new law, effective August 28, 2022, absentee ballots are deemed "cast" when received by the election authority, likely eliminating the right of voters to cure deficiencies or omissions (like a missing checkbox) on the absentee ballot envelope.

State website, the ballot can be sent to any address including a PO Box. It is not required to be a home, but has to be a physical address. However, regardless of where the absentee ballot is sent, the voter's registration must be at a physical address.

32. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: [What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?](#)

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then a voter who did not request an absentee ballot will need to vote using a REGULAR ballot at the polls.

Any registered Missourian may cast an absentee ballot in person beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying for an absentee ballot or providing a reason for voting absentee. (Begins October 25, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election).

Voters can vote by absentee in the office of their local election authority until 5:00 pm the night before Election Day — Mon. Nov. 7 for the November 8, 2022 elections.

33. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: [How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?](#)

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. However Missouri does not provide a central place to check the status of an absentee ballot. Many jurisdictions include a barcode and/or QR code on their ballot envelope that the voter can use to check the status of their ballot. Voters may call their local election authority to confirm receipt and processing of both their application and their ballot.

If the election authority is satisfied that the applicant is entitled to vote absentee, it will send the voter's absentee ballot within three working days of receiving the application.

34. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: [I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then if the election authority has reviewed an application and is satisfied the applicant is entitled to vote absentee, it will send the voter's absentee ballot within three working days of receiving the application, or if absentee ballots are not available when the application is received, within five working days after they become available.³³

However, if the election authority is not satisfied that the applicant is entitled to vote by absentee ballot, it will not deliver an absentee ballot to the applicant. Within three working days of receiving such an application, the election authority must notify the applicant and state the reason he or she is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

³³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1

The applicant may appeal the decision of the election authority to the circuit court in the manner provided in section 115.223³⁴

35. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then voters must complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope (typically confirming their name address and reason for voting absentee), and sign, in the presence of a notary if required. Absentee ballots must be returned in the provided postage pre-paid envelope, with the statement on the envelope signed and, where applicable, witnessed by a notary. In order to be counted, absentee ballots must be received by the election authority at or before the time fixed by law for the closing of the polls on Election Day (7:00 p.m.).³⁵

Voters do not need to provide ID with their return ballot by mail. However, first-time voters who registered by mail must provide a copy of their ID with their ballot application if they've never voted before in Missouri.

36. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then yes. If the voter is blind, unable to read or write the English language, or physically incapable of voting the ballot, the voter may be assisted by a person of the voter's own choosing.³⁶ Missouri state election law does not place a limit on the time voters can spend in the booth.

However, it is illegal to assist a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, coerce or initiate a suggestion as to how the voter should vote. If the election authority finds that any absentee ballot was voted with unlawful assistance, the ballot will be rejected.

Voters who need assistance reading or casting their ballot may request such assistance from **a person of their choice**.³⁷

37. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then in order to be counted, completed absentee ballots must be received by the election authority at or before the time fixed by law for the closing of the polls on Election Day (7:00 p.m.).

³⁴Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1

³⁵ Under a new law, effective August 28, 2022, absentee ballots are deemed “cast” when received by the election authority, likely eliminating the right of voters to cure deficiencies or omissions (like a missing checkbox) on the absentee ballot envelope.

³⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(1).

³⁷ MOVPC and partners have filed a federal lawsuit challenging Missouri assistance restrictions, which prohibit a person from providing assistance to more than one voter (outside of immediate family). The suit argues that the limitation prevents voters from having an assistant of their choice in violation of Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, and impedes organizations that would provide accessibility or language/translation assistance at the polls.

Absentee ballots can be returned in-person or by mail, by the voter or a close relative (2nd degree - spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) of voter.³⁸

Voters can vote by absentee in the office of their local election authority or designated satellite locations until 5:00 pm the night before Election Day — Mon. Nov. 7 for the November 8, 2022 elections.

38. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then all absentee and ballots must be returned only to the local election authority. There are no remote "drop boxes" in Missouri.³⁹ Ballots may only be returned to the local election authority. Ballots may not be returned at a polling place, library, courthouse or other government center aside from the election office. Absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the office of the election authority (including by curbside) or by mail, including private mail services like Fed Ex or UPS, by the voter or a close relative (2nd degree - spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) of voter.

39. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the office of the election authority or by mail, by the voter or a close relative (2nd degree - spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) of voter.

40. LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT: [What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it \(spoiled it\), or I received an incorrect ballot?](#)

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then a voter may vote in person after having requested an absentee ballot if the absentee ballot has not been submitted, received and recorded in the precinct register by the election authority by Election Day.

A voter can bring her 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 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 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 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.

³⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.291 (2).

³⁹ A new law bans drop boxes for absentee ballots. However, no drop boxes were previously used in the state.

A voter may not vote by both absentee ballot and regular in-person ballot on Election Day.⁴⁰ A voter may not return a completed absentee ballot at the polls on Election Day (those must be returned only to the election authority).

41. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then yes. A voter who requested but did not receive an absentee ballot can complete a “Lost Ballot Affidavit” at the polls for election authority and vote a REGULAR ballot on Election Day.

A voter who lost their absentee 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.

42. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Missouri does not offer vote by mail, only absentee ballots. If a voter meets the requirements of an absentee ballot, then a voter who requested and received, but did not submit an absentee ballot can bring the ballot to the polls or local election authority, surrender (or “spoil”) that ballot and vote a REGULAR ballot at the polls.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

43. ELIGIBILITY: Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

Any registered Missourian may cast an absentee ballot in person only beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying in advance or providing a reason for voting absentee. (Begins October 25, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election).

A voter who wishes to vote absentee by mail or in-person prior to the second Tuesday before Election Day may only do so if they expect to be prevented from going to their polling place on Election Day. Under a new law, some of those reasons have changed for the November 2022 elections. Such voters must submit an application for an absentee ballot listing one of the following reasons they *expect* to need to vote absentee:⁴¹

1. Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such voter is registered to vote (typically meaning that they’ll be outside their county of residence).
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

⁴⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.297.

⁴¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277(1). Note, this is based on the voter’s good faith expectation that one of the reasons (being out of town, or being ill) could prevent them from going to the polls on election day.

illness or disability and who resides at the same address⁴² (NOTARY NOT REQUIRED);

3. Religious belief or practice;
4. Employment as (a) 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; (b) a first responder, (c) a health care worker or (d) a member of law enforcement⁴³
5. Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained (no notary required); or
6. Certified participation in the Missouri Safe at Home Program, an address confidentiality program established because of safety concerns.

The application for an absentee ballot must indicate ONE reason the voter is needing to vote absentee and must be signed. The election authority will vet the information on the application and, upon determining the voter is eligible to vote absentee, will mail the voter a ballot, along with an envelope to return their ballot.

An absentee ballot application may be submitted by mail, email, fax or in person, by the voter or by a close relative (within two degrees of consanguinity)

Under a new law in effect beginning August 28, 2022, it is a Class 1 Election Offense (a felony) for anyone to "solicit" a voter into obtaining an absentee ballot application. The statute does not define what activity constitutes soliciting an absentee ballot application. This provision is being challenged in court.

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

Any registered Missourian may cast an absentee ballot in person at the election office or designated satellite locations beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying or providing a reason for voting absentee. (Begins October 25, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election). Those voting absentee in person prior to October 25, 2022 must check one of the acceptable reasons on the application. In person absentee voters must provide valid state-issued photo ID.

If a voter wishes to vote absentee by mail, their application must be completed by the voter. Applications to request a ballot by mail must be received by the election authority by 5:00 pm on the second Wednesday prior to an election.

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for the November 8, 2022 election is 5pm Wed. Oct. 26, 2022

Voters who did not request a ballot by mail by the deadline can cast an absentee ballot in person at the office of the local election authority (or satellite locations if available) until 5 p.m. the day before Election Day. **In-person requests must be done in the office of the local election authority or designated satellite locations by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.**⁴⁴

If a voter becomes hospitalized or confined after the mail ballot request deadline (October 26, 2022), upon the request of the voter or close relative, the election authority will appoint a team to deliver and witness and return the voter's absentee ballot.⁴⁵ Voters needing this option should contact the election

⁴² Under a new law that went into effect on August 28, 2022, caretakers must now reside with the incapacitated individual to qualify to vote absentee by mail.

⁴³ Under a new law that went into effect on August 28, 2022, being employed as first responders, health care worker or law enforcement is now a valid basis to vote absentee.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.2

authority as soon as practicable after they realize they will be confined on election day. The Missouri Election Protection team can provide assistance in getting the election authority to deliver the voter a ballot.

Voters who cast absentee ballots in person may complete the application at their local election authority at the same time they cast their ballot.

45. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

Voters must complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope (typically confirming their name address and reason for voting absentee), and sign the ballot envelope, in the presence of a notary if required. Ballots with incomplete statements or missing signature will likely be rejected.⁴⁶

Absentee Voters do not need to provide ID with their return ballot by mail. However, first-time voters who registered by mail must provide a copy of their ID with their ballot application if they've never voted before in Missouri. These are the same forms of identification required to cast a ballot: Examples of acceptable identification are:

- A nonexpired Missouri driver or non-driver license;
- A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's ID card;
- A nonexpired United States passport; or
- Another photo ID issued by the United States or the state of Missouri which is either not expired or expired after the date of the most recent general election.

See Question 25 for additional details.

46. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

If a voter becomes hospitalized or confined after the absentee ballot request deadline, the election authority will appoint a team to deliver and witness and return the voter's absentee ballot.⁴⁷ Voters needing this option should contact the election authority as soon as practicable after they realize they will be confined on election day. The request can be made by the voter or a close relative. The Missouri Election Protection team can provide assistance in getting the election authority to deliver the voter a ballot.

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

Applications for absentee ballots by mail can be made by mail, email, fax or in person.

Applications to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be *received* by the election authority no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday prior to Election Day. (Voters can cast an absentee ballot in person at their election authority until 5pm the day before Election Day). Voters requesting an

⁴⁶ Under a new law, effective August 28, 2022, absentee ballots are deemed "cast" when received by the election authority, likely eliminating the right of voters to cure deficiencies or omissions (like a missing checkbox) on the absentee ballot envelope.

⁴⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.2

absentee ballot by mail who have registered by mail and have not yet voted in person are required to submit a copy of their personal identification unless they provided a copy with their registration application.

Relatives within the second degree (spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) may complete an absentee ballot application, in person, on behalf of the voter who wishes to vote by absentee.⁴⁸

Such relatives may also deliver the completed ballot in person to the election authority on behalf of the voter who is voting absentee.⁴⁹

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

Missouri does not provide a central place to check the status of an absentee or mail in ballot. Many jurisdictions include a bar code and/or QR code on their ballot envelope that the voter can use to check the status of their ballot. Voters may call their local election authority to confirm receipt and processing of both their application and their ballot.

If the election authority is satisfied the applicant is entitled to vote absentee, it will send the voter's absentee ballot within three working days of receiving the application.

49. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If the election authority has reviewed an application and is satisfied the applicant is entitled to vote absentee, it will send the voter's absentee ballot within three working days of receiving the application, or if absentee ballots are not available when the application is received, within five working days after they become available.⁵⁰

However, if the election authority is not satisfied that the applicant is entitled to vote by absentee ballot, it will not deliver an absentee ballot to the applicant. Within three working days of receiving such an application, the election authority must notify the applicant and state the reason he or she is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

The applicant may appeal the decision of the election authority to the circuit court in the manner provided in section 115.223^{*51}

50. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Voters must complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope (typically confirming their name address and reason for voting absentee), and sign, in the presence of a notary if required. Absentee ballots must be returned in the provided postage pre-paid envelope, with the statement on the envelope signed and,

⁴⁸ Under a new law, MO HB 1878, slated to go into effect Aug. 28, 2022, it will be illegal to assist a voter in obtaining an absentee ballot application, or to pre-fill any portion of the form. We will be filing suit to challenge this provision.

⁴⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(2).

⁵⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1

⁵¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1

where applicable, witnessed by a notary. In order to be counted, absentee ballots must be received by the election authority at or before the time fixed by law for the closing of the polls on Election Day (7:00 p.m.).⁵²

Voters do not need to provide ID with their return ballot by mail. However, first-time voters who registered by mail must provide a copy of their ID with their ballot application if they've never voted before in Missouri.

51. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

Yes. If the voter is blind, unable to read or write the English language, or physically incapable of voting the ballot, the voter may be assisted by a person of the voter's own choosing.⁵³ Missouri state election law does not place a limit on the time voters can spend in the booth.

However, it is illegal to assist a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, coerce or initiate a suggestion as to how the voter should vote. If the election authority finds that any absentee ballot was voted with unlawful assistance, the ballot will be rejected.

Voters who need assistance reading or casting their ballot may request such assistance from a **person of their choice**.⁵⁴

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

In order to be counted, completed absentee ballots must be received by the election authority at or before the time fixed by law for the closing of the polls on Election Day (7:00 p.m.). Absentee ballots can be returned in-person or by mail, by the voter or a close relative (2nd degree - spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) of voter.⁵⁵

Voters can vote by absentee in the office of their local election authority or designated satellite locations until 5:00 pm the night before Election Day — Mon. Nov. 7 for the November 8, 2022 elections.

53. BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

All absentee and mail-in ballots must be returned only to the local election authority. There are no remote "drop boxes" in Missouri.⁵⁶ Ballots may only be returned to the local election authority. Ballots may not be returned at a polling place, library, courthouse or other government center aside from the election office. Absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the office of the election authority (including by curbside) or by mail, including private mail services like Fed Ex or UPS, by the voter or a

⁵² Under a new law, effective August 28, 2022, absentee ballots are deemed "cast" when received by the election authority, likely eliminating the right of voters to cure deficiencies or omissions (like a missing checkbox) on the absentee ballot envelope.

⁵³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(1).

⁵⁴ MOVPC and partners have filed a federal lawsuit challenging Missouri assistance restrictions, which prohibit a person from providing assistance to more than one voter (outside of immediate family). The suit argues that the limitation prevents voters from having an assistant of their choice in violation of Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, and impedes organizations that would provide accessibility or language/translation assistance at the polls.

⁵⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. §115.291 (2).

⁵⁶ A new law bans drop boxes for absentee ballots. However, no drop boxes were previously used in the state.

close relative (2nd degree - spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) of voter.

54. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: *Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?*

Absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the office of the election authority or by mail, by the voter or a close relative (2nd degree - spouse, parents, children, grandparents, sibling, grandchildren, and in-laws) of voter.

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

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

A voter can bring her 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 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 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 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.⁵⁷ A voter may not return a completed absentee ballot at the polls on Election Day (those must be returned only to the election authority).

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

Yes. A voter who requested but did not receive an absentee 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 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.

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

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

58. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: *Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?*

⁵⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.297.

Registered Missourian may cast an absentee ballot in person beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day without applying for an absentee ballot or providing a reason for voting absentee. (Begins October 25, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election).

Voters can vote by absentee in the office of their local election authority until 5:00 pm the night before Election Day — Mon. Nov. 7 for the November 8, 2022 elections.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed (or that the accessible entrance is not open), notify your hotline captain immediately.

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

See Questions 14 and 16 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.

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

If you can still vote on equipment at your polling place without an issue, please do so. If no equipment is functional, and you can wait at your polling place until it is fixed, please do so. If the polls are about to close, do not leave the polls, stay in line until the issue is fixed. At other times of the day, if you can return to the polls at a later time, that is an option for the voter. In St. Louis County you can vote at any polling place.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately. The Missouri EP team can help ensure that the matter is addressed immediately.

62. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** 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 equipment⁵⁸ and must post voting instructions in a visible place at each polling place,⁵⁹ including in the voting booth.⁶⁰ A voter may request a demonstration of the voting equipment by the poll workers.⁶¹ If, after entering the voting booth, the voter asks for further instructions, two election judges of different political parties shall give such instructions.⁶² Voters who need assistance reading or casting their ballot

⁵⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(1).

⁵⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(2).

⁶⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.421(2).

⁶¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(2).

⁶² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445(2).

may request such assistance from **a person of their choice**.⁶³ Missouri state election law does not place a limit on the time voters can spend in the booth.

63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

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 at the voter's request.⁶⁴ The voter (and immediate family members residing in the same household) 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.⁶⁵ 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.⁶⁶ Such sites must conform to nationally accepted accessibility standards.

Voters who have disabilities or impairments that they believe they cannot enter the polling place or wait in long lines inside the polling place also have the option of "curbside" voting. For any voter within 200 feet of a polling location who is unable to enter the location or wait in line due to physical disability, 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.⁶⁷ Voters do not need to present any paperwork or divulge any medical information to avail themselves of curbside voting. Any voter who believes she needs this assistance is entitled to it.

Please escalate tickets reflecting issues with significant delays in obtaining curbside voting, or voters whose requests for curbside voting are denied.

Persons with permanent disabilities or who are homebound can request to be placed on a designated permanent absentee list to automatically be mailed an absentee ballot application prior to each election.⁶⁸ 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.

64. **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?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting due to disability, blindness, or inability to read or write (including those with a limited proficiency to read or write English) is entitled to have **a person of their choice** (except their employer or union representative) provide assistance, which may include helping direct the voter to the ballot box, reading or translating the ballot to the voter, helping the voter set up accessible equipment (like headphones), marking the voter's choices assisting the voter in marking their choices on the ballot, or helping them cast the ballot or place it in the ballot feeder. The chosen assistant

⁶³ MOVPC and partners have filed a federal lawsuit challenging Missouri assistance restrictions, which prohibit a person from providing assistance to more than one voter (outside of immediate family). The suit argues that the limitation prevents voters from having an assistant of their choice in violation of Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, and impedes organizations that would provide accessibility or language/translation assistance at the polls.

⁶⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436(3).

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.115(5).

⁶⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436.

⁶⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.284.

does not need to be 18 years old, or a registered voter.⁶⁹ Alternatively, the voter may seek assistance from a bipartisan team of poll workers.

65. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Exit polling, surveying, sampling, electioneering, distributing election literature, posting signs or placing vehicles bearing signs with respect to any candidate or question to be voted on at an election on election day inside the building in which a polling place is located or within twenty-five (25) feet of the building's outer door closest to the polling place.⁷⁰ No one may attempt to influence a voter within 25 feet of the entrance. Voters should have clear ingress and egress from the polling place. Please escalate any reports of people or vehicles blocking clear access to entrances or intimidating voters.

Clothing/Materials - no one may “electioneer” inside a polling place, including wearing clothing or accessories that endorse a candidate, political party or ballot issue. (Generalized statement t-shirts are ok). A poll worker may request that voter remove or turn the clothing inside out. However, voters may bring with them a sample ballot that they have filled out, or election protection materials into the polls.

66. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

The identity or qualifications (e.g., residency) of any voter may be challenged by an election worker, any registered voter or a credentialed challenger at the polls.⁷¹ A challenge does not automatically result in a provisional ballot or the voter being turned away. Rather, it sparks a verification by the poll worker to confirm the voter's identity or qualifications. If the voter's identity and qualifications are verified by the poll roster and/or a call to the election authority, the voter is entitled to cast a regular ballot.

A challenger may not speak directly to the voter, but may assert a challenge and the basis for the challenge to the poll worker as the voter checks in. Doubt concerning the voter's eligibility is decided by a majority of the judges from the major political parties, and if they cannot decide, by the election authority. A voter who is denied can appeal to the election authority under 115.193 or file a complaint with the Secretary of State office under 115.219.⁷² A challenged voter may be asked to execute a statement affirming their qualifications. Challengers are not allowed to speak to voters, disrupt the voting process or intimidate voters. Challenges must be based on cause. Escalate reports of baseless or overly aggressive challengers.

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

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately and encourage the voter/poll monitor to take a picture with their phone if they can do so safely. Intimidation of voters is illegal, including by police. Police may be present

⁶⁹ Missouri law prohibits assisting more than one voter in any election, outside of an immediate family member. MOVPC and partners have filed a federal lawsuit challenging Missouri assistance restrictions, which prohibit a person from providing assistance to more than one voter (outside of immediate family). The suit argues that the limitation prevents voters from having an assistant of their choice in violation of Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, and impedes organizations that would provide accessibility or language/translation assistance at the polls.

⁷⁰ Mo Rev. Stat. § 115.637(18)

⁷¹ Mo Rev. Stat. § 115.149.2 . Note, under a new law in effect as of August 28, 2022, challengers are no longer required to be residents of the jurisdiction in which they are serving as a challenger, potentially opening the potential to intimidation by outsiders. Please escalate any such reports of intimidation or improper challenges.

⁷² Mo Rev. Stat. § 115.149.3,4

at poll sites for official police business, for example, transporting an election official, or picking up mid-day ballots, but they cannot linger or constrain access to the poll entrances in a way that is intimidating (i.e., requiring people to navigate around a police car). Context is important here - are law enforcement behaving in a way that voters find intimidating? Get specific data on number of police, location, what they are doing and/or saying to voters, and encourage a voter who is outside to take a picture. Aside from limited police business, police should not be inside the voting area.

68. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

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;⁷³
- 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;⁷⁴
- 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;⁷⁵ or
- The election authority receives notice of a voter's death or judicial judgment of incapacity, conviction of a felony, or conviction of a misdemeanor connected to the right to vote.⁷⁶

If a voter's eligibility cannot be immediately established by examining the precinct roster, the poll worker should contact the election authority.⁷⁷ If the voter is registered at a different polling place than the one at which they have appeared, the poll worker should direct the voter to their 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.⁷⁸ 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 local Election Protection attorney can assist them if needed). A voter who is registered in that election jurisdiction may also update their registration or correct errors at the polls (ie., typos or misspellings of name or address). Under a new law, Missouri voters who have moved from one jurisdiction to another may update their registration address anytime, including at Election headquarters on Election Day.

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 yellow provisional ballot.⁷⁹ 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.⁸⁰

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.

⁷³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193(1).

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.165(4).

⁷⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.195, 115.199.

⁷⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

⁷⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193(4).

⁷⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

⁸⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

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](#)) (Note: Missouri's voter registration lookup is case sensitive and should not include suffixes like "road, blvd., street" etc)
- 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 [Questions 8–9](#))
- 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?
Ask: Did the voter receive a postcard or mailing from their local election authority shortly before the election? This is sent pursuant to state law to everyone the local election authority has on their rolls as eligible to vote in that election.

69. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?
There are several reasons a voter might be offered a provisional ballot.

No Identification:

Under a new law Missouri voters must present valid Missouri or Federal photo identification to cast a ballot in person. If you do not possess an approved form of identification (see [Question 17](#)) but you are a registered voter, you may cast a blue provisional ballot. Your ballot will count if either

1. You return to your polling place after casting it with a valid Missouri or federal photo ID; or
2. The signature on your provisional ballot envelope is determined by your local election authority to match the signature on file with your voter registration record.

If you cast a provisional ballot due to not having ID, be sure to complete all parts of the form on the blue provisional ballot envelope, be sure you sign the ballot envelope and ensure that two poll workers sign the envelope. Incomplete forms may cause your ballot to be rejected. You will receive a stub from your provisional ballot envelope with instructions on how to verify that it is counted.

Not on the roster:

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 yellow provisional ballot.⁸¹ 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.⁸² However, **provisional ballots cast at the wrong polling place will not count.**

Individuals registered to vote can find their polling place at the Missouri Voter Information Lookup page. <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/>.

⁸¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

⁸² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

Except for St. Louis County (where voters can cast a ballot at any polling place), voters can only vote at their assigned polling place or at a central polling place.

Please see Questions 19 and 20 for additional information.

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.⁸³

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

70. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Yes. Missouri is not required to provide bilingual voting materials, poll workers or provide translators to limited English proficient voters.⁸⁴ However, both Missouri and federal law guarantee the right of a voter unable to read the ballot to be assisted by a person of their choice.⁸⁵

Voters who need assistance reading or casting their ballot may request such assistance from **a person of their choice**.⁸⁶ Missouri state election law does not place a limit on the time voters can spend in the booth.

71. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

Voters who have disabilities or believe they cannot physically enter the polling place or wait in long lines inside the polling place also have the option of “curbside” voting. For any voter within 200 feet of a polling location who is unable to enter the location or wait in line due to physical disability, 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.⁸⁷ Voters do not need to present paperwork documenting their condition or divulge any medical information to avail themselves of curbside voting. Any voter who believes she needs this assistance is entitled to it. Some jurisdictions will have signage, a phone number or buzzer to alert people to curbside voting and others may not. Anyone may alert a poll worker that a voter outside needs curbside voting.

⁸³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13).

⁸⁴ The Voters Rights Act 52 U.S.C.A. § 10503 (West) requires certain states or political subdivisions to provide voting materials (registration and voting notices forms, instructions, assistance, and other materials) in both English and the language of applicable minority groups, which are determined by the Director of the Census (based on the 2010 census). Missouri is not covered under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act and is not required to provide bilingual materials or translation services.

⁸⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445.3; Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. § 10508

⁸⁶ MOVPC and partners filed a federal lawsuit challenging Missouri assistance restrictions, which prohibit a person from providing assistance to more than one voter (outside of immediate family). The suit argues that the limitation prevents voters from having an assistant of their choice in violation of Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, and impedes organizations that would provide accessibility or language/translation assistance at the polls.

⁸⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436.

Please escalate tickets reflecting issues with significant delays in obtaining curbside voting, or voters whose requests for curbside voting are denied.

72. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

You can bring your notes, a voter's guide, or a sample ballot into the voting booth. Some polling places do restrict cell phone use, so bring paper copies instead of using your phone. Taking photos inside the voting station is prohibited. You can also check the rules with your local election office before you go.⁸⁸

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localelectionauthority>

QUESTIONS

73. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

The Missouri Secretary of State can be contacted at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker/contact.asp>

The website for the Secretary of State has contact information for the election officials for each jurisdiction: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localelectionauthority>

Concerns regarding any of the above can be escalated to your hotline supervisor. The Missouri Election Protection Team has established protocols for escalating tickets and undertaking advocating and/or litigation with election authorities.

⁸⁸ <https://www.usa.gov/voter-research>