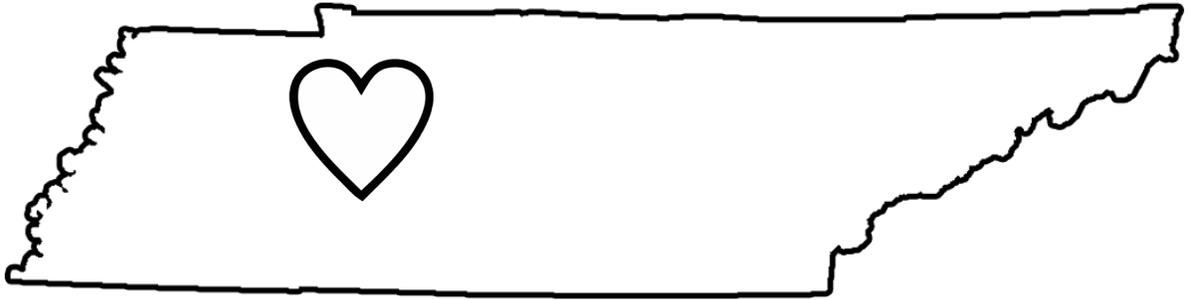


ELECTION GUIDE

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2019

TENNESSEE

“Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.”
- Fanny Lou Hamer



**SPREAD THE
VOTE**

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The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

-- Lyndon B. Johnson

TO ALL OUR VOTERS...

If there is one thing we know, right now, in 2019, it's that voting matters. Voting for every office, in every town, in every state is crucial. Whether you're voting for city council or Governor, the people who hold those offices deeply affect your life. They decide what kind of health care you'll have, what your job opportunities are, the quality of your children's schools. If you take public transportation, care about the environment, or just want to live your daily life in peace - the people who run your town, your state, and your country are important.

So, on election day, you get to make a choice. And your choice matters. It is your constitutional right as an American to go to the polls and decide who you want to run your country. Your candidate may win or may lose. But by making your voice heard every year, the whole country wins.

As important as it is to go to the polls, it's just as crucial to know what and who you're voting for, and how it will impact your life. Our country's system of government can be complicated, and sometimes finding the information you need to make your choice isn't always easy. That's why we've put it all in one place for you in this guide. Educating yourself as a voter doesn't have to be intimidating - we're here to help with whatever you need and whatever questions you may have.

We hope this guide will help you feel empowered to exercise your right as a citizen and vote. In it, we have tried to include information on how to vote, what you're voting for, and who you are voting for. Please write in this book, fold the corners, and take it to the polls with you. And if you need help, get in touch with Spread The Vote.

Thank you, and good luck,



Kat Calvin
Founder, Spread The Vote



**HI! My
NAME IS ED.**

ABOUT SPREAD THE VOTE / PROJECT ID

Spread The Vote is a nonprofit organization that aims to close the gap between registered voters and voter turnout by educating and empowering voters. Through Project ID, Spread The Vote helps members of our communities obtain the IDs they need for jobs, housing, health care, and, most importantly, identity.

ABOUT VOTER ED

Voter Ed is Spread The Vote's civic and voter education program, designed to address the lack of resources for adults who want to be civically engaged but need to learn the fundamentals of voting and the democratic process. Ed, short for Edwina, is the Voter Ed mascot. Ed is 25 years old and works in IT. Like many people in the U.S., she voted in presidential elections, but wasn't really involved beyond that until 2017. As people around the country began to pay more attention to what was happening in government, Ed wanted to get more involved as well. The more she learned about voting and the political process, the more she realized the influence it has on people's day to day lives. She became frustrated with the lack of resources available to help her understand and navigate the system in which she lives. Now she works to pass along the knowledge she's gained, in hopes that she can help every American who wants to be more civically engaged.

NEED AN ID?

If you live in Tennessee and don't have an ID, Spread The Vote can help you get one. Go to www.spreadthevote.org/voters/ or call/email the Tennessee State Director, Brenda Frazier-Patton, at (901) 248-3047 or brenda@spreadthevote.org.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Please visit spreadthevote.org/volunteer or projectid.org/volunteer to sign up.



THREE WAYS TO VOTE

In order to vote in the **Tuesday, May 7th, 2019** Elections for local offices in your area, you must be registered to vote, or update your voter information if you've moved, by Friday, April 5th.

VOTE BY MAIL

In order to be eligible to vote by mail, you must meet certain conditions - see page [add in design] for more information. If you're eligible, you can request an absentee ballot be mailed to you. The Early Voting Office **must receive your request by Tuesday, April 30th, at 5pm**. Your ballot must be received by your local Election Board by **closing time on Election Day, Tuesday, May 7th**.

For full instructions, see page 9.

VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON

Early voting in person begins **Wednesday, April 17th**, and ends **Thursday, May 2nd**.

If it is more convenient for you to vote before Election Day, you may appear in person at the county election commission office or a satellite voting location. **Early voting days include Saturdays but exclude Sundays and holidays**. Specific dates and times may vary - contact your local county Board of Elections if you are interested in voting this way.

For more information, see page 10.

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Election Day is Tuesday, May 7th, 2019! You will be voting for local offices in your area. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.

Find your polling place: enter your information at GoVoteTN.com. If you don't have access to the internet, you can call your local election commission and ask them to look it up for you.

For more information, see page 11.



HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL

CAN I VOTE BY MAIL?

If any of the below circumstances apply to you, you can apply for an absentee ballot no earlier than 90 days and no later than 7 days before an election.

1. The voter will be outside the county of registration during the early voting period and all day on election day;
2. The voter or the voter's spouse is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university outside the county of registration;
3. The voter's licensed physician has filed a statement with the county election commission stating that, in the physician's judgment, the voter is medically unable to vote in person. The statement must be filed not less than seven (7) days before the election and signed under the penalty of perjury;
4. The voter resides in a licensed facility providing relatively permanent domiciliary care, other than a penal institution, outside the voter's county of residence;
5. The voter will be unable to vote in person due to service as a juror for a federal or state court;
6. The voter is sixty (60) years of age or older;
7. The voter has a physical disability and an inaccessible polling place (you can find this information by calling your local Board of Elections);
8. The voter is hospitalized, ill, or physically disabled and because of such condition, cannot vote in person;
9. The voter is a caretaker of a person who is hospitalized, ill, or disabled;
10. The voter is a candidate for office in the election;
11. The voter serves as an election day official or as a member or employee of the election commission;
12. The voter's observance of a religious holiday prevents him or her from voting in person during the early voting period and on election day;
13. The voter or the voter's spouse possesses a valid commercial drivers license (CDL) or the voter possesses a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card and certifies that he or she will be working outside the state or county of registration during the open hours of early voting and Election Day, and has no specific out-of-county or out-of-state address to which mail may be sent or received during such time.
14. The voter is a member of the military or is an overseas citizen.

HOW DO I GET A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT?

You can find the absentee ballot request form at the below address, or pick it up at your local Board of Elections. You can submit it by mail, fax, or by scanning the completed and signed document and emailing it (call your Board of Elections to ensure you have a current email address). Make sure you follow all the instructions,

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and get in touch with Spread The Vote if you need any assistance with documents.
<https://www.sos.tn.gov/products/elections/how-do-i-request-absentee-ballot>

HOW DO I RETURN A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT, AND WHEN DOES IT NEED TO BE BACK BY?

If your request is accepted, your ballot will be mailed to you. Take as long as you like to fill it out, but make sure your county's election commission receives it by **closing time on Election Day**. A ballot is often heavier than a regular envelope and may require extra postage. Instructions will be enclosed, and Spread The Vote is available to answer any questions you have.

HOW TO VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

The most important thing is your ID! Voting early in-person is exactly like voting on Election Day - all the same requirements apply. Go to page [add in design - Vote on Election Day section] for a list of accepted ID's. Also consider bringing along this guide, and your voter registration card if you have it.

WHERE CAN I VOTE EARLY, AND WHEN WILL EARLY VOTING BE OPEN?

For this election, the early voting period begins **Wednesday, April 17th**, and ends **Thursday, May 2nd**. This includes Saturdays, and excludes Sundays and holidays. Specific dates and times may vary - call your local election commission if you are interested in voting this way, and they will give you all the information you need. Local news sources may also provide early voting information.

HOW TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE TO THE POLLS?

The most important thing is your ID! You'll want to double-check to make sure you have one of these forms of ID with you when you go to the polls on Election Day:

- A Tennessee Drivers License, with a photo
- United States Passport
- Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
- Photo ID issued by the federal government or Tennessee state government
- United States Military photo ID
- Tennessee handgun carry permit with a photo

If you need assistance getting an ID, get in touch with Project ID. Also consider bringing along this guide, and your voter registration card if you have it - see below.

HOW LONG ARE THE POLLS OPEN IN MY AREA? HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO VOTE?

Polling stations are open from **7:00am to 8:00pm on Election Day**. Typically, voting goes pretty quickly and you can be in and out in 10 minutes. Occasionally, you'll find a line but as long as you are in line before the polls close and you stay in line, you can cast your vote.

HOW DO I FIND MY POLLING PLACE, AND WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR GETTING THERE?

You can find out where your polling place is by:

- Checking your voter registration card
- After you register, you should soon receive a voter registration card in the mail! This card has helpful info, including your polling station. But if you lose it, check out the sites below to learn more about where and how to vote.
- Entering relevant information at the following website:
- GoVoteTN.com - you can also check your registration status here!
- Calling the Board of Elections for your county

If you need a ride to the polls in your area, you can call Spread The Vote at: (901) 248-3047

If you want to take public transit to the polls, you can find out that info for your area by calling or visiting the following websites:



Shelby County - MATA, matatransit.com, (901) 274-6282

Davidson County - MTA (WeGo), nashvillemta.org, (615) 862-5950

City of Jackson - JTA, ridejta.com

If you are planning on driving to the polls: parking is not usually an issue at polling places.

Once you get to the polling place, you'll usually notice signs that you're in the right place, such as "Vote Here" or "Election Day." You might also see local folks carrying signs for candidates usually at a designated distance from your polling location.

WHAT ARE THE RULES AT MY POLLING PLACE? HOW DO I CHECK IN AND FILL OUT MY BALLOT?

You're not allowed to take photos at your polling station (including selfies) under Tennessee law.

Once you get to the front of the line, you check in with a polling place worker. This is the part where you show your ID.

How check-in works varies from precinct to precinct.

- Normally, you hand the poll worker your ID; tell them your name, address, and maybe even your birthday (so that they can check it against the ID).
- Then you will sign in, either in a physical book or on an electronic screen. Make sure that your signature matches the name you have registered to vote with. For example, some people use their full names, including their middle name written out, to register to vote. That's the name that you should sign.

The type of system on which you vote is decided by the local government (county, city, school district, etc) in which you live. Depending on where you live, you may also use a different voting system for Early Voting compared to on Election Day. You will do one of the following:

- Fill out a paper ballot that will be counted by hand or counted by a machine, or
- Mark your choices on a touchscreen electronic ballot.

The person who checks you in can explain the process to you. Please don't hesitate to ask poll workers for help if you have trouble voting by paper or electronically.

In addition, each polling place in Tennessee must offer at least one accessible voting system for voters with disabilities, with the limited exception of sparsely populated jurisdictions conducting non-federal elections.



DO I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING AFTER I FILL OUT MY BALLOT?

- **Electronic Voting:** be sure to return the voter access card to a poll worker.
- **Paper Voting:** ask a poll worker where and how to deposit your ballot to ensure that it is counted.
- **Both methods:** get your “I voted” sticker when you walk out and wear it proudly! You’ve just done one of the best things you can do to have your voice heard!

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

If someone tells you that you are not eligible to vote, and you are certain that you are in the right polling location, then ask for a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is used when you’re registered to vote but your name doesn’t appear on the voter list, or you don’t have a valid photo ID. To vote with a provisional ballot, you will need to fill out a voter registration form or an application for a ballot, and you may have to sign a sworn statement called an affidavit.

Your provisional ballot will be counted if your county election commission can confirm your eligibility to vote. If you did not appear on the voter list, a special government board will look at state records after you vote. Your provisional ballot will count if they find that you were registered to vote.

If you voted with a provisional ballot because you didn’t bring or don’t have ID, you must bring your ID to the county election commission office by the end of business hours on the Thursday after the election. Your ballot will not count if you don’t. If you need assistance obtaining an ID, get in touch with Project ID.

If you vote by provisional ballot on Election Day, contact Election Protection at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683), a national organization that will help walk you through your rights and your options.

WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I VOTE?

A voter may receive assistance at the polls if they are unable to read the English language or if they have a physical disability that renders them unable to see or mark the ballot, operate the voting equipment, or enter the voting booth.

- The voter can select anyone they want to assist them in voting, except for the voter’s employer, an agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union. When there is no federal candidate on the ballot, the voter can select anyone to assist them inside the voting booth.
- No person may assist more than ten voters in a primary, election, or runoff.

INTERPRETERS AT THE POLLS

Voters who cannot speak English, or who communicate only with sign language, may use an interpreter to help them communicate with election officials. If the voter cannot read the languages on the ballot, the interpreter may help by translating the language on the ballot for the voter in the voting booth. If the voter is deaf and does not have a sign language interpreter who can accompany them to help communicate with the poll worker or read the ballot, the voter should contact their local election officials before the election and request assistance.

CURBSIDE VOTING

If a voter is physically unable to enter the polling place, he or she may ask that an election officer bring a ballot to the entrance of the polling place or to a car parked at the curbside. After the voter marks the ballot, they will give it to the election officer, who will put it in the ballot box. Or, at the voter's request, a companion may hand the voter a ballot and deposit it for him or her.

VOTING AND DISABILITIES

Federal laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act protect the rights of disabled Americans including access to the ballot box.

- The ADA ensures access to polling places for American voters who use a wheelchair, walker, or otherwise have limited mobility.
- The ballot must be accessible to blind Americans and those with low vision as well as voters who are deaf or who have hearing impairments.
- Election officials cannot ask a Deaf or Disabled voter for proof of their disability or for documentation tied to their need for reasonable accommodation to be able to vote.
- The Help Americans Vote Act requires that jurisdictions responsible for federal elections have at least one accessible voting machines available per location.
- Polling places that offer public parking must also offer spaces that are accessible to those with disabilities.
- Voters with limited mobility or other impairments are not permitted to move to the front of the line, but poll officials must accommodate their needs. A voter using a walker or crutches, for example, may have difficulty standing for a long period. A voter can request a chair to remedy this issue.
- If you require assistance in reading or completing forms, please ask an election official to provide help. You may also bring your own helper. If you have a physical disability, help is available. Please ask an election officer for assistance you may need at any stage of the voting process.
- If you are 65 or older, or have a physical disability, you may vote on election day without leaving your vehicle. This is called curbside voting. If you would like to use curbside voting, remember to bring a helper with you who can enter the polling place to ask an election officer for curbside assistance.
- Federal law requires that all polling places permit service animals in any area open to the public.

VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

1. CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION AND FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

Make sure your voter registration reflects your correct name, address, and contact information. Also, make sure you know your polling place. You can usually check it on your state's election department website.

2. KNOW YOUR STATE'S IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Determine whether you live in a voter ID state. If so, educate yourself and community on what type of ID you will need in order to cast a ballot.

3. GET ASSISTANCE WHILE VOTING

Under Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, if you have difficulty reading or marking the ballot, you have the right to ask for assistance from a friend, family member, or poll worker.

4. VOTE IN AN ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACE

All polling locations must be physically accessible and meet the standards as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a public polling place is unable to provide accessibility for voters with disabilities, it must use an alternative method to provide accessible voting, such as curbside voting with appropriate assistance and guidance for voters.

5. VOTE AHEAD OF ELECTION DAY

For greater convenience, most states allow voting before Election Day in person and/or by mail. Find out whether you can vote early on your state elections website.

6. VOTE IF YOU'RE IN LINE WHEN POLLS CLOSE

If you are in line to vote before the poll closes you have the right to vote. Stay in line. Do not leave.

7. BRING YOUR CHILDREN WITH YOU TO VOTE

You have the right to bring your child with you into the polling place while you cast your ballot.

8. VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT IF YOU CAN'T VOTE A REGULAR ONE

Under federal law a registered voter has the right to cast a ballot. If you are registered to vote but unable to cast a regular ballot due to a voter registration, voter identification, or other issue, ask to vote using a provisional ballot. Do not leave the polling place without at least casting a provisional ballot. Contact your election administrator the next day to correct the issue stated so your vote can be counted.

9. HAVE ACCESS TO A TRANSLATOR OR MATERIALS IN YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE

Materials in your first language may be available in your area - call your County Clerk to inquire. You can also bring an interpreter with you to the polls.

10. ASK QUESTIONS TO ELECTIONS OFFICIALS ABOUT ELECTION PROCEDURES

If you have any problems voting, please call Election Protection at 1-866-Our-Vote (866-687-8683), a national organization that will help walk you through your rights and your options.

MAKE A PLAN

If you make a plan, you're more likely to vote, so we encourage you to fill this out! You can tear this plan out of the guide and post it somewhere you can see as a reminder of your plan.

HOW ARE YOU VOTING?

- By mail
- In person ahead of Election Day
- In person on Election Day

WHAT DAY WILL YOU VOTE ON?

- Election Day
- Other _____

WHAT TIME OF DAY WILL YOU VOTE?

- In the morning _____ am
- In the afternoon _____ pm
- In the evening around _____ pm

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU VOTE?

- Yes, I'm voting at _____
- No. (You can go to GoVoteTN.com to check)
- My mailbox

IF VOTING IN PERSON, DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ID READY TO GO?

- Yes, I'm bringing my _____
- No (You can call Spread The Vote at (901) 248-3047 for help)

HOW WILL YOU GET TO YOUR POLLING PLACE?

- Driving
- Walking or biking
- Public transport
- Calling _____ for a ride
- Other _____

WHO IS GOING TO VOTE WITH YOU?

- Just me
- My significant other
- Friends and family
- My neighbor
- Everyone I can find!

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