



VOTER REGISTRATION TOOLKIT

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EVERY MISSISSIPPIAN DESERVES TO HAVE THEIR VOICE HEARD. WHETHER YOU ARE VOTING FOR THE FIRST TIME OR HAVE BEEN CASTING BALLOTS FOR DECADES, THIS TOOLKIT GIVES YOU THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE WITH CONFIDENCE.

THIS GUIDE COVERS FIVE ESSENTIAL TOPICS:

- 1. HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN MISSISSIPPI**
- 2. HOW TO CHECK AND UPDATE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION**
- 3. WHAT TO BRING ON ELECTION DAY**
- 4. KEY ELECTION DATES/DEADLINES FOR 2026**

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Eligibility Requirements

Every United States citizen has the right to vote in federal, state, and local elections as long as they are:

- A RESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWN FOR 30 DAYS
- 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER*
- NOT DECLARED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT BY A COURT
- NOT CONVICTED IN A MISSISSIPPI COURT OF A DISENFRANCHISING CRIME*, UNLESS PARDONED BY GOVERNOR OR RESTORED BY LEGISLATURE

Note*

*17-year-olds may vote in a Primary Election if they will be 18 by the time of the General Election

***Disenfranchising crimes** include arson, armed robbery, bigamy, bribery, carjacking, embezzlement, extortion, felony bad check, felony shoplifting, forgery, larceny, murder, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, rape, receiving stolen property, robbery, statutory rape, theft, timber larceny, larceny under lease or rental agreement, or unlawful taking of motor vehicle

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How to Register to Vote

In-Person

You may register in person at any of the following locations in your county:

- The County Circuit Clerk's Office.
- The Municipal Clerk's Office.
- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) when applying for or renewing your driver's license.

By Mail

You may register through the mail by:

- Downloading a voter registration form from the Mississippi Secretary of State website*
- Mailing the filled-in form to your Circuit Clerk at least 30 days prior to the first election in which a citizen wishes to vote

Note*

Mail-in voter registration forms are available at the Secretary of State's Office, in public libraries, drivers license exam stations, circuit clerk's offices, municipal clerk's offices, public schools, or by clicking [HERE](#). Voters may also register at certain state and federal agencies.

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How to Check Your Status

Checking your registration status takes less than two minutes and ensures you are ready to vote when Election Day arrives.

- Visit the secretary of state online at www.msegov.com/sos/voter_registration/AmIRegistered
- Call the Mississippi Secretary of State at 1-800-829-6786
- Contact your county Circuit Clerk's office directly

When to Update Your Registration

You should update your registration any time you:

- Move to a new address
- Change your name
- Move to a different county in MS

Once registered, your registration generally remains active unless you move, no longer meet eligibility requirements, or are removed due to inactivity.

Action Item: Check your registration at least 35 days before any election to give yourself time to correct any issues before the 30-day deadline.

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How to Find Your Polling Place

Your polling place is assigned based on your registered address and may change if you move or if your county updates precinct boundaries. Do not assume your polling place is the same as a previous election.

To find your polling place before Election Day:

- Visit sos.ms.gov and use the polling place locator tool
- Call your county Circuit Clerk's office directly
- Call the Mississippi Secretary of State at 1-800-829-6786



Tip: Look up your polling place at least a few days before Election Day so you can plan your route and know your parking and transportation options in advance.

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What to Bring to the Polls

Mississippi requires photo ID to vote in person. Make sure you have an acceptable form of identification before heading to your polling place.

Accepted Forms of Photo ID*

- Mississippi driver's license, including Digital ID from the MS Department of Public Safety
- Photo ID card issued by the State of Mississippi
- United States passport
- Government employee ID card
- Firearms license
- Student photo ID from an accredited Mississippi university, college, or community/junior college
- United States military ID
- Tribal photo ID
- Any other photo ID issued by any branch or agency of the U.S. government or any state government
- Mississippi Voter Identification Card (free, available at any Circuit Clerk's office)

Do Not Have a Photo ID?

You can get a **free** Mississippi Voter Identification Card at your **county Circuit Clerk's** office. Hours are typically **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on regular business days.**

Call 1-844-MSVOTER (1-844-678-6837) for more information.

Religious Objection?

If you have a **sincere religious objection** to being photographed, **you may cast an affidavit ballot at the polls.** You **must then complete an Affidavit of Religious Objection at the Circuit Clerk's office within 5 business days** after the election for your ballot to count.

Note*

You may use an expired photo ID as long as it is an acceptable form and is no more than 10 years old. The ID must contain your name and photograph.

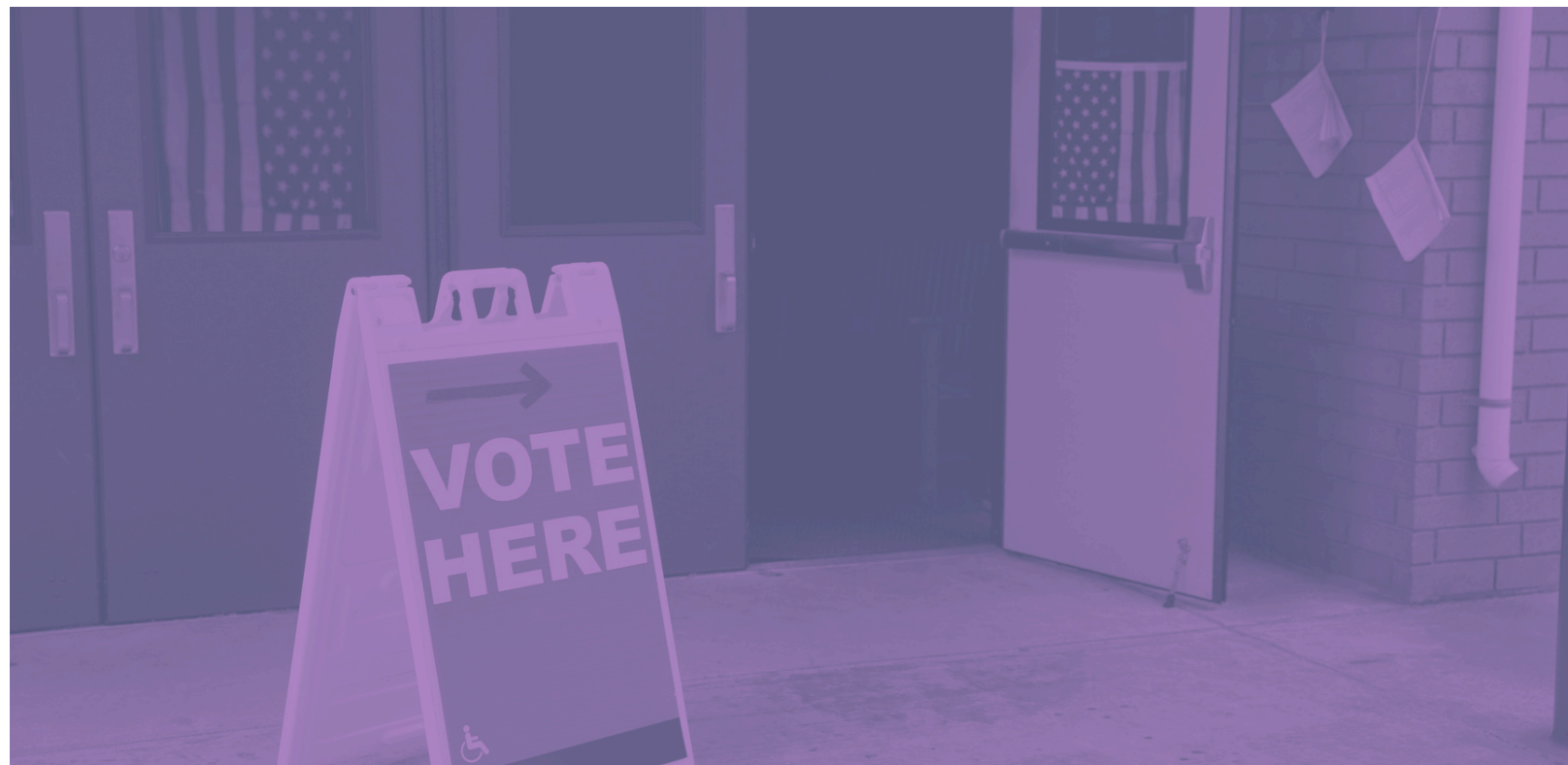
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Polling Place Hours

All Mississippi polling places are open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Central Time. **If you are in line when the polls close at 7:00 p.m.,** you have the right to vote. **Do not leave the line.**

Important: No Early In-Person Voting in Mississippi

Mississippi does not have early in-person voting for the general public. In-person absentee voting is available only to voters who qualify under specific circumstances.



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ELECTION DATES AND DEADLINES

Staying informed about election dates is one of the most important things you can do as a voter. Missing a registration deadline means missing your opportunity to vote in that election.

Key Dates at a Glance

- **Registration Deadline:** 30 days before Election Day (postmarked or delivered in person)
- **Absentee Voting Begins (In Person):** 45 days before Election Day, for eligible voters only
- **Absentee In-Person Voting Ends:** Noon on the Saturday before Election Day
- **Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail:** 5 days before Election Day
- **Absentee Ballot Return Deadline:** Postmarked by Election Day, received within 5 business days after Election Day
- **Polling Hours on Election Day:** 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Time
- **For the full 2026 Elections Calendar, visit sos.ms.gov/elections-voting.**

Who Qualifies for Absentee Voting?

- Voters who will be away from their home county on Election Day for any reason
- Voters with a temporary or permanent physical disability who cannot vote in person without substantial hardship
- Students, teachers, or school administrators whose studies or employment require absence from their home county on Election Day
- Voters who are hospitalized or caring for a hospitalized family member outside their home county or more than 50 miles from their residence
- Members of the U.S. military, Merchant Marine, or American Red Cross

How to Request an Absentee Ballot:

Contact your county Circuit Clerk's office directly to request an application. Applications returned by mail must be notarized. Disabled voters' applications may be witnessed by any person 18 years of age or older.

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IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED

Every eligible Mississippian has the right to cast a ballot without intimidation, obstruction, or interference. If something goes wrong at the polls, here is what to do:

- Stay calm and ask to speak with the chief poll worker or precinct manager.
- Write down the names of any poll workers involved, the time, and exactly what happened.
- Call the MS Votes Voter Information Hotline at 833-678-4321. This is a nonpartisan, free voter assistance line available 24/7 through call or text.

You should never be turned away from the polls without being offered a provisional ballot. If that happens, report it immediately.

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STAY CONNECTED WITH MS VOTES

This toolkit is one part of a larger effort to build voter power across Mississippi. Here is how you can stay involved:

- Share this toolkit with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers
- Sign up for election updates and alerts at msvotes.org
- Volunteer with MS Votes to help register voters and get out the vote in your community
- Follow us on social media for the latest voting rights news in Mississippi

**Together, we protect the vote.
Together, we build the Mississippi we deserve.**

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- MS Votes Website: msvotes.org
- MS Votes Voter Info Hotline: 833-678-4321
- MS Votes Ballot Ready Toolkit: msvotes.org/ballot-ready/
- MS Secretary of State: sos.ms.gov or 1-800-829-6786
- MS Voter ID Hotline: 1-844-MSVOTER (1-844-678-6837)
- Check Your Registration: sos.ms.gov/elections-voting/voter-registration-information
- Download Voter Registration Form:
<https://www.sos.ms.gov/index.php/elections-voting/voter-registration-information>

