

# CONSTITUENTS FIRST: Safe Voting FAQs

## TENNESSEE

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 Tennessee helpful. MAP is continuously adding resources for legislators. For more information, please contact us at [policy@millennialaction.org](mailto:policy@millennialaction.org).

### VOTER FAQs

- **What do I need before voting?**
  - **October 5th is the deadline to register to vote for the November election.**  
You can register to vote online [here](#), or contact your County Election Commission to register by mail or in-person. Find your Commission [here](#).
  
- **Can I vote in person?**
  - Early Voting: Yes, [early voting](#) takes place between October 14th and October 29th, 2020. Consult your County Election Commission [here](#) to find your location and hours.
  - Election Day: Yes, find your polling location and hours [here](#) or contact your County Election Commission.
  - **What do I need to bring with me?**
    - In-person voters will be required to show an eligible ID. Find a list of acceptable identifications, and exemptions to this rule, [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?**
  - Tennessee refers to vote-by-mail as voting [absentee by mail](#). You must qualify to vote absentee in Tennessee. Please find a list of qualifications provided by the Tennessee Secretary of State [here](#).

- If you qualify, you can request an absentee ballot by completing this [form](#) and returning it to your County Election Commission. Requests for absentee ballots must be received by October 27th.
    - You may also join a Permanent Absentee Voter list by completing this [form](#) with your physician and returning it to your County Election Commission.
  - ***ID and witness requirements?***
    - There are no ID or witness requirements when voting by mail in Tennessee.
  - ***How do I return my ballot?***
    - You must return your ballot *by mail* to your County Election Commission by 8:00 PM ET/7:00 PM CT on November 3rd.
  - ***What deadlines do I need to be aware of?***
    - October 5th: Deadline to register to vote in the November Election
    - October 27th: Final day for an absentee ballot application to be received.
    - 8:00 PM ET/7:00 PM CT, November 3rd: Deadline for absentee ballots to be returned by mail.
- ***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.** Please see the Tennessee Secretary of State's [Elections page](#) for more details.