LETMEVOTE

TN VOTER EMPOWERMENT CARD

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012

When are the polls open?

■ Polls will open between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. If you live in the Eastern time zone polls will close at 8 p.m. If you live in the Central time zone, they will close at 7 p.m. Tenn. Code Ann. §2-3-201. You have the right to vote if you're in line to vote when the polls close. Tenn. Code Ann. §2-7-127.

Where do I vote?

■ On Election Day, you have to vote at your assigned polling place. Your assigned polling place will be listed on the voter registration card that you should receive in the mail after you register. If you don't have your card, you can locate your polling place by calling (615) 741-7956 or (877) 850-4959 or going to https://tnmap.state.tn.us/voterlookup/.

Can I get time off from work to vote?

■ Maybe. If your work schedule begins less than 3 hours after the polls open and ends less than 3 hours before the polls close, you have the right to take time off (up to three hours of which your employer is not allowed to dock your pay) in order to vote. You have to notify your employer by noon on Monday, November 5, and your employer has the right to specify which hours you get to take. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-1-106.

Protect your right to vote - take this card to the polls with you.

7/12

ACLU

VOTER ID

Do I have to show ID?

■ Most likely. If you are voting in person, you must show a government-issued ID that includes your name and photo.

■ You won't need to show a photo ID if you live and vote in a nursing home, vote by mail, are hospitalized, have a religious objection to being photographed, or are low-income and don't have enough money to pay for a photo ID.

What ID can I show to vote?

■ You can use a Tennessee driver's license, a U.S. passport, a photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, a photo ID issued by the federal or any state government, a U.S. military ID, or a state-issued handgun carry permit with your photo, even if they are expired.

■ You cannot use college student IDs, even from public universities. You cannot use photo IDs that are not from the federal government or a state government.

What if I don't have any ID?

■ If you forgot to bring your ID, it's usually better to go get it. If you don't have time or an ID, you can cast a provisional ballot.

For your provisional ballot to count, you have to show the right ID to the county election commission office by closing time on Thursday, November 8. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-112.

■ You can get a free ID by going to the nearest Driver Service Center, showing them proof of citizenship and two proofs of TN residency and signing an affidavit stating that you do not have a valid government-issued photo ID for voting purposes.

■ If you are low-income and can't afford a copy of the documents required to get a free photo ID, you may still vote if you sign a form stating under oath that you are indigent and have been unable to get a photo ID for voting without paying a fee.

ACCESSIBILITY

What if my polling place is not accessible?

■ Contact your election commission right away. You have the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine. Or, if you prefer, you can vote by mail.

■ You can also bring one or more people to assist you at the polls. You can choose anyone you want to help you except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.

■ If you're 65 or older or have a disability, you have the right to vote at your election commission office on Election Day. You have to fill out an affidavit (sworn statement) stating that your designated voting location is not accessible. If this is the first time you are voting at the election commission office, you have to send your affidavit in by Friday, October 26 to the county election commission office. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-109.

PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

What if I'm not on the voter list?

■ First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place. If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot, even if your name is not on the voter list. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-112.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

■ You can ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered. You can also call your county election commission office or look up your polling place online at https://tnmap.state.tn.us/voterlookup/.

■ If you can't figure out where you're registered, go to the polling place that you think is the right one and ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure that you're at the right polling place.

What if someone challenges my right to vote?

■ You can be challenged only if someone believes you are not qualified to vote because: you're not registered, don't live in the precinct where you're voting, are voting using someone else's name, already voted, or your status has changed since you registered and you are no longer eligible to vote.

■ Election judges will ask you to swear an oath, ask some questions and then decide if you can be challenged. If the judges rule against you, you have the right to cast a special ballot, but that ballot will not be counted. If the judges don't all agree, you have the right to cast a regular ballot. Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 2-7-102, 2-7-123, 2-7-125.

What if I make a mistake or the voting machine breaks down?

■ Tell a poll worker before you cast your vote. You have the right to receive up to three replacement ballots as long as you catch your mistake before you cast your ballot. If your voting machine breaks down, the election judges will decide whether you should vote on a different machine or on a paper ballot. Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 2-7-119, 2-7-120.

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

■ Tell a poll worker right away. If a poll worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher, call your county election commission, call one of the numbers listed below, or make a complaint online at http://www.aclu-tn.org/gethelp/htm.

How do I make a complaint or report a problem?

■ First, ask for an election supervisor at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints that arise on Election Day. Candidates, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers on hand who might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you who you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your county election commission, or the TN Secretary of State at (877) 850-4959. You can also request assistance from ACLU-TN at (615) 320-7142.

Can I get a ballot in my native language?

■ Probably not. Election materials in Tennessee are generally available in English only. You have the right to bring anyone you choose with you to the polls to help translate except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union. You can ask a poll worker to help you, if she or he speaks your language.

What if I need help in the voting booth?

■ If you need help because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker when you get to your polling place. You have the right to vote on an accessible voting machine. You also have the right to have a poll worker or anyone you choose assist you in the voting booth, except for your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-116.

■ If you need instructions on how to use the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to help you at any time—even after you've entered the voting booth.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING PROBLEMS

■ Vote early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.

■ Bring a government-issued photo ID with you.

■ Read all instructions carefully. Ask for help if you need it.

■ Take your time. You have up to 5 minutes in the voting booth to cast your ballot if other voters are waiting and 10 minutes if nobody is waiting. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-118.