



Student Voting Guide for Mississippi

Registration Deadline

General Election Registration Deadline: 30 days by mail

Voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information can be found at www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/default.aspx

Register at School or Home?

Students have a choice about where to register to vote:

School residence:

- Students attending school in Mississippi may register to vote in their college community if have the present intent to remain in their college community and to return there after any temporary absence like summer vacation. They do not have to plan to reside at that address permanently or after graduation.
- Students who declare their college community as a legal residence are eligible to vote even if they are classified as “out of state” by their college or university.

Home residence:

- Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.
- If you were registered to vote in Mississippi prior to attending school outside Mississippi, you may keep your voting residency in Mississippi.

For other states' registration information visit:
www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides

*The Higher Education Act requires most colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to every student.
Does yours?*

What Type of ID Do I Need to Register?

Mississippi's voter registration form asks for your Mississippi driver's license number, or the last four digits of your Social Security Number. Failure to provide this information could lead to you having to show additional identification when you vote that shows your picture or your name and address. Make sure to provide this information on the registration form so the state can verify your identity and you don't run into issues when you cast your ballot.

What Type of ID Do I Need to Vote?

Mississippians voting at the polls must show a photo ID. The following photo IDs may be used on Election Day:

- A driver's license,
- A photo ID card issued by a branch, department, or entity of the State of Mississippi,
- A United States passport,
- A government employee ID card,
- A firearms license,
- A student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college, or community/junior 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

Expired forms of these photo IDs may be used as long as the ID is not more than 10 years old. Free Mississippi Voter Identification Cards are available from any Circuit Clerk.

For more information go to <http://msvoterid.ms.gov>

www.campusvoteproject.org

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Where Do I Vote?

- Polling place locator online at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/pollingplace/Pages/default.aspx> through the Secretary of State's website.
- Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. Sometimes there are multiple precincts in one polling place, so confirm your precinct ahead of time and get in the correct line!

How Can I Vote?

By Mail with an absentee ballot

- Voters registered in Mississippi may vote by absentee ballot if they will be away from their county of residence on Election Day for any reason, including attending school in a different county.
- Applications for absentee ballots may be requested during the 45 days prior to Election Day in person at the county registrar or by mail to the county registrar (applications by mail must be notarized).
- The deadline for mailed absentee ballots is:
 - 5 p.m. the day before the election
 - 7 p.m. on Election Day for voters in the military or students in the service academies
- The application for an absentee ballot is *not* available online. It is recommended you contact the registrar at least 2 weeks before Election Day.

Early In Person with an absentee ballot

- Absentee electors can bring their absentee ballots in person until:
 - Noon on the Saturday immediately preceding a Tuesday election, or
 - The Thursday immediately preceding a Saturday election or
 - The second day immediately preceding the date of elections held on other days.

On Election Day at the Polls

- The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.

Common Questions

Will voting in Mississippi affect my federal financial aid?

Where you register to vote will not affect federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins or Stafford loans or your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in Mississippi?

Generally, no. If you receive scholarship money from a state, county, town, or a private entity (i.e., an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in Mississippi will not affect your eligibility.

Will registering to vote in Mississippi affect my driver's license or car registration?

No, but anyone who has been a resident of Mississippi for 60 days must obtain a Mississippi driver's license. For more information, visit the [Mississippi Department of Public Safety](#).

Will registering to vote in Mississippi prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

Does being an out-of-state student for tuition purposes affect my right to vote in my college community?

No. You may choose to vote in your college community or back home regardless of your tuition status.

This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in Mississippi and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Mississippi legal professional.

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