



Frequently Asked Questions

Tennessee – General Election 2022

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

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

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REGISTERING TO VOTE

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

An individual is eligible to register to vote if they are:

- A United States citizen;
- Eighteen (18) years of age or older, on or before the date of the next election; and
- A resident of Tennessee.

Eligibility may be affected if an individual has been convicted of a felony. See question # 12.

Tennessee has procedures for homeless or unhoused persons to register to vote. See: [Registering without an address](#)

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?

To vote in the primary election a voter must choose either a Republican or Democratic ballot. If you do not select either you will receive a general ballot and will not be able to vote for candidates who are running for office based on their political affiliation.

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

Voters may check registration status using the Tennessee Department of State's Voter Registration Information Lookup webpage: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>.

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

Qualified voters¹ must register to vote no later than thirty (30) days before the election. For the November 8, 2022 election the registration deadline is Tuesday October 11.

Qualified voters may either (1) download and print a Voter Registration Application² to be either hand delivered or mailed to their county election commission;³ or (2) register to vote online through the Tennessee Online Voter Registration System.⁴ On-line registration requires a Tennessee driver's license or other ID issued by the TN Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security.⁵

If a qualified voter does not have access to a computer and/or a printer, the voter may pick up paper voter registration application in person at the following locations:

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

A qualified voter may also register to vote during a transaction with one of the following agencies:

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

¹ See Question # 1.

² Found at:

https://sos-prod.tnsosgovfiles.com/s3fs-public/document/ss-3010_0.pdf?VersionId=kZmtnGze2_Cuduca8HZ6Z_uWTox4JDhG.

³ Voters can search for their County Election Commission at: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

⁴ Found at: <https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/>.

⁵ Per phone call with attorney in SoS Elections Office 9/9/2022

- Department of Veteran's Affairs

NOTE: Some Tennessee municipalities allow otherwise eligible owners of real property within the municipality to register and vote in municipal elections even if they live elsewhere (where they are **also** registered to vote). Non-resident property owners must provide proof of property ownership at the time of registration. No more than two owners of an individual tract may register on that basis, regardless of the number of owners. Consult the local election commission office or the city attorney for further information. T.C.A. 2-2-107.⁶

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

The registration application requires a social security number and a signature, but not a photo ID.

On-line registration also requires a Tennessee driver's license or other ID issued by the TN Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security.

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?

Qualified voters⁷ must register to vote no later than thirty (30) days before the election. The deadline is not dependent upon how the voter registers. For the November 2022 general election that date is October 11.

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

Tennessee does not offer Same Day Registration for persons moving from another state or from one Tennessee county to another.

However, registered Tennessee voters who moved *within* a county but did not update their address in the voter registration system may do so at an early voting site for their new address, and then vote a regular ballot. On Election Day they may complete an affidavit at their new polling location or a central location designated by the county election office before voting a regular ballot.

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

If a voter moves *from a different state or county* their voter registration will not transfer. They cannot vote unless they register in the appropriate county in Tennessee, no later than thirty (30) days before the election.⁸

If a voter moves *within* the same county they may, no later than five (5) days before an election, submit an updated and signed voter registration form online, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email to their local county election commission office. Alternatively, the voter may update their address and participate in Early Voting at any early voting location within their county. On Election Day they can vote at either their new polling location or at a central location designated by the county election commission office after completing an affidavit.

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

⁶ [sos election website](#)

⁷ See Question # 1.

⁸ See Question # 4.

The voter can request to vote absentee by mail if the voter will be outside the county where they are registered during the early voting period and all day on Election Day. Otherwise, the voter must vote at the polling place in the county where the voter permanently resides. A voter can find their polling place here: [polling place locator](#).

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 should register to vote in the place that their permanent residence is located. A student's permanent residence does not necessarily change because they attend classes at a school in Tennessee. Factors that Tennessee may consider in determining a voter's residency can be found here: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/guidelines-determining-residency>.

If the student is taking classes remotely the student should register to vote in the county/state that they reside in, not the county/state that the school is located in.

If the student is registered in a different state, they may check with that corresponding Secretary of State to determine where/how they can vote. If the student is registered to vote in a different Tennessee county than the county the school is located in, they may qualify to vote absentee by mail.⁹

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

The following individuals may request an absentee ballot by completing a Federal Post Card Application, also known as Form 76 or FPCA:

- Military personnel,¹⁰ their spouses and dependents who are United States citizens and residents of Tennessee;
- United States citizens who are residents of Tennessee, but who are currently residing overseas;
- United States citizens who reside outside the U.S., but for living outside of the U.S., would be qualified to vote in Tennessee; and
- Individuals who have never lived in the United States, but who have a parent that is eligible to vote in Tennessee

An online version of the Federal Post Card Application can be found at <https://www.fvap.gov/fpca-privacy-notice>. The signed application can be mailed, faxed (check to be sure the county election office has a fax machine) or emailed to the local county election commission.¹¹

If the voter was not registered prior to requesting an absentee ballot, their application for an absentee ballot will be treated as an application for temporary registration.

⁹ See question #'s 7 & 9.

¹⁰ Military Personnel include members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Environmental Science Service Administration, Public Health Service of the United States or members of the Merchant Marine of the United States.

¹¹ Contact information can be found at: http://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

A voter must request a Federal Post Card Application no earlier than ninety (90) days and no later than seven (7) days before the given election. The absentee ballot can be provided by e-mail or mail and it must be received by the close of polls on election day. It cannot be faxed.

After timely requesting an official absentee ballot, military personnel, their family members and overseas voters who feel that there may not be a sufficient amount of time to receive and then return the voted ballot may also use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB): <https://www.fvap.gov/fwab-privacy-notice>. The completed FWAB must be received by the close of the polls on election day.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: *I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?*

Voters who have a felony conviction that has not been expunged may not be eligible to vote. The voter's eligibility depends upon the crime they were convicted of and the date of the conviction. Detailed information about eligibility to vote: [restoration-of-voting-rights](#). A voter with a felony conviction may also be eligible to have their voting rights restored: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/restoration-of-voting-rights>.

13. INCARCERATED: *I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?*

If a voter is incarcerated for a misdemeanor or is awaiting trial for any charge and has not previously lost their voting rights due to a prior conviction, they may register to vote and request an absentee ballot.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

14. HOURS: *When do the polls open/close on Election Day?*

Poll open and closing times vary by county. Generally, polls open between 7am and 8am and polls in the Eastern time zone close at 8:00 pm local time, those in the Central time zone close at 7:00 pm, local time. To check voting times, voters may visit: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php?Show=All.

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

Polling locations are based on the voter's address. Voters can look up their polling location using the GoVoteTN App (available for phone and computer),¹² or the interactive feature on the Secretary of State's website: [voter lookup](#)

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

Tennessee law requires that everyone in line before closing time be allowed to vote regardless of when the polls opened.

17. IDENTIFICATION: *What identification is required to vote?*

¹² See <https://sos.tn.gov/elections/services/download-the-govotetn-app>.

A federal or Tennessee ID containing the voter's name and photograph is required for voting, unless an exemption applies. Exemptions include:

- Voters who vote absentee by mail;
- Voters who are residents of a licensed nursing home or an assisted living center and who vote at the facility;
- Voters who are hospitalized;
- Voters with a religious objection to being photographed; or
- Voters who are indigent and unable to obtain a photo ID without paying a fee.

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

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

If your ID is expired and you are a first-time voter who registered by mail or using online voter registration, you must also present:

- A copy of a current utility bill;
- A bank statement;
- A government check;
- A paycheck; or
- Another government document that shows the voter's name and address.

IDs that are not accepted include:

- College student IDs; and
- Photo IDs not issued by the federal or Tennessee state government including county or city issued photo IDs, such as library cards, and photo IDs issued by other states.

If a voter is unsure or has questions about whether their photo ID is acceptable, they may contact the county election commission¹³ or the Division of Elections.¹⁴

If the voter does not have a photo ID, they can obtain a free photo ID to vote from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security at any participating driver service center across the state.¹⁵

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

You may vote without providing identification if you:

¹³ Contact info can be found here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

¹⁴ The Division of Elections can be contacted at 1-877-850-4959.

¹⁵ Visit the Department of Safety and Homeland Security's Voter Photo ID page for more information: <https://www.tn.gov/safety/driver-services/photoids.html>.

- Vote absentee by mail;
- Are a resident of a licensed nursing home or an assisted living center and vote at the facility;
- Are hospitalized;
- Have a religious objection to being photographed; or
- Are indigent and unable to obtain a photo ID without paying a fee.

If you vote in person and do not bring a photo ID, you can vote with a provisional ballot. You will then have ONLY two (2) business days after Election Day to return to the election commission office to show a valid photo ID. Upon returning to the election commission office, the voter will sign an affidavit and a copy of the voter's photo ID will be made to be reviewed by the counting board.

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?

Yes. If a voter claims to be properly registered in the county and eligible to vote at the precinct in the election, but their eligibility cannot be determined, the voter shall be entitled to vote with a provisional ballot after completing an original voter registration application and supplying verification of the voter's residential address.

20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot

In person voters who do not bring a photo ID, can request a provisional ballot. Voters will then have ONLY two (2) business days after Election Day to return to the election commission office to show a valid photo ID. Upon returning to the election commission office, the voter will sign an affidavit and a copy of the voter's photo ID will be made to be reviewed by the counting board.

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)?

Yes. Tennessee has early in-person voting for all registered voters, and early voting by mail (absentee voting) for individuals who meet certain criteria. See question # 27.

The early voting period typically begins twenty (20) days before an election and ends five (5) days before an election. Polls are closed on Sundays and holidays during that period.

For the November 8, 2022 State and Federal Election, Tennessee's early voting period begins Wednesday, October 19, 2022 and ends Thursday, November 3, 2022. Polls are closed on Sundays and holidays during that period.

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

Anyone can vote early in person. Only individuals meeting certain criteria may vote early by mail. See question # 27.

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

Generally, a person may vote early on any day (except Sundays and holidays) during the early voting period (see Question #21).¹⁶

For the November 8, 2022 Election, Tennessee's early voting period begins Wednesday, October 19, 2022 and ends Thursday, November 3, 2022.

However, dates and hours may vary based on where the voter lives. For details regarding times and early voting locations, registered voters may use the GoVoteTN.gov app on phone or computer, the Registered Voter [voter lookup](#) on the GoVoteTN website, or contact their local county election commission office.¹⁷

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

A voter may contact their local county election commission office to find out where to vote during early voting.¹⁸ Or a voter can use the GoVoteTN.gov app for phones and computers, and the interactive feature on the Secretary of State's website: [voter lookup](#)

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

See question #17

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

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

No. Tennessee voters must submit an application requesting an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be requested no earlier than ninety (90) days before the election and no later than seven (7) days before the election to receive an absentee ballot.

Voters who qualify for the permanent absentee list will automatically receive an application for ballot for each election. To qualify for the permanent absentee list, a voter's licensed physician must sign a statement stating that, in their judgment, the voter is medically unable to vote in person. The statement must be filed not less than seven (7) days before the election and signed under the penalty of perjury.

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

¹⁶ Early Voting Information at: [early-vote-in-person guide](#)

¹⁷ Contact information can be found here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

¹⁸ Contact information can be found here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

Yes, a voter can only vote absentee by-mail if they fall under one of the following categories:

- They are sixty (60) years of age or older;
- They will be outside the county where they are registered during all hours of the early voting period and all day on Election Day;
- They are hospitalized, ill¹⁹ or physically disabled and unable to appear at their polling place to vote, including persons who have underlying medical or health conditions which in their determination render them more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 or at greater risk should they contract it. For a list of underlying health conditions that makes a person more susceptible, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>. A physician's statement is **not** required to check this box.
- They are the caretaker of a person who is hospitalized, ill, or disabled (this includes caretakers for persons who have underlying medical or health conditions which in their determination render them more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 or at greater risk should they contract it). A physician's statement is **not** required to check this box.
- They or their spouse are a full-time student in an accredited college or university outside the county where they are registered.
- They reside in a nursing home, assisted living facility or home for the aged outside their county of residence.
- Candidates for office in the election.
- Those observing a religious holiday that prevent them from voting in person during the early voting period and on Election Day.
- You serve as an Election Day official or as a member or employee of the election commission.
- You will be unable to vote in-person due to jury duty.
- You have a physical disability and an inaccessible polling place.
- You or your spouse possess a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) or Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card and you will be working outside the state or county of registration during the open hours of early voting and Election Day and have no specific out-of-county or out-of-state address to which mail may be sent or received during such time.
- You are a member of the military, National Guard, or are an overseas citizen.
- You are on the permanent absentee list (medically unable to vote in person as noted by a signed statement from your physician).

NOTE: first time voters **must** appear in-person to vote, unless they are permanent absentee voters, enrolled in the Safe at Home program, or have previously voted in the county of registration.

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

The application to receive an absentee ballot must be received by the election commission no earlier than ninety (90) days before the election and no later than seven (7) days before the election. There are no allowances for late requests. The application can be found here: [Application](#)

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?

¹⁹ Confirmed by phone call with TN SoS on 9/9/2022.

The application may be submitted by mail, fax or email to the voter's county election commission. If emailed, the voter must scan and attach the completed form to the email.²⁰

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

Voters who vote absentee by mail are not required to submit photo ID when submitting their ballots.

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?

The ballot may be mailed to an address that is different than the voter's home address. Voters do not have to have a home address, but must provide a mailing address where the voter can receive mail. For example, you may provide the address of a shelter or a family member/friend who agrees to receive the mail. Note that absentee ballot materials cannot be mailed to "general delivery."

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

If a voter has not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline they will be unable to vote by mail unless they qualify for an emergency absentee ballot. See question # 46. However, they can still vote in person.

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

Voters may check the status of their absentee ballot on Tennessee's voter lookup page on the Division of Elections homepage: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>. Voters will be able to track when the ballot was received by the local county election commission office.

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?

Voters will receive written notice of rejected absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots with a reason for the rejection. If the absentee ballot application is rejected due to missing information, a voter can resubmit the absentee ballot application after supplying the required information.

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

After receiving the absentee ballot, the voter should fill it out and sign the appropriately related affidavit, and submit the absentee ballot by mail. There must be a wet ink signature on the absentee ballot submitted (no digital signatures). Voter signatures on absentee ballots will be compared to the voter signature on record.

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

²⁰ A voter's election commission address can be found at https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

Yes, a voter may have anyone the voter chooses assist in filling out the voter's absentee ballot except for the voter's signature or mark. However, a person convicted of voter fraud in any state may not assist a person in voting by absentee 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?

Voters must mail their ballots in time for their county election commission to **receive** them no later than the close of polls on Election Day. Voters must return their ballot by mail (USPS, FedEx, UPS, etc.). Voters may not deliver ballots by hand during early voting or on Election Day.

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

Hand delivery during early voting or on Election Day is not permitted.

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

No, hand delivery during early voting or on Election Day is not permitted.

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?

Voters should notify their county election commission.

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

Voters should notify their county election commission.

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

Voters who have requested or received a mail-in ballot may vote in person by provisional ballot on election day.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

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

A voter can only vote absentee by-mail if they fall into a specified category. See question #27. However, first-time voters who are not permanent absentee voters or enrolled in the Safe at Home program must appear in-person to vote.

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

The application to receive an absentee ballot must be received by the election commission no earlier than ninety (90) days before the election and no later than seven (7) days before the election. There are no allowances for late requests. The application can be found here: .

45. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

Voters who vote absentee by mail do not have photo identification requirements when submitting their ballot.

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

Yes. Tennessee allows persons who have been hospitalized in their county of residence within twenty (20) days of an election, and who will be unable to vote in-person on election day, to request an emergency absentee ballot. Ballots must be requested no more than twenty (20) days before the election and no later than the opening of the polls on election day.²¹ There are also special in-person procedures for voters who will not be able to vote on Election Day due to the sudden death of a relative or receipt of a subpoena or service of process. See TN Code § 2-6-401.

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

The application may be submitted by mail, fax or email to the voter's county election commission. If emailed, the voter must scan and attach the completed form to the email.²²

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

Voters may check the status of their absentee ballot on Tennessee's voter lookup page on the Division of Elections homepage: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>. Voters will be able to track when the ballot was received by the local county election commission office.

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?

Voters will receive written notices of rejected absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots with reasons for the rejection. If the absentee ballot application is rejected due to missing information, a voter can resubmit the absentee ballot application after supplying the required information.

²¹ TN Code § 2-6-401 (2015)

²² A voter's election commission address can be found https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

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

The voter should fill it out and sign the appropriate relating affidavit, and submit the absentee ballot by mail. There must be a wet ink signature (no digital signatures accepted) on the absentee ballot. Voter signatures on absentee ballots will be compared to the voter signature on record.

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

Yes. See question # 36.

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

Voters must mail their ballot in time for their county election commission to **receive** it no later than the close of polls on Election Day. Voters must return their ballot by mail (USPS, FedEx, UPS, etc.). Hand delivery during early voting or on Election Day is not permitted.

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

No hand delivery during early voting or on Election Day is permitted.

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

Hand delivery during early voting or on Election Day is not permitted.

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

Voters should notify their county election commission.

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

Voters should notify their county election commission.

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

Voters who have requested or received an absentee ballot may vote in person by provisional ballot on election day.

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

In-person absentee (also known as early voting) is available for all registered voters in Tennessee. A voter may use the Registered Voter Lookup on the SoS website: [lookup](#), or the GoVoteTN app, or contact their local county election commission office to find out where to vote during early voting.²³ The early voting period typically

²³ Contact information can be found here: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

begins twenty (20) days before an election and ends five (5) days before an election. Polling places are closed on Sundays and holidays during that period.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

If the polling place is not open or is not open on time or is closed during voting hours, the voter should contact their county election commission immediately.²⁴

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, 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?

Tennessee law requires that everyone in line before the time at which the polls close be allowed to vote regardless of when the polls opened.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?

Voters who have a physical disability that does not allow them to mark the ballot can be assisted by a person of the voter's selection or by a judge. Selections made by a judge must be done in the presence of a second judge from a different political party (or, if not available, an election official of a different political party).

²⁴ Found at: https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php.

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?

Voters who are blind, unable to speak or read English, or have another physical disability that does not allow them to mark the ballot can be assisted by a person of the voter's selection or by a judge. Selections made by a judge must be done in the presence of a second judge from a different political party (or, if not available, an election official of a different political party).

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

No campaigning of any kind (e.g. posters, signs, and solicitation) is allowed within one hundred (100) feet of the entrance of any polling place. Voters should not be approached about an election campaign within this radius.

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

If a voter's vote is formally challenged, the voter may be required to answer questions under oath. A vote can only be challenged on the basis of the following:

- The voter is not a registered voter in Tennessee and did not vote a provisional ballot;
- The voter is not a resident of the precinct where the person seeks to vote;
- The voter is not the registered voter under whose name the person has applied to vote;
- The voter has already voted in the election; or
- The voter has become ineligible to vote in the election being conducted at the polling place since the person registered.

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

No police or law enforcement personnel can be within ten (10) feet of any polling place or enter any polling place unless requested to do so by an election official or to vote.

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

If a voter claims to be properly registered in the county and eligible to vote at the precinct in the election, but their eligibility cannot be determined, the voter shall be entitled to vote with a provisional ballot after completing an original voter registration application and supplying verification of the voter's residential address.

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

Provisional ballots should only be provided if:

- The voter's eligibility cannot be determined by the computer signature list or by examination of the permanent registration records on file with the county election commission;
- An election official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote (i.e., a challenge);
- The voter requested an absentee ballot;

- The voter is unable to present evidence of identification; or
- The situation is similar to those above, in that the voter believes they are entitled to cast a ballot (e.g., the voter thinks they are at the correct polling place, but are unsure).

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

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?

Voters who are unable to speak or read English can be assisted by a person of the voter's selection or by a judge. Selections made by a judge must be done in the presence of a second judge from a different political party (or, if not available, an election official of a different political party).

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

Tennessee does not provide curbside voting.

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

Yes. Voters may bring a voting guide or reference notes into the voting booth. Voters may also bring an electronic device for informational purposes to assist the voter in making election decisions, but they may be asked to silence the device.

QUESTIONS

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

Voters should contact their local county election commission office with questions about any of the information above. Find your local county election commission office here:

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

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