

VOTING IN 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



FAQS ON VOTING IN
THE 2020 ELECTION

GENERAL VOTING QUESTIONS

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You can register to vote by visiting the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at:

<https://www.sos.ms.gov/ElectionsVoting/Pages/Voter-Registration-Information.aspx>.

You can submit your application by mailing it to your county Circuit Clerk's Office no later than 30 days before the election. You can also hand deliver your application to your county Circuit Clerk's Office no later than 30 days before the election.

WHEN IS THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

The voter registration deadline for the 2020 election is **Monday, October 5th**.

WHEN IS ELECTION DAY?

The 2020 General Election is **Tuesday, November 3rd**.

WHAT ARE THE POLLING HOURS?

The polls will remain open from **7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.**

HOW DO I VOTE ABSENTEE?

You can vote absentee **by contacting your county Circuit Clerk's Office and requesting a mail-in absentee ballot**. You can also vote absentee in-person at your county Circuit Clerk's office until 5:00 p.m. on the last Saturday before the election.

HOW DO I CONTACT MY COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION OR ABSENTEE VOTING?

You can contact your county Circuit Clerk by visiting:

<https://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/County-Election-Info.aspx> and selecting your county.

HOW LONG MAY A PERSON STAY IN A VOTING BOOTH?

The voter may remain in a voting booth **no longer than ten (10) minutes if no other voters are waiting; or no longer than five (5) minutes if other voters are waiting**.

MAY I VOTE IN A RUNOFF ELECTION, IF I DIDN'T VOTE IN THE FIRST ELECTION?

Yes, if you were properly registered to vote at least thirty (30) days before the first election.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

WHAT FORMS OF PHOTO ID ARE REQUIRED ON ELECTION DAY?

Any of the following photo IDs may be used:

- A Driver's License;
- A Government Issued Photo ID Card;
- A United States Passport;
- An Employee Identification Card;
- A Firearms License;
- A student photo ID issued by an accredited, Mississippi university, college or community college;
- A United States Military ID;
- A Tribal Photo ID;
- Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or any state government;
- A Mississippi Voter Identification Card.

MAY A VOTER USE AN EXPIRED PHOTO ID ON ELECTION DAY?

Yes, as long as it is an acceptable form of photo ID as defined above and was not issued more than ten (10) years from the date it is presented in the polling place.

WHO IS EXEMPT FROM THE PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS?

- Voters who vote by absentee ballot by mail, fax or e-mail;
- Voters who live in a state licensed-care facility and vote in the same state licensed-care facility, and
- Voters with religious objections to being photographed.

REMEMBER, VOTERS WITH RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO BEING PHOTOGRAPHED MUST VOTE BY AN AFFIDAVIT BALLOT!

These voters have five (5) business days after Election Day to complete an Affidavit of Religious Objection in the Circuit Clerk's Office in the county of the voter's residence.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A VOTER DOES NOT HAVE A PHOTO ID ON ELECTION DAY?

A voter who does not have photo ID may vote by an affidavit ballot at the polling place. The voter has five (5) business days after Election Day to show an acceptable form of photo ID, or apply for a Mississippi Voter ID card, in the Circuit Clerk's Office in the county of the voter's residence.

VOTER ASSISTANCE

WHO CAN RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN MARKING THEIR BALLOT?

Any voter who says they are:

- Blind; or
- Disabled; or
- Unable to read or write.

HOW DOES A VOTER REQUEST ASSISTANCE?

The voter must:

- Tell the managers he/she needs help to mark the ballot;
- State one of the above reasons why help is needed; and
- Pick someone to help him/her.

WHO CAN ASSIST A VOTER IN MARKING THEIR BALLOT?

Voters may have anyone help mark their ballot, except:

- Their employer or the employer's representative, or
- A representative of any union in which the voter is a member.

A request for help should be honored unless it obviously appears to be untrue.

MAY A CANDIDATE HELP A VOTER MARK THEIR BALLOT?

Yes, a candidate may assist a voter mark their ballot in the voting booth if the voter has is blind, disabled or unable to read or write and the voter has chosen the candidate to provide assistance.

CURBSIDE VOTING

WHO MAY VOTE CURBSIDE?

A physically disabled voter who has arrived at the polling place in a motor vehicle but is unable to physically enter the polling place.

CHALLENGES

WHO MAY CHALLENGE A VOTER?

- A candidate;
- A candidate's official representative/poll watcher;
- A political party's official poll watcher (not applicable for party primary);
- Any qualified voter in the polling place; or
- Any poll manager in the polling place.

WHAT ARE THE BASES FOR A CHALLENGE?

- He/she is not a registered voter in the precinct;
- He/she is not the registered voter under whose name he/she has applied to vote;
- He/she has already voted in the election;
- He/she doesn't live in the precinct where he/she is registered;
- He/she has illegally registered to vote;
- He/she has taken his/her ballot from the polling place;
- He/she has cast an absentee ballot but is ineligible to do so; or
- He/she is otherwise disqualified by law.

There are no other reasons for a challenge. (Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-571, 23-15- 643,23-15-731)



THE 150 FOOT RULE

HOW CLOSE TO THE POLLING PLACE MAY CAMPAIGN LITERATURE BE DISTRIBUTED OR POSTED?

No campaign literature or signs may be posted or distributed within one hundred and fifty (150) feet of any entrance to the polling place.

WHAT IF A VOTER IS WEARING A CAMPAIGN T-SHIRT?

The wearing of a T-shirt with a candidate's name and/or picture within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any entrance to a polling place is prohibited. Such T-shirts must be covered, turned inside-out or removed before a voter comes within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any entrance to a polling place. (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-895)

CAN A SAMPLE BALLOT BE TAKEN INTO THE POLLING PLACE?

Yes, it is permissible for an individual voter to bring a sample ballot into the polling place for the voter's own use as a reminder of the candidate(s) for whom he/she intends to vote. A voter, however, cannot use the sample ballot as campaign literature in attempting to influence other voters within the polling place.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY IS LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) FEET FROM THE POLLING PLACE MAY CAMPAIGN LITERATURE BE DISPLAYED?

Yes, the owner of the property may display campaign literature on their property.*

***NOTE: Polling places held on private property are leased to the county for the day of the election, wherein the one hundred fifty (150) feet rule applies.**

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

IS LOITERING ALLOWED AT THE POLLING PLACE?

No loitering is allowed within thirty (30) feet of any entrance to the polling place. The bailiff keeps the area clear and enforces this rule.

WHAT IF A VOTER IS INTOXICATED?

All intoxicated or disorderly persons, disturbing the peace, by noise or violence, in the polling place shall be arrested, jailed, or kept in custody. Such persons may be permitted, if a qualified voter, to vote while in custody.

WHO HANDLES DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT POLLING PLACES?

The Bailiff. (Miss. Code Ann. § 23- 25-241)

POLL WATCHERS

MAY POLL WATCHERS OR CANDIDATE REPRESENTATIVES BE PRESENT DURING THE COUNTING OF BALLOTS?

Yes, they must be afforded reasonable space to observe.

SHOULD POLL WATCHERS PRESENT CREDENTIALS?

Yes, poll watchers must have written credentials from the party or candidate.

MAY A CANDIDATE SERVE AS A POLL WATCHER?

Yes, but the candidate cannot have a poll watcher and representative present at the same time.

HOW MANY POLL WATCHERS MAY A CANDIDATE HAVE?

One (1) per precinct at any given time.

WHERE DO POLL WATCHERS SIT?

Poll watchers must be provided a location from which they may see and hear the election process and challenge unqualified voters.

MAY CANDIDATES OR POLL WATCHERS GREET VOTERS?

No. (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-25-595)

DISPUTES

WHO HANDLES DISPUTES IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION?

The disputes are directed to the local party executive committee or election officials charged with the conduct of the primary election.

WHO HANDLES DISPUTES IN THE GENERAL ELECTION?

The disputes during the general election are directed to the county Election Commission.

POLL MANAGERS

DO POLL MANAGERS HAVE TO CONSIST OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES?

Poll managers should not be of the same political party if suitable persons of different political parties can be found. (Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-231)

BALLOT QUESTIONS

CAN PEOPLE CARRY PRINTED BALLOTS WITHIN THIRTY (30) FEET OF THE POLLS?

Yes, but campaigning is **not permitted within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any entrance** to the polling place.

IS CROSSOVER VOTING ALLOWED?

No, if a voter **votes Republican in the 1st primary, the voter must vote Republican in the 2nd primary.** If the voter **votes Democrat in the 1st primary, the voter must vote Democrat in the 2nd primary election.**

IF A VOTER DOESN'T VOTE IN ALL RACES ON THE BALLOT, DOES THE BALLOT COUNT?

Yes, **under voting is permissible.**

WHAT IS THE WRITE-IN CANDIDATE SPACE FOR ON THE BALLOT?

There shall be left **on each ballot one (1) blank space under the title of each office to be voted for,** and in the event of the death, resignation, withdrawal or removal of any candidate whose name shall have been printed on the official ballot, the name of the candidate duly substituted in the place of such candidate may be written in such blank space by the voter.

POLLBOOK QUESTIONS

MAY A PERSON WHOSE NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE POLLBOOK BE ALLOWED TO CAST A REGULAR BALLOT?

No, a voter **whose name does not appear in the pollbook only may vote by affidavit (provisional) ballot.**

BALLOT QUESTIONS

MAY A VOTER WHO MOVED WITHIN THE SAME COUNTY AND DIDN'T CHANGE REGISTRATION INFORMATION VOTE AT THE OLD PRECINCT?

No, a voter must go to their new precinct and vote by affidavit (provisional) ballot. If a voter casts an affidavit (provisional) ballot in a precinct which is not the proper precinct for the voter's residence address, the ballot must be rejected and not counted.

IF A VOTER VOTED AFFIDAVIT IN THE WRONG PRECINCT OR COUNTY, MAY THEY VOTE IN THE RIGHT PRECINCT AFTERWARDS?

No, a voter may only cast one vote in an election.

WHERE DO I CALL TO FIND OUT WHAT PRECINCT I VOTE IN?

Your county Circuit Clerk's Office.

CLOSING OF POLLS

IF THERE IS A LONG LINE AT 7:00 P.M., IS THE VOTER LAST IN LINE ALLOWED TO VOTE?

Yes, the last voter in line at 7:00 p.m. can vote. The Bailiff stands at the end of the line at 7:00 p.m.