

The global pandemic is changing voting behavior, creating opportunities for confusion and misinformation. As a state legislator, you are uniquely positioned to help inform and keep your constituents up-to-date. We hope you find this FAQ for safe elections in Mississippi helpful. MAP is continuously adding resources for legislators. For more information, please contact us at policy@millennialaction.org.

VOTER FAQs

- **What do I need before voting?**
 - **October 5th, 2020 is the deadline day to register to vote for the upcoming election.** You can register to vote by completing this [form](#) and submitting it by mail to your County Clerk's office, postmarked by October 5th. You may also register in person at your County Clerk's office. Find your County Clerk [here](#).

- **Can I vote in person?**
 - Early Voting: ONLY for those who qualify. [Early voting](#) in Mississippi is known as absentee in-person voting. Please check with your [County Clerk](#) to determine if you are eligible to vote early.
 - Election Day: Yes, find your polling location and hours [here](#).
 - **What do I need to bring with me?**
 - An eligible photo ID must be shown when voting in person. Find a list of acceptable identifications [here](#).
 - **Will polls be staffed?**
 - Legitimate concerns exist around staffing polling places, and consolidating voting locations—as many states did during primaries—only adds confusion to the process and increases crowding at the polls. If you are concerned about your state's ability to staff the polls, here are some solutions that have broad support amongst the public:
 - 76% support recruiting young people to serve as poll workers
 - 71% support encouraging businesses to provide employees with paid time off on Election Day to serve as poll workers
 - 70% support giving state employees time off to serve as poll workers
 - 68% support flexibility in allowing people to serve as poll workers outside of their precinct of residence

- **Can I vote Absentee/Vote-by-mail?**
 - A valid excuse is required to cast your absentee ballot by mail in Mississippi. Please see a list of eligible excuses [here](#) (page 3). If you believe you qualify to vote-by-mail, please contact your County Clerk to request an Application for an Absentee Elector's Ballot. See complete instructions [here](#).

- ***ID and witness requirements?***
 - Voters must have one witness when completing their ballot, this witness must be an individual authorized to administer an oath, such as a notary public, unless the voter is temporarily or permanently disabled.
 - The voter and their witness must sign an affidavit upon completion of the absentee ballot. See full witness requirements [here](#).
- ***How do I return my ballot?***
 - Absentee voters will need to provide their own postage to return their ballots by mail. Alternatively, an absentee ballot may be returned directly to you County Clerk's office.
- ***What deadlines do I need to be aware of?***
 - September 24th: Final day to request an absentee ballot
 - October 5th: Deadline to register for the November election
 - October 31st: Deadline for hand delivery of absentee ballots.
 - November 3rd: Postmark deadline for absentee ballots
 - November 10th: All ballots cast by mail must be received by the appropriate County Clerk
- ***When will we know election results?***
 - Voters should be encouraged to exercise patience awaiting election results come November. Increased use of absentee ballots will undoubtedly slow election tallies in some places.
 - If you are highly concerned about delayed election results, and your state does not allow early canvassing, election officials can make changes to expand the ballot processing timeframe without compromising security, as [Maryland recently did](#).
- **All information above is current as of 9/23/20.** Check Mississippi's [Y'all Vote](#) page for more details