



Tennessee

- **Chief election official:** Secretary of State Tre Hargett, elected by the Tennessee State Legislature
- **Who runs elections locally:** County Administrator of Elections
- **Number of jurisdictions:** 95
- **State website:** www.sos.tn.gov/elections

| ELECTION POLICY | STATUS | NATIONAL COMPARISON |
|--|---|--|
| VOTER REGISTRATION | | |
| Online voter registration | OVR permitted | 42 states and D.C. have online voter registration |
| Automatic/automated voter registration | Not provided | 24 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration |
| Type of state voter registration database | Bottom-up | 36 states and D.C. use top-down; seven states use bottom-up; seven states use a hybrid system |
| Pre-registration | 18 by the election | 22 states and D.C. permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds |
| Election Day/same-day registration | Not provided | 22 states and D.C. have same-day registration |
| Registration deadline | 30 days before Election Day | National average is 20 days before Election Day |
| VOTING | | |
| Voter ID for in-person voting | ID required | 36 states require ID to vote in person |
| Early in-person voting | Begins 20 days before Election Day | 47 states and D.C. allow early in-person voting; national average is 26 days |
| Vote centers | Vote centers are used | 30 states and D.C. allow vote centers |
| No-excuse absentee voting | Not permitted | 28 states permit no-excuse absentee voting |
| Mails ballots to all registered voters (aka "mostly mail elections") | Ballots are not mailed to all registered voters | Eight states and D.C. mail ballots to all registered voters |
| Deadline for absentee/mail ballot return | Close of polls on Election Day | 31 states require ballots returned by Election Day* |
| Laws governing who can return a voted ballot | No statute; no one other than the voter can return a ballot | 32 states have laws governing ballot collection |
| Ballot drop boxes | Not permitted | Six states prohibit; 23 states permit; other states are silent |
| Ballot cure process | No ballot cure process offered statewide | 30 states and D.C. have a ballot cure process |
| When absentee/mail ballot processing begins | Upon receipt | 34 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day |
| Electronic ballot return | Not permitted | 33 states and D.C. allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states and D.C. allow for voters with disabilities |
| OTHER | | |
| Pre-election audits (logic and accuracy testing) | Uses pre-election audits | 47 states and D.C. have pre-election audits |
| Post-election tabulation audits | Uses post-election audits | 48 states and D.C. require post-election audits |
| State primary type | Closed | Primaries range from fully open to fully closed |

*Other states accept ballots postmarked by Election Day.

Note: Neither NCSL nor the U.S. Election Assistance Commission advocate for or against any election policies.

For more information, contact NCSL at elections-info@ncsl.org or 303-364-7700. For information on federal grants see www.eac.gov/grants.



Use this QR code to access links to NCSL's elections pages with details.



Use this QR code to access links to the EAC's election resources.



Jan. | 2024