






## FAQS for Registering & Voting in Tennessee





Find Questions and Answers to Help You Vote Wisely & Understand Regulations






<https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/knoxvilleknox-county>




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*(Click on links to TN webpages or scan QR codes and tap to open webpages)*




<p>1. How can the GoVoteTn app help me find answers to many of my registration and voting questions?</p>	<p>Download GoVoteTN app: <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/services/download-the-govotetn-app">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/services/download-the-govotetn-app</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If you download this app and put in your information, you will be able to find personalized information:</li> <li>➤ A sample ballot for next election with candidate list</li> <li>➤ Your polling location and district for each office.</li> <li>➤ Early Voting and Election Day polling dates, hours, and locations</li> <li>➤ A place to mark sample ballots for upcoming election</li> <li>➤ A way to find Early Voting and Election Day polling locations</li> <li>➤ Contact information for your County Election Commission</li> <li>➤ Access to online election results</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>scan me →</p> </div>
<p>2. Where can I find a list of questions and answers about elections, registration and voting (FAQs) posted online by the Tennessee government?</p>	<p>Tennessee election and voter FAQs:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/faqs?page=1">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/faqs?page=1</a></p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>scan me →</p> </div>
<p>3. What League of Women Voters website provides voter information including a nonpartisan Voter Guide?</p>	<p><b>LWV Vote411 Voter Guide and Personalized Information:</b>  <a href="https://www.vote411.org/">https://www.vote411.org/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ See what's on Your Ballot</li> <li>➤ Find election dates and registration deadlines</li> <li>➤ Check Your Voter Registration</li> <li>➤ Find Your Polling Place</li> <li>➤ Discover Upcoming Candidate Events in Your Area</li> <li>➤ Explore the Voter Guide and compare your candidates' answers to questions to help you vote wisely. Note: Encourage candidates to provide their answers.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>scan me →</p> </div>
<p><b>Registering to Vote: Regulations &amp; Answers to Questions</b></p>	
<p>3. How can I register to vote in Tennessee?</p>	<p>How to register to vote:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/how-to-register-to-vote">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/how-to-register-to-vote</a></p> <p>IMPORTANT: You must register at least 30 days before the next Election Day—in the county where you live. If you register on a paper form, it must be submitted to your county's Election Commission. Students can choose to register to vote in the county in which they are attending school. (See FAQs item # 26 below.)</p> <p>Guidelines for determining residency:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/guidelines-determining-residency">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/guidelines-determining-residency</a></p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>scan me →</p>     <p>scan me →</p> </div>

<p>4. Where can I find a paper form to register or update my voter registration in Knox County?</p>	<p>Voter Registration and updating form:  <a href="https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/pdfs/VRF.pdf">https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/pdfs/VRF.pdf</a></p> <p>IMPORTANT: You must include your Social Security number on the application. Keep your information private by mailing the form in an envelope. Remember to put a stamp on the envelope.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p>
<p>5. Where can I find the online Tennessee voter registration form?</p>	<p>Online Tennessee Voter Registration Form with instructions: <a href="https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/">https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/</a></p> <p>IMPORTANT: You must have a Tennessee driver's license in order to register online. You are required to provide your Social Security number on this application. It is helpful to include your Tennessee driver's license number or Homeland Security number on the application.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p>
<p>6. How can I determine if I am currently registered to vote in the county where I live—and whether I need to update my registration?</p>	<p>Voter registration lookup:  <a href="https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/">https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/</a></p> <p>IMPORTANT: You can also check on the GoVoteTN app or Vote411 website (see items #1 or #2 above)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p>
<p>7. What are common mistakes when registering to vote on a paper form?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Did not answer questions regarding citizenship, Tennessee residence, felony conviction, 18 years old on/before next election.</li> <li>&gt; Missing or incomplete name, address, date and place of birth, signature, gender. (OK to leave blank your former address.)</li> <li>&gt; Missing or invalid social security number (if applying on paper form).</li> <li>&gt; Completed form using pencil (only black or blue ink allowed)</li> </ul> <p>IMPORTANT: If you make any of these mistakes, you will receive a letter stating you need to make corrections and resubmit. This must be done no later than 5 days before the election.</p>
<p>8. What are mistakes that cause your registration to be <u>rejected</u>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Submitted the form to an Election Commission in a county where you do <u>not</u> live. Note: The form will be forwarded to the correct county, but you will receive a rejected notice from the Election Commission where you originally submitted your registration form.</li> <li>&gt; Did not include all required information</li> <li>&gt; Answered “yes” to having been convicted of felony.</li> </ul> <p>IMPORTANT: If all your felony convictions have been expunged, you should answer “no” to the question about having been convicted of a felony. First, the person should check to make sure their record is erased. It can take more than a month after the judge agrees the expungement will be erased.) In addition, the person should find out if they have any other convictions for a felony—in or outside Tennessee and is a state or federal court. A separate voter restoration is required for each one.</p>
<p>9. If you receive a letter stating reasons your voter registration application is <u>rejected</u>, how can you appeal?</p>	<p>Voter Registration Request Appeal Form:  <a href="https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/pdfs/voter_reg_appeal.pdf">https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/pdfs/voter_reg_appeal.pdf</a></p> <p>IMPORTANT: You may be able to print the form from a phone. If not, you can print at a public library. You do not need to respond to the rejection if the Election Commission sent it to the county where you live.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p>

<p>10. What is the process for restoring your voting rights in Tennessee when you have been convicted of one or more felonies?</p>	<p>Restoration of Voting Rights Guide and Form:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/restoration-of-voting-rights">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/restoration-of-voting-rights</a></p> <p>scan me </p> <p>IMPORTANT: You only lose your voting rights if convicted of a felony. While most people convicted of a felony will need to meet all parts of this process, some people qualify for expungement of a felony conviction or qualify to get court costs waived.</p>
<p>11. Where can a person find additional information that can help them restore their voting rights in Tennessee—including options that may expedite the process?</p>	<p>In Knox County contact:  David Twiggs, Election Commission Administrative Official  865-215-3379</p> <p>UTK Legal Clinic website will be posted here soon</p> <p>Manual for Civil Rights Restoration in Tennessee:  <a href="https://campaignlegal.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/TN%20Manual%202-10.pdf">https://campaignlegal.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/TN%20Manual%202-10.pdf</a></p> <p>scan me </p>
<p>12. If you change your name and/or address within the same county, how do you update your voter registration?</p>	<p>How to update your voter registration:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/how-to-update-your-voter-registration">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/how-to-update-your-voter-registration</a></p> <p>scan me </p> <p>IMPORTANT: It is best to update your registration online at least 30 days before the next election. You can get your address changed (if within the same county) when you go to vote. It is easier to do this during Early Voting than on Election Day. (FAQs item # 4 has a link to a paper form.)</p>
<p>13. If you moved from one Tennessee county to another, what must you do in order to be able to vote?</p>	<p>IMPORTANT: According to Tennessee regulations, “If you move to a different county, it is <b>not</b> considered an update.” The new registration must take place at least 30 days before the next election. See the website included in item #13 for additional information.</p>
<p>14. Under what conditions will a person’s voter registration be purged?</p>	<p>Purging Voter Registration Information:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/purging-voter-registration-information">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/purging-voter-registration-information</a></p> <p>scan me </p>
<p>15. Under what circumstances can a nonresident property owner register to vote?</p>	<p>pdf of Knox County requirements:  <a href="https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/pdfs/Property_Qualified_voting.pdf">https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/pdfs/Property_Qualified_voting.pdf</a></p> <p>scan me </p>
<p><b>VOTING: Regulations and Answers to Questions</b></p>	
<p>16. How can a person who is an inmate (not convicted of a felony) vote?</p>	<p>Inmates (not convicted of a felony) have a procedure for voting that is administered by the Election Commission involving us working directly and proactively with the penal facilities in the county (in Knox County, this involves the county jail and the detention facility on Maloneyville Road).</p> <p>The procedure involves an absentee ballot request, a voter registration form, and then a couple of my deputized staff (sworn election officials representing both political parties) visiting the facilities to vote the inmates on a set day. They vote at the jail.</p>

<p>17. During Early Voting, when and where can I vote in person?</p>	<p>How to Early Vote—in Person:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/how-to-early-vote-in-person">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/how-to-early-vote-in-person</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p> <p>IMPORTANT: Early Voting is not only more convenient. It ensures your vote counts by providing a flexible schedule should you become ill have another problem that keeps you from voting on Election Day. It also gives you extra time to resolve any voting or registration issue.</p>
<p>18. During the General Election, when and where can I vote in person?</p>	<p>IMPORTANT: On Election Day, your vote will <u>only</u> count if you go to your assigned precinct. You must bring a valid photo ID unless you qualify to vote without one. (See items # 25 below.). IMPORTANT: If you have a valid photo ID but did not bring it to the polling place, you can vote a provisional ballot. It will be counted if you take your approved photo ID to an Election Commission Office no more than 2 days after the election.</p>
<p>19. Who and what will be on my ballot?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In a Primary Election: You must declare an affiliation with the Republican or Democratic Party. Your ballot will include candidates in your district (or for President) who are running in your chosen party’s primary. No Independent candidates are included. Your ballot will also contain any additional items that will be on all voters’ ballots.</li> <li>➤ In a General Election: Your ballot will include Republican, Democratic, and Independent candidates in your district. (Exception: If you live in the city of Knoxville, you can vote for City Council candidates across all districts in the General Election).</li> </ul> <p>IMPORTANT: District numbers vary according to the Office for each kind of elected officials. There are no districts for Mayor, Governor, or President. During some Tennessee Elections, your ballot will contain candidates in Primary Elections for some offices and candidates in a General Election for other offices.</p>
<p>20. Where can a person find Early Voting locations and schedules?</p>	<p>The easiest way is to use the GoVoteTN app.  <a href="https://web.go-vote-tn.elections.tn.gov/locations">https://web.go-vote-tn.elections.tn.gov/locations</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p>
<p>21. Where can a person gather information about upcoming elections and candidates?</p>	<p>The easiest way is to use the GoVoteTN app (see item #21 for a link and QR code.)</p>
<p>22. What are 5 types of <u>acceptable</u> photo IDs required in Tennessee when voting?</p>	<p>Guide on ID Requirements when voting:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/voter-id-requirements">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/voter-id-requirements</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p> <p>IMPORTANT: You <u>can</u> use your Tennessee driver’s license, or other Tennessee or federal governmental photo ID such as a Department of Safety and Homeland Security ID or a passport.</p>
<p>23. What types of photo IDs are not valid to use when voting in Tennessee?</p>	<p>You <u>cannot</u> use a college student ID or other photo ID issued by a city or county (such as a library card) or IDs from other states. If a first-time voter, who is using an <u>expired photo ID</u> that is otherwise acceptable, you must show a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that includes your name and address.</p>
<p>24. What alternatives are available for voting <u>without a photo ID</u>?</p>	<p>You may be able to vote without a valid photo ID if you meet one of these requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You are a resident of a licensed nursing home or assisted living center and vote at the facility.</li> </ol>

	<p>2. You are hospitalized</p> <p>3. You have a religious objection to being photographed</p> <p>4. You cannot afford to obtain a photo ID without paying a fee</p> <p>IMPORTANT: If you cannot afford to obtain a photo ID, you must sign a form where you are voting. Then you will be allowed to vote.</p>
<p>25. If students are attending a school away from their permanent residence, what are 3 alternative ways to vote?</p>	<p>Students registered to vote can choose to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Travel to their county of permanent residence and vote during Early Voting or on Election Day.</li> <li>2. Follow guidelines to vote absentee by mail (if they are a Tennessee resident).</li> <li>3. Update their voter registration address to the county where attending school and vote in local as well as state/federal elections.</li> </ol> <p>IMPORTANT: Students choosing to vote where attending school need to know this will not change their parents' ability to claim them as a dependent or for FAFSA. It will also not affect any financial aid except for a scholarship or fellowship that is only available if they maintain their original residence. Students do not need to report a change in their permanent residence to their school. They may use a Tennessee driver's license listing a different Tennessee county address. Students registered in a different state need to check that they have a valid photo ID required in Tennessee, such as a passport. They cannot use a driver's license issued by another state. It is most efficient to make the change online prior to the 30 days before the next election. If changing from another Tennessee county, the Knox County address can be changed easily during Early Voting and with additional paperwork on Election Day.</p>
<p>26. What is a provisional ballot and under what conditions will it be counted?</p>	<p>Under certain conditions, a person can vote on a provisional ballot that can be checked and then counted, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ if uncertain whether an absentee ballot will reach the Election Commission on or before Election Day,</li> <li>➤ If did not bring a valid photo ID and does not qualify for an exemption</li> <li>➤ If name and address is the same as another person (such as a father and son who live together)</li> </ul> <p>IMPORTANT: If on Election Day, a person goes to the wrong polling place, they may complete a provisional ballot but it will <u>not</u> be counted. For other provisional ballots: Always follow up according to the regulations to ensure your vote counts.</p>
<p>27. Who can vote absentee by-mail and what are the regulations?</p>	<p>Guide to Absentee Voting:  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/guide-to-absentee-voting">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/guide-to-absentee-voting</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;">scan me </p> <p>IMPORTANT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In Tennessee, you <u>must</u> mail in your ballot to arrive at your county's Election Commission Office by the end of Election Day— you <u>cannot</u> drop off your ballot.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure your absentee by-mail ballot counts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request absentee ballot within designated time period—request as early as possible</li> <li>2. Remember to sign request and provide a complete address of where to mail ballot to you</li> <li>3. Track status of request: <a href="http://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup">tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup</a> so can correct any mistakes promptly</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Sign affidavit on ballot envelop provided</li> <li>5. Mail ballot ASAP—must arrive by close of polls election day—CANNOT hand deliver</li> <li>6. Include first class postage</li> <li>7. Track receipt of ballot: <a href="http://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup">tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup</a></li> <li>8. IF UNSURE BALLOT RECEIVED: VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT IN PERSON</li> </ol>
<p>28. How can a person file a complaint</p>	<p>About the Help America Vote Act (HAVA):  <a href="https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/about-the-help-america-vote-act-hava">https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/about-the-help-america-vote-act-hava</a> </p> <p>HAVA Complaint Form: <a href="https://sos-stage.tnsosgovfiles.com/s3fs-public/document/ss-3075.pdf">https://sos-stage.tnsosgovfiles.com/s3fs-public/document/ss-3075.pdf</a> </p> <p>State of Tennessee Elections Complaint Form (non-HAVA):  <a href="https://sos-stage.tnsosgovfiles.com/s3fs-public/document/ss-3074.pdf">https://sos-stage.tnsosgovfiles.com/s3fs-public/document/ss-3074.pdf</a> </p>
<p>29. What does it mean to vote wisely?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Make a plan for when and where you will vote</li> <li>➤ Take advantage of Early Voting so there is time to resolve any problems</li> <li>➤ Know who is running in your district</li> <li>➤ Know what issues matter to you</li> <li>➤ Know the views of your candidates</li> <li>➤ Encourage everyone to vote—take family and friends with you to vote</li> <li>➤ Your vote is your voice—if you don't vote, you don't count</li> </ul>