

Frequently Asked Questions

Missouri – General Election 2024

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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

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

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 need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party’s primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?
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, or online?
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 felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?
13. **INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?
14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?
16. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?
17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?
18. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?
19. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?
20. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** Can I vote without providing identification?
21. **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?
22. **GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?
23. **REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?
24. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS:** I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING (In this state, defined as: In Person Absentee Ballot)

25. **AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or something else)?
26. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need to have a reason to vote early?
27. **WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?
28. **WHERE:** Where do I vote during early voting?
29. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?
30. **ASSISTANCE:** What if I need assistance voting early in person?

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL (In this state, defined as: Absentee Voting by Mail)

31. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?
32. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?
33. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?
34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** Can someone assist me with filling out the application?
35. **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?
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?
37. **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?
38. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?
39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or ballot?
40. **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?
41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

- 42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?
- 43. **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?
- 44. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 45. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 46. **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?
- 47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?
- 48. **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 (In this state, defined as: Mail In or In Person Absentee)

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

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

- 65. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?
- 66. **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?
- 67. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?
- 68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?
- 69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?
- 70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

- 71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?
- 72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?
- 73. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?
- 74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?
- 75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do? (Also see info in the [Election Day Voting](#) section above.)

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

- 76. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
- 77. **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?
- 78. **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?
- 79. **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?
- 80. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?
- 81. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT (Anything that is particular/unique about voting in this state that is not captured elsewhere in the document.)

- 82. **VOTER REGISTRATION SOLICITATION:** Can I help others register to vote?
- 83. **UNHOUSED VOTERS:** Can I register to vote if I do not have a traditional residence?
- 84. **ABSENTEE BALLOT SOLICITATION:** Are there any restrictions on helping someone get an absentee ballot?
- 85. **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).¹

A person who has been adjudged incapacitated is not entitled to register or vote.

¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133 (1).

In addition, a person who is confined under a sentence of imprisonment or who is on parole or probation for a felony conviction or who has been convicted of a crime connected with voting is not eligible to register to vote.² See [Question 12](#) and [Question 13](#) for more information on registration by individuals who have a criminal conviction or who are incarcerated.

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party’s primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?](#)

In Missouri, the process for selecting presidential nominees from the Democratic, Libertarian, and Republican Parties for the November 2024 elections was determined by each of the political parties. The Libertarian Party caucused on February 24, 2024, the Republican Party caucused on March 2, 2024, and on March 23, 2024, the Democratic Party held a presidential primary preference election.

Missouri will host a state primary election on August 6, 2024 for various offices other than President of the United States that will be on the ballot for the November 5, 2024 general election.

Registered voters can vote in the primary election. Missouri has an “open” primary. A voter may request a ballot for any party and choose among the candidates of that party in the primary election. While the poll worker does NOT need to ask a voter for their party affiliation they will need to ask the voter which party’s ballot they wish to receive. All voters will also be able to vote on all questions and for any nonpartisan candidates being considered during the primary election. A voter need not request and vote a ballot for any party in order to vote on questions and any nonpartisan candidates.³

3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)

A voter may determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the Missouri Secretary of State’s “Elections & Voting” [website](#). Voters may also contact their [local election authority](#) to determine whether they are registered. Also, before each election all registered voters will receive a voter notification card in the mail from their election authority.

Newly registered voters will receive confirmation of their registration within 7 to 10 business days after their local election authority receives their voter registration application. A newly registered voter who does not receive confirmation of their registration should reach out to their [local election authority](#).

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

A resident of Missouri can register to vote or update their registration in several different ways:

Online A qualified Missouri resident can use a touch screen device that allows the voter to sign their name (such as a tablet or mobile phone) to register entirely online. The application for registering online is available on the Secretary of State’s [website](#).

By Mail A qualified Missouri resident may register by mail. An application may be obtained [online](#), at the local election authority or at other locations, like a county library, or at a

² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133 (2).

³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.397.

community voter registration drive. The application must be completed and signed, and mailed to the resident's [local election authority](#).

A Missouri resident may also request that a registration application be mailed to them. This request may be made [online](#) or from a [local election authority](#). Missouri suggests allowing between three and five business days for the application to arrive in the mail. Once the application has been received it will need to be completed and returned to the resident's [local election authority](#).

In Person Eligible residents may also register to vote in person at their [County Clerk's office](#) or at the office of their [local election authority](#). Voter registration applications are also available at [Department of Motor Vehicle offices](#) or at any Missouri state agency providing service to the public.

Persons in the Uniformed Services or living abroad should see [Question 11](#) for additional information on registering to vote.

For additional information on voter registration please see MOVPC's [Voter Registration Palm Card](#) or visit the Missouri Secretary of State website page on [voter registration](#).

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

A person registering to vote in person before an election registrar is required to provide a birth certificate, Native American tribal document, other proof of United States citizenship, a valid Missouri drivers or non-drivers license or some other form of personal identification.⁴

Other proof of United States Citizenship might include:

- a non-expired United States passport; or,
- Naturalization Papers.

Other forms of personal identification might include:

- a non-expired military ID or veteran's ID card;
- a non-expired photo ID issued by the United States or the state of Missouri.⁵

People who register online, by mail or in-person at a voter registration drive do not need to present ID at the time of completing the application, but must present 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?**

Generally applications for voter registration, including applications submitted online, must be received by 5:00 PM CDT on the fourth Wednesday prior to the election⁶ (or **October 9th, 2024** for the November 5, 2024 general election.) If applying to register by mail, the voter registration application must be *postmarked* by such date. If applying online the application must be submitted by the deadline; if applying at the DMV, the application is dated as of the date the applicant signed the application. Voter

⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.135.2.

⁵ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.135.1.

Registration applications received after the registration deadline for an upcoming election will be treated as applications for registration for the next election.

There are some exceptions to this 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 may register and vote a presidential and vice presidential ballot in their new jurisdiction.⁷
- Active Missouri registered voters who move from one jurisdiction to another may register in their new jurisdiction after the deadline up to and including on Election Day (but only at their election office on election day).
- 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 if the closing time of the building is later than 5:00 p.m.⁸ (October 9, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election).
- Certain voters
 - who are
 - members of the uniformed services, and their spouses and dependants;
 - civilian employees of the United States working outside of the United States and their spouses and dependants; or,
 - active members of religious or welfare organizations assisting servicemembers and their spouses or dependants,
 - and who
 - were discharged from military service;
 - returned from military deployment of activation; or
 - separated from employment outside of the United States after the deadline to vote,
 - and who are otherwise qualified to register to vote, may register to vote in an election in person at the office of their local election authority until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day (November 1, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election).⁹ Voters should be prepared to provide documentation evidencing their qualification for late registration under this section.

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 [here](#).

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 who move within their county can update their registration at the polls.

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

⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat § 115.277.6.

⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat § 115.135.1.

⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat § 115.135.4.

Depending on where they moved from and where they moved to, a resident of Missouri who has moved permanently may be able to vote without having updated their voter registration prior to Election Day.

<p>Moved within the same precinct</p>	<p>The voter may file a change of address with the local election authority or with an election judge at a polling place (either during early voting or on Election Day) for the voter’s new address if their name has not been removed from the voting rolls. They will have to confirm their new address.</p>
<p>Moved to a different precinct within the same election authority (either a county, the City of St. Louis, or the City of Kansas City)</p>	
<p>Moved to a different election jurisdiction (either a county, the City of St. Louis, or the City of Kansas City)</p>	<p>A voter who is currently registered in Missouri but who has moved to a different election jurisdiction and whose name has not been removed from the voter rolls may update their registration after the voter registration deadline up to and including at their local election authority on Election Day. The voter will be required to provide personal photo identification.</p>
<p>Moved from a different state</p>	<p>The voter must file a timely application to register to vote before they are able to vote. See Question 4 for information on registering to vote.</p> <p>Voters who move to Missouri after the registration deadline for a presidential election may register and vote by absentee ballot for President and Vice President. Voters should contact their local election authority for more information.</p>
<p>Moved to a different state</p>	<p>A former resident who was registered to vote in Missouri and who moved to another state but who is unable to register to vote in that state in an upcoming Presidential election solely because they moved to the new state after the deadline to register to vote may vote in the Missouri jurisdiction from which they moved in the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections by absentee ballot. Voters should contact the local election authority for the jurisdiction from which they moved for more information.</p>

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

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) request an absentee ballot. 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.¹⁰

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).¹¹ Such voters must register in the jurisdiction where they intend to vote by the voter registration deadline. Students also have the option of voting absentee from their permanent address.

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

There are various ways for a Missouri resident who is serving in one of the uniformed services or living abroad to register and vote.

Registering and Requesting a Mail-in Ballot

MOvotes Portal. A Missouri voter who is a member of the uniformed services or who qualifies as an overseas voter, or who is the spouse or dependent of such a person, may register to vote, and request and receive an absentee ballot through the [MOvotes](#) Portal. The **uniformed services** include the active and reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force or Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Missouri National Guard.¹² An **overseas voter** is someone who resides outside of the United States, and who is or would be qualified to vote in Missouri as the last place in which the voter resided before leaving the United States.¹³

Missouri Secure Website. A qualified Missouri resident can use a touch screen device that allows the voter to sign their name (such as a tablet or mobile phone) to register entirely online. The application for registering online is available on the Secretary of State's [website](#) and is available to all Missouri voters.

By Mail. Uniform service members and overseas voters may also use the [Federal Post Card Application](#) ("FPCA") to simultaneously register to vote (if necessary) and request their mail-in ballot.¹⁴ In order to serve as a request to register to vote, the declaration accompanying the FPCA must be received by the [local election authority no later than 5:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday before the election](#)¹⁵ (October 8 for the November 5 general election). The FPCA will need to be printed and mailed to the voter's [local election authority](#).

A qualified Missouri resident may register by mail. An application may be obtained [online](#). The application must be printed, completed, and mailed to the resident's [local election authority](#).

A Missouri resident who is qualified to vote may also request that a registration application be mailed to

¹⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.3; *Marre v. Reed*, 775 S.W.2d 951 (Mo. 1989).

¹¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.3; *Chomeau v. Roth*, 72 S.W.2d 997, 999 (Mo. Ct. App.1934).

¹² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.902(8).

¹³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.902(6).

¹⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.908.

¹⁵ Note that this deadline is earlier than other deadlines for registering to vote in Missouri.

them. This request may be made [online](#) or to a [local election authority](#). Missouri suggests allowing between three and five business days for the application to arrive in the mail. Once the application has been received it will need to be completed and returned to the resident's [local election authority](#).

A voter who will be absent from the jurisdiction in which they are registered to vote on Election Day may apply for an absentee ballot from their [local election authority](#).¹⁶ Application for an absentee ballot may be made in person, by mail, by fax, or by email. A voter's spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandparent, grandchild, or in-law may apply in person at the office of the voter's [local election authority](#) for an absentee ballot for the voter. For more information on voting using an absentee ballot see [Questions 49-62](#).

Returning a Mail-in Ballot

Generally, a mail-in ballot must be returned to the voter's [local election authority](#) in person or by mail. Voters serving or living overseas in a [combat zone, hostile fire, or imminent danger area](#) may return their voted ballot and accompanying absentee affidavit by mail, fax, email, or through the [Military and Overseas Voting Access Portal](#). The voter's [local election authority](#) can provide a fax number or email address, if required.

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](#) or fill out the [Federal Write-In Absentee ballot](#) (FWAB). The ballot will need to be printed, completed, and mailed to their [local election authority](#).

Deadlines specific for military and overseas voters .

- Registration requests must be received by the 28th day before the election (or **October 8, 2024** for the November 5, 2024 general election.) Applications for registration that are received after the registration deadline for an upcoming election will be treated as applications for registration for the next election.
- A request for a Mail-In ballot must be received by 5 PM CDT on the Friday before the election (or **November 1, 2024** for the November 5, 2024 general election.)
- **If mailed**, ballots must be **postmarked by Election Day** and **received by the third day after the election (November 8, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election)**.
- **If hand delivered or delivered using a commercial delivery service** ballots must be received by the [local election authority](#) by the **close of the polls on Election Day**.
- **If emailed or faxed** (which may only occur if the voter is in a [Combat Zone, Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger area](#)), ballots must be **received by 7 PM CDT** on Election Day.

Missing Ballots.

Uniform service members and overseas voters who have registered and requested a mail-in ballot in a timely fashion but will not receive their ballots in time to return them in a timely manner to their local election authority may use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to vote in races for federal and state offices, and in other elections where absentee voting is conducted pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat §§

¹⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277(3)(1).

115.275-115.304.¹⁷ The ballot may be obtained on the Federal Voting Assistance Program [website](#) and must be printed and mailed or otherwise delivered to the voter's local election office. If mailed, the ballot must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the third day after the election. Otherwise, it must arrive at the office by 7 PM on Election Day.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: [I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?](#)

Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

A person who:

- is imprisoned under a sentence of imprisonment, or
- who is on probation or parole after being convicted of a felony, or
- who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor for an election related crime,

may not register to vote or vote.¹⁸ Individuals who are convicted of an election related offense, whether it be a misdemeanor or felony, are permanently ineligible to vote in Missouri. Such individuals can only become eligible to vote if pardoned by the Governor.

Those with an SIS (suspended imposition of sentence) MAY register and vote (because sentence has not been imposed); those with an SES (suspended execution of sentence) for a felony conviction may not vote until they are off state supervision.

Although persons convicted of non-election related offenses are automatically eligible to register and vote upon completion of their imprisonment and, if convicted of a felony, any period of probation or parole, any person whose name was removed from the voter registration list on the basis of a criminal conviction and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register. The voter registration procedure for a person with a felony conviction who has completed their sentencing is determined by the election authority in the voting jurisdiction in which they reside.¹⁹ It is best to contact the [local election authority](#) for information on how to register.

People who are in jail on pretrial detention or awaiting trial – and anyone else who is not incarcerated based on a conviction - have a right to vote absentee.²⁰ Note - in St. Louis City, the Board of Elections will provide in-person absentee voting for detainees at the City Jail in 2024.

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

Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

In Missouri, a person who is incarcerated as a result of a sentence following a conviction is not eligible to register or vote.²¹ An individual who is incarcerated but not yet convicted may apply for an absentee

¹⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.904.

¹⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.2.

¹⁹ See Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.199.

²⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.3(5).

²¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.133.2.

ballot.²² The absentee ballots of detained persons do not need to be notarized.²³ Note - in St. Louis City, the Board of Elections will provide in-person absentee voting for detainees at the City Jail in 2024.

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: [My registration has been challenged, what should I do?](#)

If a voter's eligibility to vote is challenged based on the **absence of the voter's name from the precinct register** the poll worker should call the election authority to confirm the voter's status. The voter should:

1. Confirm that they are at the correct polling place or central polling location using the [Check Your Voter Registration Tool](#) on the Secretary of State's website. **If the voter is at the wrong polling place they should leave and go to the correct one or a central polling place.**
2. Ask the poll worker to confirm that some variant of the voter's name is not on the register (*e.g.* with or without the voter's middle name or whether the name is hyphenated) or that the voter's name is not misspelled on the register.
3. Confirm that they have not moved recently. See [Question 11](#) for information about voting by individuals who have recently moved.
4. Confirm that they have not recently changed their name.
5. Ask the election judge to contact the [local election authority](#) so that they may review the Missouri voter registration system in order to see if they can confirm the voter's eligibility to vote at the polling place.
6. Ask for a Yellow provisional ballot.²⁴ The voter will need to complete the information requested on the provisional ballot envelope. The voter should carefully review the information provided and ensure that it is correct. The election authority will use the information on the provisional ballot envelope to determine if the voter was eligible to cast a vote at the polling place where they presented themselves. If the provisional voter was not eligible to vote at the polling place where they completed the provisional ballot, that ballot will not be counted for any race including a race in which the voter could have voted had they been at the correct polling place.²⁵
7. A voter who votes a provisional ballot should be given information on how to find out if their ballot has been counted.²⁶

See [Questions 22-24](#) for more information on voting with provisional ballots.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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

Missouri polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7PM. Any voters in line by 7PM will be permitted to vote.²⁷

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

²² Mo. Rev. Stat §115.277.3(5).

²³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.2.

²⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

²⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

²⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.13.

²⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.407.

Individuals registered to vote can find their polling place at the [Missouri Voter Information Lookup page](#).

Voters outside of major metro areas must vote at their assigned polling place or at central polling places for their election jurisdiction.

City of St. Louis: Voters registered in the City of St. Louis may cast their ballots at any [polling place](#) in the City.

St. Louis County: Voters registered in St. Louis County may cast their ballots at any [polling place](#) in the county.

Kansas City: Voters registered in the City of Kansas City may cast their ballots at any polling place *if* they are casting ballots using an electronic voting machine. This does not apply for voters in Jackson County, who must vote at their assigned poll or Election Board headquarters.

Voters in Greene County and Boone County can cast ballots at their assigned polling place or a countywide polling place.

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Question #8](#).

17. **TIME OFF WORK:** *Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?*

If there are not three successive hours between 6AM and 7PM on Election Day during which a voter is not required to work, a voter is entitled to three hours of paid leave for the purpose of voting provided that the voter requests such leave prior to Election Day. The employer may designate the hours during which the employee may take that leave.²⁸

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

Missouri polls open at 6AM and close at 7PM. If you are in line by 7PM you will be permitted to vote so long as you do not leave the line.²⁹

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

Missouri law requires a voter to produce one of the following forms of Missouri or Federal photo ID to vote in person absentee or in person at the polls on Election Day:

- A non-expired Missouri driver's license or a non-expired or non-expiring Missouri non-driver's license (a driver's or non-driver's license that expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022) is considered non-expired for these purposes;
- A document issued by either the United States Government or the Missouri Government which
 - shows a photograph of the voter;
 - contains the name of the voter which substantially conforms to the most recent signature in the voter's registration record; and

²⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.639.

²⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.407.

- includes an expiration date and is not expired or expired after the most recent general election (**November 8, 2022**);
- 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.³⁰

On Election Day, voters who arrive to vote without one of these forms of identification listed above but who are otherwise qualified to vote at the polling place can cast a BLUE provisional ballot.³¹ Voters without proper ID who appear to vote absentee in person are not entitled to cast a provisional ballot. To obtain the provisional ballot the voter will need to first complete and sign the provisional ballot affidavit on the provisional ballot envelope.

The 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 ensure they complete and sign the form on the provisional envelope so it can be counted.³²

A voter who casts a provisional ballot will receive a slip of paper with a unique identification number and a toll free telephone number which the voter can call to determine whether their vote was counted and if it was not counted, why.³³ The voter should make sure that they hold onto this information.

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

Yes. Missouri voters must present specific government-issued photo identification to cast a regular ballot in person (see [Question 19](#)). Voters who arrive to vote on Election Day without the required photo identification but who are otherwise qualified to vote at that polling place can cast a blue provisional ballot.³⁴ To obtain the provisional ballot the voter will need to first complete and sign the provisional ballot affidavit on the provisional ballot envelope. The information provided on the provisional ballot envelope will include the voter's name, address, date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number. Voters without ID who appear to do in-person absentee are not entitled to cast a provisional ballot.

The 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 ensure they complete and sign the form on the provisional envelope so it can be counted.

A voter who casts a provisional ballot will receive a slip of paper with a unique identification number and a toll free telephone number which the voter can call to determine whether their vote was counted and if it was not counted, why.³⁵ The voter should make sure that they hold onto this information.

21. **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?*

³⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.427.1; <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

³¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.427.2.

³² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.427.4.

³³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

³⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.427.2.

³⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

If a voter is told that they are not on the rolls at a polling place to which they have come to vote, the poll worker should call the local election authority to confirm the voter's registration. The voter should make every effort to ensure that they are at a correct polling place and are, in fact, not on the rolls. If the voter confirms that their name is not on the rolls and that there is no other polling place where they are eligible to vote, the voter is entitled to vote a Yellow provisional ballot.³⁶

If a voter casts a ballot place at a polling place where they are not entitled to vote their vote will not count. Therefore, before voting a provisional ballot, there are a number of steps that a voter should take if they are informed that their name is not on the rolls at a polling place including:

- Confirm that they are at the correct polling place or central polling location using the [Check Your Voter Registration Tool](#) on the Secretary of State's website. **If the voter learns that they are at the wrong polling place they should leave and go to the correct one as their vote will not be counted if it is cast at the wrong polling place.**
- Ask the election judge to confirm that some variant of the voter's name is not on the register (*e.g.* with or without the voter's middle name or whether the name is hyphenated) or that the voter's name is not misspelled on the register.
- Confirm that the voter has not moved recently. See [Question 11](#) for information on voting by individuals who have recently moved. Voters who moved within the same election jurisdiction (county) can update their address at the polling place.
- Confirm that the voter has not recently changed their name. Voters registered in the jurisdiction can complete a name change at the polls.
- Have the poll worker 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.³⁷
- Ask the election judge to contact the [local election authority](#) so that they may review the Missouri voter registration system in order to see if they can confirm the voter's eligibility to vote at that or another 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.³⁸
- If it turns out that the voter is not at the correct polling place, the poll worker must direct the voter to their correct polling place (or central polling location) 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, the voter must be allowed to cast a Yellow provisional ballot.³⁹ **The voter should be reminded that if their vote is cast at the wrong polling place it will not be counted.**⁴⁰

A voter who casts a provisional ballot will receive a slip of paper with a unique identification number and a toll free telephone number which the voter can call to determine whether their vote was counted and if it was not counted, why.⁴¹ The voter should make sure that they hold onto this information.

³⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

³⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193.5.

³⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193(4).

³⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(1).

⁴⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

⁴¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

A voter will be given an opportunity to cast a Yellow provisional ballot if the election judge is unable to confirm that the voter is eligible to vote at the polling place.⁴² 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.⁴³ A voter who is eligible but lacks a valid ID will be given an opportunity to cast a BLUE provisional ballot.

Voting a provisional ballot should be the last option for the voter. Before using that option the voter should make every effort to determine why their name is not appearing on the voter rolls at the polling place and whether they should be voting at another location. See [Question 21](#) for steps a voter should take before agreeing to vote using a provisional ballot.

The voter will need to complete the information requested on the provisional ballot envelope and sign it. The voter should carefully review the information provided and ensure that it is correct. The election authority will use the information on the provisional ballot envelope to determine if the voter was eligible to cast a vote at the polling place where they presented themselves. If the provisional voter was not eligible to vote at the polling place where they completed the provisional ballot, that ballot will not be counted for any race including a race in which the voter could have voted had they been at the correct polling place.⁴⁴ Voters casting Blue provisional ballots due to lack of ID will have the ballot counted if they return to the polling place before close of polls with valid ID or if the signature on the ballot envelope matches the signature on file with their voter registration.

A voter who casts a provisional ballot will receive a slip of paper with a unique identification number and a toll free telephone number which the voter can call to determine whether their vote was counted and if it was not counted, why.⁴⁵ The voter should make sure that they hold onto this information.

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?

A voter who claims that they are properly registered in a jurisdiction and eligible to vote in an election, but whose eligibility cannot be established and is being denied the opportunity to vote a regular ballot, is entitled to vote a Yellow provisional ballot.⁴⁶ 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. **The voter should always choose to vote at their assigned polling place or at a central polling place where they are eligible to vote a regular ballot** as a provisional ballot that is cast at a polling place where they are not eligible to vote will not be counted.⁴⁷

A voter who is properly registered but lacks valid ID is entitled to cast a Blue provisional ballot.

See [Question 21](#) for steps a voter should take before agreeing to vote using a provisional ballot.

⁴² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(1).

⁴³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

⁴⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

⁴⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

⁴⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

⁴⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

A voter who casts a Yellow provisional ballot will receive a slip of paper with a unique identification number and a toll free telephone number which the voter can call to determine whether their vote was counted and if it was not counted, why.⁴⁸ The voter should make sure that they hold onto this information.

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state defined as: In Person Absentee Ballot)

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

Yes, there is in-person absentee voting in Missouri. Absentee voting begins six weeks before Election Day. During the two weeks before Election Day, any voter may cast an in-person absentee ballot without providing a reason.

Reason required: Beginning on the sixth Tuesday before Election Day (or September 24, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through the day before Election Day, a registered voter is allowed to vote an absentee ballot by mail or an in person absentee ballot at a location designated by the local election authority prior to Election Day if the voter is unable to vote at the polls on Election Day because of one of the following:

1. They will be outside the specific jurisdiction (county) in which they are registered to vote on Election Day;
2. They are incapacitated or confined because of disability or illness or they are the primary caretaker for such a person and live at the same address;
3. Their religious beliefs or practices will prevent them from getting to the polls;
4. They are an election official or worker at a poll other than the one to which they are assigned to vote, a first responder, a health care worker, or work in law enforcement;
5. They are incarcerated and not otherwise ineligible to vote (see [Question 13](#)); or
6. They are certified participants in certain address confidentiality programs.⁴⁹

No reason required: Beginning on the second Tuesday prior to an election (or October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through 5pm the day before Election Day, voters may cast absentee ballots in-person at locations designated by their [local election authority](#). These voters do not need to provide a reason for casting an in-person absentee ballot.⁵⁰ In-person absentee voters must provide Photo ID.

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

⁴⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

⁴⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.3.

⁵⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.1.

Beginning on the sixth Tuesday before Election Day (or September 24, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through 5pm the day before Election Day, a registered voter is allowed to vote an in person absentee ballot at a location designated by the local election authority prior to Election Day if the voter is unable to vote at the polls on Election Day because:

1. They will be outside the specific jurisdiction (county) in which they are registered to vote on Election Day;
2. They are incapacitated or confined because of disability or illness or they are the primary caretaker for such a person and live at the same address;
3. Their religious beliefs or practices will prevent them from getting to the polls;
4. They are an election official or worker at a poll other than the one to which they are assigned to vote, a first responder, a health care worker, or work in law enforcement;
5. They are incarcerated and not otherwise ineligible to vote (see [Question 13](#)); or
6. They are certified participants in certain address confidentiality programs.⁵¹

Two weeks of no-excuse absentee voting: Beginning on the second Tuesday prior to an election (or October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through 5pm the day before Election Day, voters may cast absentee ballots in-person at locations designated by their [local election authority](#). These voters do not need to provide a reason for casting an in-person absentee ballot.⁵²

27. 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. For the November 5, 2024 elections, excuse-based mail or in-person absentee voting begins September 24, 2024. To be counted, completed absentee ballots must be received by the election authority at or before the polls close on Election Day (7PM).⁵³ In-person absentee voters must provide Photo ID.

No-excuse required absentee voting: Beginning on the second Tuesday prior to an election (or October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through 5pm the day before Election Day, voters cast absentee ballots in-person at a location designated by their [local election authority](#). These voters do not need to provide a reason for casting an in-person absentee ballot.⁵⁴ In-person absentee voters must provide Photo ID.

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

Voters may cast their in-person absentee ballot at their local election authority or satellite locations designated by their [local election authority](#).⁵⁵

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

⁵¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.3.

⁵² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.1.

⁵³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.286.

⁵⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.1.

⁵⁵ *Id.*

Voters casting an in person absentee ballot must provide one form of a valid Missouri or Federal Photo ID identification before casting their ballot, just as they are required to do on Election Day. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- A non-expired Missouri driver's license or a non-expired or non-expiring Missouri non-driver's license (a driver's or non-driver's license that expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022) is considered non-expired for these purposes);
- A document issued by either the United States Government or the Missouri Government which
 - shows a photograph of the voter;
 - contains the name of the voter which substantially conforms to the most recent signature in the voter's registration record; and
 - includes an expiration date and is not expired or expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022);
- 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.⁵⁶

Voters who arrive to vote without the required photo identification but who are otherwise qualified to vote at that polling place can cast a Blue provisional ballot.⁵⁷ To obtain the provisional ballot the voter will need to first complete and sign the provisional ballot affidavit on the provisional ballot envelope. The information provided on the provisional ballot envelope will include the voter's name, address, date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number.

A blue **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 voter's signature on the provisional ballot is found to match the signature on their voter registration record.** Voters should ensure they complete and sign the form on the provisional envelope so it can be counted.

A voter who casts a provisional ballot will receive a slip of paper with a unique identification number and a toll free telephone number which the voter can call to determine whether their vote was counted.⁵⁸ The voter should make sure that they hold onto this information.

30. **ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in-person?**

If a 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 team of election officials or any person of the voter's own choosing, except their employer or union representative. In short - any voter who needs assistance accessing, reading or casting their ballot is entitled to help from a person of their choice. However, a person providing the assistance may help only one voter. It is illegal to assist a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, or to coerce or initiate a suggestion as to how the voter should vote. If the election authority finds that any in-person absentee ballot was voted with unlawful assistance, the ballot will be rejected.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.277.1; 115.427.1; <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

⁵⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.427.2.

⁵⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

⁵⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.291.1.

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

(in this state defined as: Absentee Voting by Mail)

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

No, Missouri voters will not automatically receive an absentee mail-in ballot in the mail. If a Missouri voter wishes to vote by mail, they must [apply for a mail in absentee ballot](#). Most voters must apply for each election. However, voters who are largely homebound/permanently disabled may apply to automatically receive an application for a mail in absentee ballot for each election that they are eligible to participate in.⁶⁰ Voters should contact their [local election authority](#) to request an application to participate in the absentee voting process for permanently disabled voters.⁶¹ The application should arrive by mail within four to ten weeks before the election. The voter then needs to complete the application, sign it, and return it to their local election authority by 5PM on the 2nd Wednesday before the election (October 23 for the November 5 general election.) The voter will then receive their ballot in the mail.⁶²

A resident of Missouri who is currently living outside of the United States or who is on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces or a member of the immediate family living with such a person may request an absentee ballot for both a primary and subsequent general election with one application.⁶³

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

Yes. Missouri allows registered voters to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot if the voter is unable to vote at the polls on Election Day because:

1. They will be away from the area in which they are registered to vote on Election Day;
2. They are incapacitated or confined because of physical disability or illness or they are the primary caretaker for such a person and live at the same address;
3. Their religious beliefs or practices will prevent them from getting to the polls;
4. They are an election official or worker at a poll other than the one to which they are assigned to vote, a first responder, a health care worker, or work in law enforcement;
5. They are incarcerated and not otherwise ineligible to vote (see [Question 13](#)); or
6. They are certified participants in certain address confidentiality programs.⁶⁴

A Request for Missouri Absentee Ballot is available [online](#). However, a request can be made using any writing that states:

1. the applicant's name;
2. the address at which the voter is or would be registered;
3. the reason for voting an absentee ballot;

⁶⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.284.

⁶¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.284.2.

⁶² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.284.

⁶³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.6(1).

⁶⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.3.

4. the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing is requested;
5. and for absent uniformed services and overseas applicants, the applicant's email address if electronic transmission is requested.

The application for mail in absentee ballot for a primary election should also state which Party's ballot the voter wishes to receive. If the application does not specify a party the local election authority will seek to reach the voter and clarify the voter's preference. If that cannot be done, the voter will only be sent the ballots for non partisan races.⁶⁵

Application for an absentee ballot may be made by the voter in person or by mail, email or fax, or in person by the voter's guardian or spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.⁶⁶

Applications for an absentee ballot **must be signed** by the voter, or if the application is made by a guardian or relative, by the guardian or relative, who must also indicate their relationship to the voter. Making or delivering a fraudulent application for an absentee ballot is a crime.⁶⁷

For applications that are not made in person, the election authority will vet the information on the application and, upon determining that the voter is eligible to vote absentee, will mail the voter a ballot, along with a postage paid envelope to return their ballot.

33. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** [What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?](#)

Applications for a mail in absentee ballot that are submitted by mail, facsimile, email, or by a guardian or relative of the voter must be *received* by the voter's [local election authority](#) by 5PM on the second Wednesday prior to an election (or by 5PM, Wednesday, October 23, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election.) Voters may apply for an absentee ballot in person through 5PM on the day before Election Day.⁶⁸

Voters can determine where they can obtain and vote an in person absentee ballot [here](#) or from their [local election authority](#). Voters do not need a reason to vote absentee if they do so from the second Tuesday before Election Day (October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election) through 5PM the day before Election Day, but they must provide Photo ID to vote absentee in person.

If a voter becomes hospitalized or confined after the mail ballot request deadline (October 23, 2024), 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.⁶⁹ Voters needing this option should contact their [local election authority](#) as soon as practicable after they realize they will be confined on Election Day.

34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** [Can someone assist me with filling out the application?](#)

Yes. Voters are entitled to assistance if they need it. The form will include a place to indicate if the voter received assistance. The person assisting the voter may need to sign and indicate their relationship to

⁶⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.3.

⁶⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.013(25); 115.279.1.

⁶⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.5.

⁶⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.4.

⁶⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.2.

the voter. Voters may not be provided with absentee ballot applications that are prefilled.⁷⁰ A 2022 law criminalizing solicitation of absentee ballot applications has been blocked by a court.

Missouri law provides that 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.⁷¹ Helping a voter complete an application for an absentee ballot is permissible.

35. 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?](#)

Applications for an absentee ballot must be submitted to the voter's [local election authority](#) and may be returned to the local election authority for the voter by the voter in person, by mail, email, fax or in person by the voter's guardian or spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.⁷²

Applications for a mail in absentee ballot that are submitted by mail, facsimile, email, or by a guardian or relative of the voter must be *received* by the voter's [local election authority](#) by 5PM on the second Wednesday prior to Election Day (October 23, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election. Voters may cast absentee ballot in person through 5PM on the day before Election Day.⁷³

36. IDENTIFICATION: [Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?](#)

Voters who are voting for the first time in Missouri, who registered by mail, and who have not provided a copy of their identification to the [local election authority](#) must provide a copy of that identification with their *application* for a mail in absentee ballot or they will not receive a ballot.⁷⁴ Acceptable forms of ID include:

- A non-expired Missouri driver's license or a non-expired or non-expiring Missouri non-driver's license (a driver's or non-driver's license that expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022) is considered non-expired for these purposes⁷⁵);
- A document issued by either the United States Government or the Missouri Government which
 - shows a photograph of the voter;
 - contains the name of the voter which substantially conforms to the most recent signature in the voter's registration record; and
 - includes an expiration date and is not expired or expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022);
- 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.⁷⁶

Voters do not need to provide identification when they return a mail-in absentee *ballot*.

⁷⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.2.

⁷¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(1).

⁷² Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.013(25); 115.279.1.

⁷³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.4.

⁷⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.159.2.

⁷⁵ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

⁷⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.427.1; <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

37. 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 can be sent to any location the voter designates. While a voter must provide their residential address on the application for a mail in absentee ballot, they may have the ballot mailed to another address including a post office box.

It is not mandatory for citizens to possess a "permanent home" for voter registration. A citizen can provide an alternative description of their residence, even if they are experiencing homelessness, as long as it enables the authorities to identify and assign a voting precinct to them. Unhoused or housing insecure individuals can also use a location where they are staying, or the address of a social service agency that provides them services, such as a shelter. This precinct assignment ensures that the voter receives the appropriate ballot. The mailing address on their registration form can be a PO box, local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or the home of someone who will accept mail for them. Some local shelters allow unhoused persons to use their address on voter registration. Contact the voter's [local election authority](#) for assistance.

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

Beginning on the second Tuesday prior to an election (October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through 5PM on the day before Election Day, voters may apply for and cast absentee ballots in person at their [local election authority](#) or other satellite locations they designate. Voters do not need to provide a reason for casting an in person absentee ballot in the two weeks before Election Day.⁷⁷

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

Missouri does not have a public facing online system for checking on the status of an application for a mail in absentee ballot or of the mail in absentee ballot. Voters should check with their [local election authority](#) if they have questions about the status of their application of mail in absentee ballot.

Voters who never received their absentee ballot in the mail can complete a "lost ballot affidavit" and vote a regular ballot on Election Day.

40. 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?

A voter should contact their [local election authority](#) to determine why their mail in absentee ballot application or mail in absentee ballot has been rejected.

If the election authority has reviewed an application for a mail in absentee ballot and is satisfied the applicant is entitled to receive the ballot, the election authority should send or provide the ballot to the voter within three working days, or if absentee ballots are not available when the application is received, within five working days after they become available.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.1.

⁷⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1.

However, if the election authority is not satisfied that the voter is entitled to vote by mail in absentee ballot, the election authority must notify the voter within three working days and state the reason(s) why the voter is not entitled to vote by mail in absentee ballot. A voter whose application for a mail in absentee ballot or whose absentee ballot has been rejected should reach out to the [local election authority](#) to determine how to correct the problem. If the voter is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the local election authority then the voter may file a [complaint](#) with the elections division of the secretary of state's office under Section 115.219 of the Missouri Code.⁷⁹ Those voters can still vote absentee in person without a reason the two weeks before Election Day assuming they are eligible.

An absentee ballot **may not be rejected** because the voter did not state the reason for voting an absentee ballot on the ballot envelope.⁸⁰

An absentee ballot **will be rejected**:

- if the statements on the ballot envelope have not been completed⁸¹;
- if the number of votes for all offices and questions exceeds the number authorized by law;⁸²
- if the absentee ballot is not accompanied by a completed and signed required statement.⁸³
Unless the voter is incapacitate or confined due to illness, primarily responsible for caring for and residing with a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness, or incarcerated, that statement must also be notarized⁸⁴; or
- because the voter received improper assistance.⁸⁵

Missouri law provides that absentee ballots are deemed "cast" when received by the election authority⁸⁶ and contains no provision that allows a voter to cure a problem with a submitted absentee ballot or absentee ballot envelope. A June 2024 rule expressly prohibits ballot curing and prohibits election officials from reaching out to voters with minor error or omissions on the outer ballot envelope. Voters should **be very careful** in filling out their ballots and completing the ballot envelope, and make sure it is signed.

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** [How do I complete the mail-in ballot?](#)

A voter who is submitting an absentee ballot by mail must mark the ballot in secret (unless receiving assistance casting their ballot), place it in the ballot envelope, seal the envelope and complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope. The affidavit must be signed and will also need to be notarized unless:

- the voter is Incapacitated or confined due to illness or physical disability, or is 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 address; or,
- the voter is incarcerated.⁸⁷

⁷⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1.

⁸⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.294.

⁸¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.295.2.

⁸² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.447.1(2).

⁸³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.283.

⁸⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.277.2 and 115.277.3(2) and (5).

⁸⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.1.

⁸⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.286.

⁸⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.2.

An absentee ballot **may not be rejected** because the voter did not state the reason for voting an absentee ballot on the ballot envelope.⁸⁸

An absentee ballot **will be rejected**:

- if the statements on the ballot envelope have not been completed⁸⁹;
- if the number of votes for all offices and questions exceeds the number authorized by law;⁹⁰
- if the absentee ballot is not accompanied by a completed and signed required statement.⁹¹
Unless the voter is incapacitate or confined due to illness, primarily responsible for caring for and residing with a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness, or incarcerated, that statement must also be notarized⁹²; or
- because the voter received improper assistance.⁹³

Missouri law provides that absentee ballots are deemed “cast” when received by the election authority⁹⁴ and contains no provision that allows a voter to cure a problem with a submitted absentee ballot or absentee ballot envelope. A June 2024 rule expressly prohibits ballot curing and prohibits election officials from reaching out to voters with minor error or omissions on the outer ballot envelope. Voters should **be very careful** in filling out their ballots and completing the ballot envelope.

42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** [Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?](#)

Yes. If a 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. 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.⁹⁵

43. **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?](#)

Completed mail in absentee ballots must be **received** by the voter's [local election authority](#) on or before 7PM on Election Day. Absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the [local election authority](#) by the voter or by the voter's guardian or spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law, or by mail or registered carriers or by a team of registered deputy election authorities.⁹⁶ The postmark on the envelope of a ballot returned by mail does not matter.

Voters can vote by absentee in the office of their [local election authority](#) or designated satellite locations until 5PM the day before Election Day. A photo ID is required for in-person absentee voting.

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

⁸⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.294.

⁸⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.295.2.

⁹⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.447.1(2).

⁹¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.283.

⁹² Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.277.2 and 115.277.3(2) and (5).

⁹³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.1.

⁹⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.286.

⁹⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.291.1; 115.445.

⁹⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.2.

All absentee and mail-in ballots must be returned to the voter's [local election authority](#). The use of "drop boxes" is prohibited in Missouri.⁹⁷ 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 FedEx or UPS, by the voter or in-person by the voter's guardian, spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.⁹⁸

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

Yes. Mail in absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the office of the voter's [local election authority](#) by the voter's guardian, spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.⁹⁹

46. 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?](#)

If the voter has the ballot, they can surrender it ("spoil" it) and vote a regular ballot during no-excuse in person absentee voting or at their polling place on Election Day.

47. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: [What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?](#)

The voter can complete a "lost ballot affidavit" and cast a regular ballot during in-person absentee voting or at their polling place on Election Day. If there's enough time, the voter who requested but did not receive a mail-in absentee ballot can contact their [local election authority](#) to request a replacement mail-in ballot (but remember there needs to be enough time for that ballot to be returned by the close of polls on Election Day). As long as they did not cast their absentee ballot by mail, they can vote in person either absentee or on Election Day.

48. IN PERSON OPTION: [What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?](#)

A voter who requested and received, but did not submit an absentee ballot and who wishes to vote in person at the polls on Election Day can complete a "lost ballot affidavit" and vote a regular ballot in person on Election Day.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE
(in this state defined as: Mail in or In Person Absentee Voting)

⁹⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.5.

⁹⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.2.

⁹⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(2).

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

Yes. There are two primary forms of absentee voting in Missouri. All registered voters can choose to vote an absentee ballot in person beginning the second Tuesday before Election Day. (Begins October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election). Voters who meet one of six reasons they cannot go to the polls on Election Day may vote an in person absentee ballot before Election Day or may vote an absentee ballot by mail beginning 6 weeks before Election Day.

Voting in person absentee PRIOR to the second Tuesday before Election Day or by mail

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 unable to vote at their polling place on Election Day because:

1. They will be outside their specific election jurisdiction (county) in which they are registered to vote on Election Day;
2. They are incapacitated or confined because of physical disability or illness or they are the primary caretaker for such a person and live at the same address;
3. Their religious beliefs or practices will prevent them from getting to the polls;
4. They are an election official or worker at a poll other than the one to which they are assigned to vote, a first responder, a health care worker, or work in law enforcement;
5. They are incarcerated and not otherwise ineligible to vote (see [Question 13](#)); or
6. They are certified participants in certain address confidentiality programs.¹⁰⁰

A Request for Missouri Absentee Ballot is available [online](#). However, a request can be made in writing to the [election authority for the voter](#) and providing:

- the applicant's name;
- address at which the voter is or would be registered;
- the reason for voting an absentee ballot;
- the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing is requested;
- and for absent uniformed services and overseas applicants, the applicant's email address if electronic transmission is requested.¹⁰¹

The absentee ballot application must state which of the six criteria above is met to qualify for a mail in absentee ballot.

The application for mail in absentee **ballot for a primary election** must state which Party's ballot the voter wishes to receive. If the application does not specify a party the local election authority will seek to reach the voter and clarify the voter's preference. If that cannot be done, the voter will only be sent the ballots for non partisan races.¹⁰²

Application for an absentee ballot may be submitted by the voter in person, by mail, email, fax or by the voter's guardian or spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.3.

¹⁰¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.3.

¹⁰² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.3.

¹⁰³ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.013(25); 115.279.1.

Applications for an absentee ballot **must be signed** by the voter, or if the application is made by a guardian or relative, by the guardian or relative, who must also indicate their relationship to the voter. Making or delivering a fraudulent application for an absentee ballot is a crime.¹⁰⁴

For applications that are not made in person, 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 a postage paid envelope to return their ballot.

Voting in person absentee ON or AFTER the second Tuesday before the election

Beginning two weeks before Election Day (or October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through 5PM on the day before Election Day, voters cast absentee ballots in person at their [election authority](#) or additional satellite locations they designate. These voters do not need to provide a reason for casting an in person absentee ballot but must show a Photo ID.¹⁰⁵

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

If a voter wishes to vote absentee by mail their [application](#) must be *received* by their [local election authority](#) by 5PM on the second Wednesday prior to an election (5PM Wednesday, October 23, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election).¹⁰⁶

Voters who wish to vote absentee in person must apply at the office of their [local election authority](#) or at a designated satellite location by 5PM the day before Election Day. They may cast their ballot at the same time that they make their application.¹⁰⁷

There are some **exceptions**:

- If a voter becomes hospitalized or otherwise confined for health care related reasons after the mail ballot request deadline (October 23, 2024), the voter or a guardian or close relative can request that the local election authority appoint a team to deliver, witness, and return the voter's absentee ballot.¹⁰⁸ A voter, or their representative, needing this accommodation should contact the [local election authority](#) as soon as practicable after they realize they will be hospitalized or confined on Election Day.
- A new resident who moved to Missouri from out of state after the close of voter registration for an upcoming presidential election may appear in person at the office of the [local election authority](#) for the jurisdiction in which the new resident now resides by 7PM on Election Day for the presidential election to apply for an absentee ballot that will allow the new resident to vote for president and vice president.¹⁰⁹
- A former resident who has moved to another state but who is unable to register to vote in that state for an upcoming presidential election because they arrived in the state after the applicable registration deadline may apply to vote absentee by mail by 5PM on the second Wednesday prior to the election or may appear in person at the office of the [local election authority](#) for their

¹⁰⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.5.

¹⁰⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277(1).

¹⁰⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.4

¹⁰⁷ *Id.*

¹⁰⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.2

¹⁰⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.7.

former residence in Missouri by 7PM on Election Day to apply for an absentee ballot to vote for president and vice president.¹¹⁰

- A Missouri resident who is serving in one of the uniformed services or living abroad should see [Question 11](#) for more information on registering to vote, applying for a mail-in absentee ballot, and voting using a mail-in absentee ballot.

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

A voter who is voting an absentee ballot in person is required to provide personal photo identification.¹¹¹ Acceptable photo identification is

- A non-expired Missouri driver's license or a non-expired or non-expiring Missouri non-driver's license (a driver's or non-driver's license that expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022) is considered non-expired for these purposes¹¹²);
- A document issued by either the United States Government or the Missouri Government which
 - shows a photograph of the voter;
 - contains the name of the voter which substantially conforms to the most recent signature in the voter's registration record; and
 - includes an expiration date and is not expired or expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022); or
- 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.¹¹³

A voter who is voting for the first time in Missouri, who registered by mail, and who has not provided a copy of their identification to the local election authority must provide a copy of that identification with their application for a mail in absentee ballot or they will not receive a ballot.¹¹⁴ Acceptable forms of ID include:

- A non-expired Missouri driver's license or a non-expired or non-expiring Missouri non-driver's license (a driver's or non-driver's license that expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022) is considered non-expired for these purposes¹¹⁵);
- A document issued by either the United States Government or the Missouri Government which
 - shows a photograph of the voter;
 - contains the name of the voter which substantially conforms to the most recent signature in the voter's registration record; and
 - includes an expiration date and is not expired or expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022);
- 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.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.9.

¹¹¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277.1.

¹¹² <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>

¹¹³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.427.1; <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

¹¹⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.159.2.

¹¹⁵ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

¹¹⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.427.1; <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

Voters do not need to provide identification when they return a mail-in absentee ballot.

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

Yes. If a voter becomes hospitalized or confined after the absentee ballot request deadline (5PM Wednesday, October 23, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election), the election authority may be asked to appoint a team to deliver and witness and return the voter's absentee ballot if the voter is located in the same or in an adjacent jurisdiction.¹¹⁷ Voters needing this option should contact their [local election authority](#) as soon as practicable. The request can be made by the voter or by the voter's spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.

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

Application for an absentee ballot must be made in writing and submitted to the voter's [local election authority](#)

- by the voter in person mail, email or fax;
- in person by the voter's guardian or by the voter's spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.¹¹⁸

A voter's guardian, spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law may also *complete* an absentee ballot application, in person, on behalf of a voter who wishes to vote by mail in absentee ballot.¹¹⁹

An [application](#) for a mail in absentee ballot must be *received* by the voter's [local election authority](#) by 5PM on the second Wednesday prior to an election (5PM Wednesday, October 23, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election).¹²⁰

Voters who wish to vote absentee in person can do so at the office of their [local election authority](#) or at a designated satellite location by 5PM on the day before Election Day. They may cast their ballot at the same time that they make their application.¹²¹ Photo ID is required to vote absentee in-person. Provisional ballots are not available for in-person absentee voters who lack requisite ID.

Voters who are voting for the first time in Missouri, who registered by mail, and who have not provided a copy of their identification to the local election authority must provide a copy of that identification with their application for a mail in absentee ballot or they will not receive a ballot.¹²² Acceptable forms of ID include:

- A non-expired Missouri driver's license or a non-expired or non-expiring Missouri non-driver's license (a driver's or non-driver's license that expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022) is considered non-expired for these purposes¹²³);
- A document issued by either the United States Government or the Missouri Government which

¹¹⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.2.

¹¹⁸ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/howtovote#absentee>

¹¹⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.013(25); 115.279.1.

¹²⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.4

¹²¹ *Id.*

¹²² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.159.2.

¹²³ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

- shows a photograph of the voter;
- contains the name of the voter which substantially conforms to the most recent signature in the voter’s registration record; and
- includes an expiration date and is not expired or expired after the most recent general election (November 8, 2022);

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.¹²⁴

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

A voter should contact their [local election authority](#) to check the status of their absentee ballot application or ballot return.

55. 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?

A voter should contact their [local election authority](#) to determine why their mail in absentee ballot application or mail in absentee ballot has been rejected.

If the election authority has reviewed an application for a mail in absentee ballot and is satisfied the applicant is entitled to receive the ballot, the election authority should send or provide the ballot to the voter within three working days, or if absentee ballots are not available when the application is received, within five working days after they become available.¹²⁵

However, if the election authority is not satisfied that the voter is entitled to vote by mail in absentee ballot, the election authority must notify the voter within three working days and state the reason(s) why the voter is not entitled to vote by mail in absentee ballot. A voter whose application for a mail in absentee ballot or whose absentee ballot has been rejected should reach out to the [local election authority](#) to determine how to correct the problem. If the voter is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the local election authority then the voter may file a [complaint](#) with the elections division of the secretary of state’s office under Section 115.219 of the Missouri Code.¹²⁶

An absentee ballot application may be rejected because the applicant failed to state a reason.

However once a voter is sent an absentee ballot - that absentee ballot **may not be rejected** because the voter did not state the reason for voting an absentee ballot on the ballot envelope.¹²⁷

An absentee ballot **will be rejected**:

- if the statements on the ballot envelope have not been completed¹²⁸;
 - if the number of votes for all offices and questions exceeds the number authorized by law;¹²⁹
 - if the absentee ballot is not accompanied by a completed and signed required statement.¹³⁰
- Unless the voter is incapacitate or confined due to illness, primarily responsible for caring for

¹²⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.427.1; <https://www.sos.mo.gov/voterid>.

¹²⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1.

¹²⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.1.

¹²⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.294.

¹²⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.295.2.

¹²⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.447.1(2).

¹³⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.283.

- and residing with a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness, or incarcerated, that statement must also be notarized¹³¹; or
- because the voter received improper assistance.¹³²

Missouri law provides that absentee ballots are deemed “cast” when received by the election authority¹³³ and contains no provision that allows a voter to cure a problem with a submitted absentee ballot or absentee ballot envelope. A June 2024 rule expressly prohibits ballot curing and prohibits election officials from reaching out to voters to inform them of minor error or omissions on the outer ballot envelope or give them the opportunity to fix them. Voters should **be very careful** in filling out their ballots and completing the ballot envelope.

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

A voter who is submitting an absentee ballot by mail must mark the ballot in secret (unless receiving assistance by a person of their choice to read or mark their ballot), place it in the ballot envelope, seal the envelope and complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope. The affidavit must be signed and will also need to be notarized unless:

- the voter is Incapacitated or confined due to illness or physical disability , or is 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 address; or,
- the voter is incarcerated.¹³⁴

An absentee ballot **may not be rejected** because the voter did not state the reason for voting an absentee ballot on the ballot envelope.¹³⁵

An absentee ballot **will be rejected**:

- if the statements on the ballot envelope have not been completed¹³⁶;
- if the number of votes for all offices and questions exceeds the number authorized by law;¹³⁷
- if the absentee ballot is not accompanied by a completed and signed required statement.¹³⁸
Unless the voter is incapacitate or confined due to illness, primarily responsible for caring for and residing with a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness, or incarcerated, that statement must also be notarized¹³⁹; or
- because the voter received improper assistance.¹⁴⁰

Missouri law provides that absentee ballots are deemed “cast” when received by the election authority¹⁴¹ and contains no provision that allows a voter to cure a problem with a submitted absentee ballot or absentee ballot envelope. A June 2024 rule expressly prohibits ballot curing and prohibits election officials from reaching out to voters to inform them of minor error or omissions on the outer

¹³¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.277.2 and 115.277.3(2) and (5).

¹³² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.1.

¹³³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.286.

¹³⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.277.2 and 115.277.3(2) and (5).

¹³⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.294.

¹³⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.295.2.

¹³⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.447.1(2).

¹³⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.283.

¹³⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 115.277.2 and 115.277.3(2) and (5).

¹⁴⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.1.

¹⁴¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.286.

ballot envelope or give them the opportunity to fix them. Voters should **be very careful** in filling out their ballots and completing the ballot envelope.

57. 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 any person chosen by the voter. The assistant does not need to be over age 18 or a registered voter. The assistant will need to sign the ballot envelope indicating they provided the assistance sought. It is illegal to assist a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, or to 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.¹⁴²

The person providing assistance to the voter completing an absentee ballot will need to complete the statement on the ballot envelope identifying themselves and describing why assistance was necessary and how the voter was assisted. This statement is made under penalties of perjury.¹⁴³

58. 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 local election authority at or before the close of polls - 7PM on Election Day.

Voters can vote an in person absentee ballot in the office of their local election authority or at designated satellite locations until 5PM the day before Election Day (Mon. November 4 for the November 5, 2024 elections.)

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

All absentee and mail-in ballots must be returned to the voter's [local election authority](#). The use of "drop boxes" is prohibited in Missouri.¹⁴⁴ 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 FedEx or UPS, by the voter or by the voter's guardian, spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.¹⁴⁵

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

Yes. Mail in absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the office of the voter's [local election authority](#) by the voter's guardian, spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.¹⁴⁶

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

The voter can complete a "lost ballot affidavit" or surrender their spoiled absentee ballot and vote regular ballot during in-person absentee voting or at their polling place on Election Day.

¹⁴² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(1).

¹⁴³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.283.1, 115.283.5.

¹⁴⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291.5.

¹⁴⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(2).

¹⁴⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291(2).

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

The voter can complete a “lost ballot affidavit” and cast a regular ballot during in-person absentee voting or at their polling place on Election Day. A voter who requested but did not receive a mail-in absentee ballot can contact their [local election authority](#) to request replacement mail in ballot or vote in person either absentee or on Election Day by completing a “lost ballot affidavit”.

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

The voter can complete a “lost ballot affidavit” and cast a regular ballot during in-person absentee voting or at their polling place on Election Day. A voter who requested and received, but did not submit an absentee ballot and who wishes to vote in person at the polls on Election Day should contact their [local election authority](#).

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

Beginning on the second Tuesday prior to an election (or October 22, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) through 5PM on the day before Election Day, voters may cast absentee ballots in person at their [election authority](#) or designated satellite locations. These voters do not need to provide a reason for casting an in person absentee ballot.¹⁴⁷ Such voters must present valid Photo ID.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

A voter who arrives at what they believe to be their polling place on Election Day and finds that it is not open between 6AM and 7PM should confirm that they are at the correct [location](#) and that voting is scheduled to be held at the polling place. If they are at the correct location they should check to see if there is another entrance in the building that leads to the polling place. If they are still unable to find the polling place they should reach out to the [local election authority](#). Voters should remain at the polling place until they have had an opportunity to vote or have been directed somewhere else to vote.

66. 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?

If a voter arrives at a polling place with long lines the voter should be encouraged to remain in line and see if they can determine the length of the wait and cause of the delay (polling place not open, equipment malfunction, insufficient equipment for the number of voters, etc.). If the polling place is closing the voter should remain in line as any voter in line by 7PM will be able to vote.¹⁴⁸ Several Missouri jurisdictions that allow voting at any location (such as St. Louis County and St. Louis City) include a voting line tracker on their website so voters can see where the lines are shortest before heading to their desired polling place.

¹⁴⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277(1).

¹⁴⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.407.

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

If a voter finds that equipment at the polling place is not working they should remain in line and, if possible, determine the nature of the equipment malfunction. Polling places often have technical specialists and backup procedures such as paper ballots or ballot storage boxes that can be used in place of broken equipment or until equipment is operational. It is particularly important to stay in line if the polls are about to close as voters in line when the polls close will be permitted to vote. In some jurisdictions, including the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Kansas City, can vote at another voting site. Please check with the election officials at the polling place or with the voter's [local election authority](#) to determine if that option is available.

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

No one can approach voters within the 25-foot buffer zone. 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 is prohibited.¹⁴⁹ 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. While a voter may be approached about a candidate or an issue more than 25 feet from the entrance, the voter should not be harassed or feel threatened. If a voter feels harassed or threatened by activities at the polling place they should inform an election judge.

Missouri law does not create a 25 foot buffer around voting sites during in person absentee voting.

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

Missouri law makes it a misdemeanor for voters to “wear[] political apparel to the polls, including political masks, shirts, hats, buttons or any other apparel that advocates for a political candidate or issue.”¹⁵⁰ It is also a misdemeanor to electioneer within 25 feet of the entrance of the polling place. Voters should have clear ingress and egress from the polling place.

Both Missouri and federal law make intimidation, coercion, unsupported or discriminatory challenges, false information and impeding access to voting a crime.¹⁵¹ Firearms are not allowed inside or within 25 feet of the polling place entrance.

Voters may not take pictures inside of the polling place.¹⁵²

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

¹⁴⁹ Mo Rev. Stat. § 115.637(18).

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/default.aspx?PageID=9965>.

¹⁵¹ Mo Rev. Stat. § 115. 635; 52 USC 20511; 18 USC 241; 18 USC 245; See also Voting Rights Act Section 11(b)

¹⁵² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.637(14); <https://www.sos.mo.gov/default.aspx?PageID=9965>.

Missouri law makes it a misdemeanor for anyone to “wear[] political apparel to the polls, including political masks, shirts, hats, buttons or any other apparel that advocates for a political candidate or issue.”¹⁵³ It is also a misdemeanor to electioneer within 25 feet of the entrance of the polling place.

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

If a voter feels unsafe or uncomfortable outside of a polling place they should move to a place where they feel safe. Once they are in a place where they feel safe the voter should call 9-1-1. If they can do so without putting their safety in jeopardy, the voter can also contact election officials at the polling place.

It is a crime to threaten or to use force to cause someone to vote or not to vote.¹⁵⁴ 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.¹⁵⁵ 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.

72. **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.¹⁵⁶ 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 must make challenges to the election judge or election authority and cannot speak to the voter.¹⁵⁷ 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.¹⁵⁸ 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 115.219.¹⁵⁹ **A voter who is challenged and denied the opportunity to vote a regular ballot may vote a yellow provisional ballot** (see [Question 23](#) for more information on provisional ballots.) 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 for cause.

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

Intimidation of voters is illegal, including by police. Police may be present 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

¹⁵³ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/default.aspx?PageID=9965>

¹⁵⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.635 52 USC 20511; 18 USC 241; 18 USC 245; See also Voting Rights Act Section 11(b)

¹⁵⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.637(18).

¹⁵⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.429.2.

¹⁵⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 114.105.2 and .5.

¹⁵⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.429.3.

¹⁵⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.149.3 - 4.

navigate around a police car). Context is important here - are law enforcement behaving in a way that voters find intimidating? The voter should be asked to provide as much information about the circumstances as possible including specific data on the number of police or members of the military involved, location, and what they are doing and/or saying to voters. Only if the police or members of the military are outside, encourage the voter to take a picture feel comfortable doing so. Aside from legitimate police business, or in order to vote, police should not be inside the voting area.

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

If a voter is told that they are not on the rolls at a polling place to which they have come to vote, the poll worker should call the election authority to verify the voter's registration. The voter should make every effort to ensure that they are at the correct polling place and are, in fact, not on the rolls. If the voter confirms that their name is not on the rolls and that there is no other polling place where they are eligible to vote, the voter is entitled to vote a yellow provisional ballot.¹⁶⁰

If a voter casts a ballot place at a polling place where they are not entitled to vote their vote will not count. Therefore, before voting a provisional ballot, there are a number of steps that a voter should take if they are informed that their name is not on the rolls at a polling place including:

- Confirm that they are at the correct polling place or central polling location using the [Check Your Voter Registration Tool](#) on the Secretary of State's website. **If the voter learns that they are at the wrong polling place they should leave and go to the correct one as their vote will not be counted if it is cast at the wrong polling place.**
- Ask the election judge to confirm that some variant of the voter's name is not on the register (e.g. with or without the voter's middle name or whether the name is hyphenated) or that the voter's name is not misspelled on the register.
- Confirm that the voter has not moved recently. See [Question 11](#) for information on voting by individuals who have recently moved.
- Confirm that the voter has not recently changed their name.
- Have the poll worker 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.¹⁶¹
- Ask the election judge to contact the [local election authority](#) so that they may review the Missouri voter registration system in order to see if they can confirm the voter's eligibility to vote at the 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.¹⁶²
- If it turns out that the voter is not at the correct polling place, the poll worker must direct the voter to their correct polling place (or central polling location) 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, the voter must be allowed to cast a yellow provisional ballot.¹⁶³ **The voter should be reminded that if their vote is cast at the wrong polling place it will not be counted.**¹⁶⁴

¹⁶⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(2)(b).

¹⁶¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193.5.

¹⁶² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.193(4).

¹⁶³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(1).

¹⁶⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430.2(3).

A voter who casts a yellow provisional ballot will receive a slip of paper with a unique identification number and a toll free telephone number which the voter can call to determine whether their vote was counted and if it was not counted, why.¹⁶⁵ The voter should make sure that they hold onto this information.

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

No Identification:

Missouri voters must present valid photo identification to cast a ballot in person. Voters who appear at their polling place without an approved form of identification (see [Question 19](#)) may cast a BLUE provisional ballot. The ballot will count if either

1. The voter returns to the polling place the polling place with appropriate identification before the polls close on Election Day; or
2. The signature on the provisional ballot envelope is determined to match the signature on file with the voter's registration record.

A voter who casts a blue provisional ballot due to not having identification should complete all parts of the form on the blue provisional ballot envelope, sign the ballot envelope and ensure that two poll workers sign the envelope. Incomplete forms may cause the ballot to be rejected. The voter will receive a stub from your provisional ballot envelope with instructions on how to find out if it was counted.¹⁶⁶

Not on the roster:

See [Question 74](#).

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

76. **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 equipment¹⁶⁷ and must post voting instructions in a visible place at each polling place,¹⁶⁸ including in the voting booth.¹⁶⁹ A voter may request a demonstration of the voting equipment by the poll workers.¹⁷⁰ If, after entering the voting booth, the voter asks for further instructions, two election judges of different political parties shall give such instructions.¹⁷¹ Voters who need assistance reading or casting their ballot may request such assistance from a bipartisan team of poll workers or **any person of their choice** (except

¹⁶⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

¹⁶⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.430(13); 15 CSR 30-3.050.

¹⁶⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(1).

¹⁶⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(2).

¹⁶⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.421(2).

¹⁷⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.417(2).

¹⁷¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445(2).

their employer or union representative). The helper does not need to be over 18 or a registered voter. However, an individual may only assist one person at an election who is not a family member.¹⁷² This provision is being challenged in court. Missouri state election law does not place a limit on the time voters can spend in the booth. Children are allowed in the voting booth.

77. 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.¹⁷³ 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.¹⁷⁴ 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.¹⁷⁵ Such sites must conform to nationally accepted accessibility standards. Voters with a physical disability are encouraged to contact their [local election authority](#) in advance of a visit to a polling place on Election Day or during early voting in order to ensure that arrangements are in place that will allow the voter to vote. Every polling place must have at least one voting machine accessible to voters with disabilities.

Voters who, because of disabilities or impairments, believe that they cannot enter the polling place or wait in long lines inside the polling place, have the option of **"curbside" voting**. If the voter is within 200 feet of a polling location and 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.¹⁷⁶ Voters do not need to present any paperwork or divulge any medical information to avail themselves of curbside voting. Any voter who believes they need this assistance is entitled to it.

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.¹⁷⁷

If a voter becomes **hospitalized or confined after the absentee ballot request deadline**, the election authority upon request will appoint a team to deliver and witness, and return the voter's absentee ballot if the voter is located in the same or in an adjacent jurisdiction.¹⁷⁸ Voters needing this option should contact their [local election authority](#) as soon as practicable. The request can be made by the voter or by the voter's spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law.

78. 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?

¹⁷² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445.3.

¹⁷³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436.3.

¹⁷⁴ *Id.*

¹⁷⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.115.5.

¹⁷⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436.

¹⁷⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.284.

¹⁷⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.287.2.

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 the election judges (two judges of different parties) or by a person chosen by the voter. No person, other than a member of the voter's immediate family, shall assist more than one voter at one election (NOTE: as of 8/2/24 this is being challenged in court). It is illegal to assist a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, or to 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.¹⁷⁹

79. 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. 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.¹⁸⁰

If the voter is unable to read or write the English language the voter may be assisted by the election judges (two judges of different parties) or by a person chosen by the voter. No person, other than a member of the voter's immediate family, shall assist more than one voter at one election. It is illegal to assist a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, or to 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.¹⁸¹

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

Voters with disabilities who 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.¹⁸² 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 they need 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.

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

Yes. A voter can bring their notes, a voter's guide, or a sample ballot into the voting booth for their personal use. As electioneering is prohibited within the polling place, voters should be careful not to share or leave such material in the polling place.¹⁸³

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

¹⁷⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445.

¹⁸⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445.3; Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. § 10508.

¹⁸¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.445.

¹⁸² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.436.

¹⁸³ <https://www.usa.gov/who-you-can-vote-for>.

82. VOTER REGISTRATION SOLICITATION: Can I help others register to vote?

Yes. Anyone can help others register to vote. They do not need to be 18 or a registered voter in Missouri. Anyone who is paid and solicits more than 10 voter registration applications is required to register as a “solicitor” with the Secretary of State. The registration form for Voter Registration Solicitors is available on the Secretary of State’s [website](#).¹⁸⁴ Those conducting voter registration can provide assistance to applicants who request it. Voter registration applications must be delivered to the local election authority within seven days of receipt.¹⁸⁵

83. UNHOUSED VOTERS: Can I register to vote if I do not have a traditional residence?

Yes. It is not mandatory for citizens to possess a "permanent home" for voter registration. A citizen can provide an alternative description of their residence, even if they are experiencing homelessness, as long as it enables the authorities to identify and assign a voting precinct to them. Unhoused or housing insecure individuals can also use a location where they are staying, or the address of a social service agency that provides them services, such as a shelter. This precinct assignment ensures that the voter receives the appropriate ballot. The mailing address on their registration form can be a PO box, local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or the home of someone who will accept mail for them. Some local shelters allow unhoused persons to use their address on voter registration. Contact the voter’s [local election authority](#) for assistance.

84. ABSENTEE BALLOT SOLICITATION: Are there any restrictions on helping someone get an absentee ballot?

A law criminalizing soliciting absentee ballot applications is not in effect due to a court order finding them to likely be unconstitutional. Accordingly, Missourians may help someone get an absentee ballot application and provide them assistance in doing so. However absentee ballot applications should not be “prefilled” before being provided to a voter.¹⁸⁶

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

The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition can be contacted at info@movpc.org.
The Missouri Secretary of State can be contacted [here](#).

The website for the Secretary of State has [contact information](#) for the election officials for each jurisdiction.

¹⁸⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.205.

¹⁸⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.203(4).

¹⁸⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.279.2.