

## **COVID-19 - Election Information**

## **In-Person Voting**

Tennessee offers in-person voting both during the early voting period and on Election Day. All counties are open for early voting starting **October 14** and ending **October 29**, including Saturdays. Early voting hours and locations in your county can be found at <a href="https://web.go-vote-tn.elections.tn.gov/">https://web.go-vote-tn.elections.tn.gov/</a>.

**November 3** is Election Day. Election Day hours and your polling location can be found at <a href="https://web.go-vote-tn.elections.tn.gov/">https://web.go-vote-tn.elections.tn.gov/</a>.

Whether you vote in-person during early voting or on Election Day, your county election commission office has worked very hard to implement COVID-19 protocols. Poll officials wear either face masks or face shields and in some instances both. Gowns and gloves will also be available for poll officials to use. Every polling place has hand sanitizer for the poll officials and voters to use. In addition, the 6' signage is in place to facilitate proper social distancing. During voting hours, where feasible, county election commission offices have put up plexiglass dividers at check-in stations at early voting locations and at polling places.

Voters receive single-use pens to complete their applications for ballot and popsicle sticks, coffee stirrers, single use gloves or other types of styli, to make their selections on their voting systems touch free. Election officials wipe off surfaces throughout the day with disinfectants.

Voters are strongly encouraged to wear face masks.

During the August 6 election, voters commented on how these protocols at voting locations made them feel safe while voting. Tennessee election officials are committed to creating just the same voting environment for the November 3 election.

## **Absentee By-Mail Voting**

In Tennessee, in order to vote absentee by-mail, you must have a <u>qualifying reason</u>. Any Tennessee voter who is 60 or older qualifies to vote absentee by-mail. See all of the reasons by clicking <u>here</u>.

Also, a Tennessee voter who is hospitalized, ill or physically disabled and unable to appear at the polling place to vote qualifies to vote absentee by-mail. Included in the category of ill are voters who have an illness, physical disability or other underlying health condition that makes them especially vulnerable to COVID-19, and who, because of that condition, are unable to appear in the polling place. For a list of underlying health conditions that makes a person especially vulnerable see



https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html. A physician's statement is not required to vote under this category of ill.

Voters who are caretakers of someone with an illness, physical disability or other underlying health condition that makes the person cared for especially vulnerable to COVID-19, and who wish to vote by-mail may vote as a caretaker. For a list of underlying health conditions that makes a person especially vulnerable see <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html</a>. A physician's statement is not required to check this box.

You can request an absentee ballot by using this <u>form</u>. You may submit the form by mail, fax or email to your <u>county election commission</u>. When emailing, you must scan and attach the completed request form to the email.

We suggest you request your ballot as early as possible and mail the ballot back as soon as you receive it. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is **October 27**.

For the absentee by-mail ballot to be counted, it must be **received by mail** by your county election commission no later than the close of polls on November 3, Election Day.

The <u>Absentee By-Mail Ballot Status Tracker</u> allows you to track the status of your absentee by-mail ballot.

More information about the absentee by-mail voting process can be found at https://sos.tn.gov/products/elections/absentee-voting.