



How to Vote in 2020 by Mail-in/Absentee Ballot

Elections in 2020 feel very different. Many voters are considering voting “absentee” by mail-in ballot for the first time for the November Presidential Election because of the COVID pandemic.

Are you an eligible absentee voter? You must:

- Be a registered voter and have voted **in person** in a previous election in your county.
- Submit an application for a mail-in/absentee ballot 7-90 days before the election (August 5-October 27) to the county election commission.
 - A separate request is needed for each election for which you cannot vote in person.
- Meet the voter eligibility criteria. The most common reasons are that the voter is:
 - 60 years or older
 - Sick or disabled (which includes persons who have underlying medical or health conditions which in their determination render them more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 or at greater risk should they contract it.)
 - A caretaker of someone who is sick or disabled (which includes persons who have underlying medical or health conditions which in their determination render them more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 or at greater risk should they contract it.)
 - Out of town on all the days when voting in person is not possible.

How do you get an absentee ballot?

- Application forms and additional info can be found at www.GoVoteTN.com or by contacting your County Election Commission.
- The *signed* application can be submitted by mail, faxed or scanned.
- The Election Commission will mail the actual ballot back to you with instructions.

What happens next?

- Return your completed ballot **by mail** to your County Election Commission so that it is received by the close of Election Day. Don't put it off. Mail it early!
- Worried that the Election Commission did not receive your mail-in ballot? Track the status of your own ballot at the Secretary of State's voter lookup: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>

What if you decide you would rather vote in person?

If you do *not* receive your requested ballot, or choose *not* to use it after requesting it, and decide to vote in person, you must request a provisional ballot at the polls. Don't leave the polling location without voting. Provisional ballots are saved separately by poll workers and will be counted after election staff verify that they did not receive a ballot through the mail from you.

For more info about absentee and in-person voting, see www.lwvtn.org



The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. We neither support nor oppose any party or candidate.

Prepared September 2020.