

(8) religious reasons prevent you from voting during the early voting period or on Election Day;

(9) you are in the military;

(10) you live overseas;

(11) you are a licensed commercial driver who will be out of your county during all of the early voting and all of Election Day, and can't receive mail where you are during that time;

(12) you are serving on a jury;

(13) you are an Election Day official or a member or employee of the election commission; or

(14) you are a candidate for office in this election.

How do I vote by mail?

■ Ask for an absentee ballot by mailing, faxing, or emailing your county election commission office with the following information: your name, address, social security number, date of birth, mailing address for the ballot (if you will be out of your county), the election you wish to vote in, your reason for voting absentee, and your signature.

■ If you are in the military or live overseas, you may ask for an absentee ballot at any time up until Tuesday, October 30. For everyone else, you can ask for an absentee ballot from Wednesday, August 8 until Tuesday, October 30.

■ You must vote in person (early voting or on Election Day) for the first election after you register to vote by mail. After you vote in person the first time, you can vote by mail in later elections. You won't have to provide any additional information.

■ Mail in your ballot with enough time for it to arrive by the time polls close on Election Day.



Tennessee Secretary of State:

(615) 741-7956

(877) 850-4959

www.state.tn.us/sos/election

ACLU-TN:

(615) 320-7142

www.aclu-tn.org/gethelp.htm

ACLU Voter Protection Hotline:

(877) 523-2792

Election Protection:

866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683)

US Department of Justice:

(800) 253-3931



GETTING READY TO VOTE

★ TENNESSEE ★

This brochure is designed to help you prepare for Election Day, including tips and information on who can vote, registration, and voting early or by mail.

QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status.
- Locate your polling place and note the hours of operation.
- Consider voting early or absentee if possible. If you plan to vote at the polls, go early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.
- Check to see what identification is required to vote.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time.
- Ask for help if you need it.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The ACLU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but we believe that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote.



WHO CAN VOTE

Can I vote in Tennessee?

You can vote in the November 6 election if you're registered to vote by Monday, October 8, 2012.

NOTE: If you are mailing your application, you must have it postmarked by Saturday, October 6.

You can register if:

- you're a U.S. citizen;
- you're a resident of Tennessee;
- you'll be at least 18 years old on November 6, 2012; and
- you have not been convicted of a felony (unless your rights have been restored).

What if I'm a student?

- You can register to vote at whatever address you regard as your primary residence. This can be your school address or your home address.

What if I've been convicted of a crime?

- If you were convicted of a misdemeanor in Tennessee, you can vote. If you're still in jail, you may have to vote by absentee ballot.
- If you were convicted of certain felonies in Tennessee, you can ask to have your right to vote restored if you meet certain requirements. Not all people convicted of felonies may be able to restore their voting rights in Tennessee. For more information and to find out how to receive a Certificate of Restoration, visit <http://www.aclu-tn.org/pdfs/RTV2012.pdf>

What if I'm homeless?

- You don't need a home to register. For the election officials to decide where you should vote, you have to describe where you usually stay or return to. This can be a street corner, a park, a shelter, or any other place that you usually return to. If you register to vote by mail, you'll have to give a mailing address where you can receive mail, like a shelter.

Do I need to show proof of U.S. citizenship when I register to vote?

- No. But you may receive a notice from your county election commission asking for proof. You have to send to your county election commission a photocopy of your birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers within 30 days after you receive the notice.
- If you don't send proof of your citizenship within 30 days, you can be removed from the voter list. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-141.

REGISTRATION

How do I register?

- **By mail.** You can fill out a voter registration form and mail it to your county election commission. If you register by mail, then you have to vote in person the first time you vote (unless you're a permanent absentee voter). You will need to bring a photo ID (unless you are exempt) and proof of current residence (such as a utility bill) to the polls.
- **In person.** You can register in person at the county clerk's office, the county election commission office, public libraries, or at several other government offices. For the full list, visit <http://www.tn.gov/sos/election/registration.htm>.

What's the registration deadline?

- Monday, October 8, 2012. If you are mailing your application, you must have it postmarked by Oct. 6.

What if I have moved or changed my name?

- If you've **moved within the same county** or have changed your name, you should update your registration information with your local county election commission office by November 1.
 - If you don't do so by November 1, you can still vote on Election Day at the polling place for your new address. You'll have to sign a form affirming your new address.
- If you **move to a new county**, you have to re-register to vote by October 8. You need to fill out another voter registration form and send it by mail or bring it in person to the election commission office in

your new county. If you mail it, you need to have it postmarked by Saturday, October 6.

- If you moved to a new county after August 8 and didn't re-register to vote by October 8, you can still vote. You can vote in person at the polling place for your **old address**. You can vote by mail if you apply by October 30. See the "How do I vote by mail?" section of this brochure for more information.

VOTING EARLY OR BY MAIL

Can I vote before Election Day?

- Yes. From Wednesday, October 17 to Thursday, November 1, you can vote in-person if you're registered. Contact your local county election commission office to find out what hours it is open for early voting and where you should vote.

Can I vote by mail?

- Maybe. In general, you can vote by mail only if you cannot go to the polls in person on Election Day or for early voting. You can register to vote by mail for one of these reasons:

- (1) you will be outside of the county where you are registered for all of the early voting period and all day on Election Day;
- (2) you or your spouse are away at college outside of your county;
- (3) your doctor files a statement with the county election commission saying that you are medically unable to vote in person;
- (4) you are in a live-in care facility;
- (5) you are 65 or older;
- (6) you have a physical disability and your polling place is not accessible;
- (7) you are hospitalized, ill, or disabled or taking care of someone who is;