

IN OUR OWN VOICE:



NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AGENDA VOTING GUIDE FOR THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

**I AM A
VOTER**

www.BlackWomen.vote

➤ **IN OUR OWN VOICE: NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AGENDA** is a national/state partnership with eight Black women's reproductive justice organizations: Black Women for Wellness, Black Women's Health Imperative, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, SisterLove, Inc, SisterReach, SPARK Reproductive Justice Now, The Afiya Center, and Women With a Vision. Our goals are to build a Black women's RJ movement focused on the empowerment and advancement of Black women, femmes, and girls.

This guide was created to provide information about how to vote, when to vote, and where to vote in your state, as well as to provide basic facts around reproductive justice issues in your state.

TENNESSEE 2020 VOTING GUIDELINES

HOW TO VOTE IN TENNESSEE:

► REQUIREMENTS:

To register in Tennessee you must:

- be a citizen of the United States
- be a resident of Tennessee
- be at least 18 years old on or before the next election
- not have been convicted of a felony, or if convicted, have had your voting rights restored
- not be adjudicated incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction (or have been restored to legal capacity)
- *find more information on voting rights restoration at sos.tn.gov/products/elections/restoration-voting-rights.

► REGISTER TO VOTE:

Register to Vote Online: Tennessee offers online voter registration.

You must have a Tennessee driver's license or Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security ID in order to submit this application online. If you do not have a Tennessee ID, you can still register by mail to vote.

You can register online to vote until Monday, October 5, 2020, at ovr.govote.tn.gov.

Register to Vote in Person: You can also register to vote using the Tennessee voter registration form. Be sure to read the instructions carefully and fill it out completely. Send the completed form to your local election official. To register by mail, the form must be postmarked by Monday, October 5, 2020.

Check Voter Registration: You can look up your voter registration record and verify that your information is correct using Tennessee's voter registration lookup tool: tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/

MAKE A PLAN. SHARE YOUR PLAN.

This year, it is critical for each of us to MAKE A PLAN to vote. Voter suppression comes in many forms, making it more difficult to:

- REGISTER TO VOTE
- CAST YOUR VOTE
- COUNT YOUR VOTE

VISIT [BLACKWOMEN.VOTE](https://blackwomen.vote) TO WALK THROUGH THESE STEPS ONLINE.

Your Plan To Vote should include answers to the following questions:

➤ AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS to ensure you have not been purged from the voter roll in your state.

➤ HOW WILL I VOTE?

Early Voting: Where early voting is available, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND taking advantage of this option.

Absentee/Mail-In Voting: Request your absentee or mail-in ballot as soon as possible and return it immediately.

In-Person Voting on Election Day: If you are voting on Nov. 3, make a plan that allows time for longer lines than usual. If you are in line when the polls close, you are still entitled to vote. Wear your mask. Wear comfortable shoes, bring snacks, and water.

➤ HOW CAN I ENCOURAGE MY COMMUNITY TO VOTE?

Share your Plan To Vote with your family, friends, and community.

Use Social Media to share your Plan To Vote. Use #IAmAVoter #BlackWomenLead #BlackVotersMatter in your posts!

TENNESSEE 2020 VOTING GUIDELINES

▶ VOTING IN PERSON

- You will need to show a photo ID to vote in Tennessee.
- If you're a first-time voter who registered by mail, you will also need to show proof of residence to vote.
- **Voters without ID:** If you are unable to provide ID, you will be able to cast a provisional ballot.

Polling locations and times may vary during early vote and Election Day.

Check with your County Clerk and Secretary of State for information including locations and times.

▶ VOTING BY MAIL/ABSENTEE BALLOT

- **Request for Absentee/Vote by Mail ballot** Review the absentee ballot application at sos-tn.gov/files/s3.amazonaws.com/forms/ss-3010.pdf and confirm that you meet the eligibility requirements for voting absentee.
- **Fill out the application completely.**

- **Submit the request to your local election office.** You should request your ballot as far in advance of the election as possible. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is (received by) Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Due to COVID and USPS delays, counties will provide drop-off locations, such as County Clerk offices or ballot drop boxes. See your County Clerk for more information.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE: sos.tn.gov/elections

VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE/ACLU: aclu-tn.org/issue_types/voting-rights/ • (615) 320-7142



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020.

The deadline to register online, register by mail (postmarked by), and register in person to vote is
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020.

The deadline to request a ballot by mail is (received by)
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020.

The early voting period runs from
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020, but dates and hours may vary based on where you live.

BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ISSUES

- **Quality, Affordable Health Care** - Millions of Black women and their families have gained access to affordable coverage and health care due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We reject any rollbacks to health care coverage and protections, including eliminating coverage for pre-existing conditions, changes to essential benefits, and cuts to Medicaid.
- **Quality Education** - We support the right to achieve academic excellence in a safe, welcoming, and dignified environment, and reject zero-tolerance policies that feed the school-to-prison pipeline.
- **Abortion Access** - We trust Black women to make the important personal decisions that are best for themselves and their families. We support access to abortion care, including public insurance coverage so every woman – regardless of her income – can access affordable and safe abortion care when she needs it.
- **Maternal Health** - We support Black women's access to high-quality, affordable health care before, during, and after pregnancy as a critical component of our human rights.
- **LGBTQ+ Liberation** - The dual impact of systemic homophobia and racism can harm Black individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+). We support programs and policies that ensure Black LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly youth, have the right and resources to make healthy decisions about their lives, bodies, genders, and sexualities.
- **Immigrant Rights** - Black immigrants are five times more likely to be deported than their White and Latinx counterparts. We call for an end to these cruel and inhumane practices, and for the adoption of immigration reform that offers a path to citizenship.
- **Economic Equality** - We support equal pay, a living wage, and economic policies that incorporate race, gender, sexual identity, and socioeconomic status – all of which impact the lives and opportunities of Black women and communities.
- **Criminal Justice** - Black women are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, making up nearly half of the female prison population (44%). We support policies that ensure all people are treated with respect and are not subject to unjust racial and gender profiling, or unfair and biased sentencing.