

BE A REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE VOTER.



**TRUST BLACK WOMEN TO MAKE PERSONAL DECISIONS
THAT ARE BEST FOR US AND OUR FAMILIES.**

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 5.

**I AM A
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
VOTER**

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BLACKWOMEN.VOTE

BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ISSUES

COST OF LIVING — Polling data from the survey of Black women voters in Tennessee indicates that the cost of living is a major concern, with 88% of respondents stating that it is extremely or very important when thinking about getting out to vote. This issue is particularly pressing as it affects Black women's ability to secure stable housing, afford basic necessities, and achieve economic security for themselves and their families. The burden of rising costs is deeply connected to reproductive justice, which emphasizes the right to have children, or not to have children, and parent the children they have in safe and sustainable environments. When the cost of living is prohibitively high, it limits the ability of Black women to make free and informed choices about their reproductive lives. Ensuring that Black women have access to affordable living conditions is not just a matter of economic policy, but it is also a fundamental aspect of reproductive justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

RACISM / RACIAL JUSTICE — The survey data highlights that racism and racial justice are critical concerns for Black women voters in Tennessee, with a significant portion of respondents identifying these issues as top priorities when thinking about getting out to vote. A notable 63% of Black women reported experiencing racial and gender bias within the healthcare system, underscoring the pervasive impact of systemic racism on their daily lives. The fight for racial justice is deeply intertwined with reproductive justice, which advocates for the right to live in a society free from discrimination and violence. Addressing racism is essential to ensuring that Black women can make autonomous decisions about their reproductive lives, raise their children in safe and equitable environments, and access the healthcare and economic opportunities they need. For true reproductive justice to be realized, it is crucial to confront and dismantle systemic racism in all areas of society. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

CRIME — Crime is a significant concern for Black women voters in Tennessee, particularly among older respondents, who rank it as one of their top issues when thinking about getting out to vote. The impact of crime on communities extends beyond immediate safety concerns; it disrupts the stability and well-being of families, making it harder for Black women to provide secure environments for their children. This issue is closely tied to reproductive justice, which emphasizes the right to parent children in safe, healthy communities. When crime rates are high, and communities are unsafe, it undermines the ability of Black women to exercise this right fully. Addressing crime effectively means not only enhancing public safety, but also investing in community resources and support systems that help create the conditions for Black women and their families to thrive. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE — Healthcare is a major issue for Black women voters in Tennessee, with 90% of respondents stating that increasing access to mental healthcare is extremely or very important when thinking about getting out to vote. Additionally, many Black women have reported experiencing racial and gender bias in the healthcare system, further complicating their ability to receive equitable and quality care. These concerns are directly linked to reproductive justice, which advocates for the right to health and bodily autonomy, free from discrimination. Without access to comprehensive and unbiased healthcare, including mental health services, Black women are hindered in their ability to make informed and empowered choices about their reproductive lives. Ensuring that Black women have access to quality, affordable healthcare is not only a health issue, but it is also a fundamental aspect of advancing reproductive justice in Tennessee. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to prompt candidates to address the key concerns of Black women voters in Tennessee while emphasizing the importance of reproductive justice in their policy platforms.

- How will you address the rising cost of living in Tennessee to ensure that Black women and their families can afford stable housing and basic necessities, which are essential for making informed and free reproductive choices?
- What specific policies will you implement to combat racial and gender bias in the healthcare system, ensuring that Black women receive equitable care, and support their right to make decisions about their reproductive health?
- Given the high levels of crime in some communities, how do you plan to create safer environments that allow Black women to raise their children in secure and nurturing settings, a core aspect of reproductive justice?
- What steps will you take to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare, including mental health services, to ensure that Black women in Tennessee can make empowered and autonomous decisions about their reproductive lives?
- How do you plan to address systemic racism and promote racial justice in Tennessee, recognizing that the fight against racism is critical to ensuring that Black women have the freedom to make reproductive choices without fear of discrimination or violence?

YOUR RIGHTS

It's illegal to intimidate voters, and a federal crime to "intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote as she may choose."

What to do if you experience voter intimidation:

- Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español).
- Report intimidation to your local election officials. Their offices will be open on Election Day.

TENNESSEE 2024 VOTING GUIDELINES

This Voter Guide is intended to be used solely for educational purposes and is not meant to support or oppose any candidate or political party. Any use of this Voter Guide should be for 501(c)(3)-compliant purposes only. This Voter Guide shall not be used for any partisan, political, or electioneering activities by any organization or individual.

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

AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS at <https://vote.civcnation.org/register/iamarjvoter/> to ensure that you have not been purged from the voter roll in your state.

Voter Registration Deadlines:

- > Online registration deadline: Monday, October 7, 2024
- > Register by mail deadline: Must be postmarked by Monday, October 7, 2024
- > In-person registration deadline: Monday, October 7, 2024

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Register online, by mail, or in person:

- > **Online:** Use Tennessee's voter registration portal to register or update your registration status. Include your name, date of birth, and Social Security number. You'll need a Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security ID or a Tennessee driver's license to submit your application. You can also use the online registration tool via Vote.org
- > **By mail:** Print a voter registration form, complete it, and mail it to your county election commission office. Or contact your commission office to request that a form be mailed to you. You also can pick up a form at a public library or at a county election commission, a register of deeds, or a county clerk's office.
- > **In person:** Visit your county election commission office to fill out or return a completed registration form. You also can register during an appointment with the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, or another location listed on the Secretary of State's website.

HOW WILL I VOTE?

Early Voting: You can vote early and in person at your county election commission office or at a satellite early voting location, if your county uses one. Early voting starts October 16, and ends 5 days before an election, October 31.

Absentee/Mail-in Voting: Absentee by-mail ballots are available to some voters, including individuals 60 and older and people who will be traveling outside their county during early voting and on Election Day.

Check the absentee eligibility list on the Secretary of State's website. Some residents may qualify for placement on a permanent absentee voter list.

- > **Online:** Complete an absentee by-mail request form, and email it to your county election commission office. Your email must include a picture of your signature as well as your name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, a reason for voting absentee, and the specific election for which you're requesting a ballot. A ballot will then be mailed to you.
- > **By mail or fax:** Download, print, and complete an absentee by-mail request form, then mail or fax it to your county election commission office.
- > **In person:** Applications cannot be submitted in person.

Deadline to return absentee by-mail request is October 28.

In-Person Voting on Election Day:

Access the GoVoteTN app for information on when and where to vote, polling locations, sample ballots, and election results. Also check the Secretary of State and Election Commission websites for updated sample ballots.

Polling hours may vary by county, but all locations close at 7 p.m. CT, 8 p.m. ET. You will be able to cast a ballot after the polls close as long as you are already in line. Visit the state's voter services portal for details and to find your polling place.

If you are voting in person on November 5, make a plan that allows time for longer lines than usual. Stay in line until you vote, no matter what time it is, and no matter what anyone tells you. If you are in line when the polls close, you are still entitled to vote.

Find your local polling location, map out your route to get there, including parking, and (whenever possible) go vote with other members of your community. Wear comfortable shoes, and bring snacks and water.

HOW IS MY COMMUNITY VOTING?

Share Your Plan to Vote with your family, friends, and community. Help them develop a Plan to Vote. Support each other and vote together, no matter which way you are voting. Send in your ballots on the same day, vote early together, or plan on getting in line as a community on November 5.

IMPORTANT DATES

- > Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
- > Deadline to return absentee by-mail request is October 28.
- > The early voting period runs from Wednesday, October 16, 2024, to Thursday, October 31, 2024, but dates and hours may vary based on where you live.

See Tennessee voter services portal for additional information.

HOW TO VOTE IN TENNESSEE

To register in Tennessee, you must:

- > Be a citizen of the United States
- > Be 18 years of age or older on or before the date of the next election.
- > Be a resident of Tennessee. View Guidelines for Determining Residency and special considerations for Homeless Persons Residency and Non-Resident Property Owners.
- > If you have been convicted of a felony, your eligibility to register and vote depends upon the crime you were convicted of, and the date of your conviction. If your conviction made you ineligible, you may regain your eligibility if your conviction has been expunged or if you have had your voting rights restored, unless you were convicted of a crime that rendered you permanently ineligible to vote. View Eligibility to Vote after a Felony Conviction.

Find more information on voting rights restoration.

Check Your Voter Registration Online: You can look up your voter registration record and verify that your information is correct using <https://weall.vote/iamarjvoter>

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, here: <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup/>

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO VOTE IN TENNESSEE?

Voting In Person

Any of the following IDs may be used, even if expired:

- > Tennessee driver's license with your photo; U.S. passport; Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security; Photo ID issued by the federal or Tennessee state government; U.S. military photo ID; or Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo

For first-time voters who register by mail or are using Online Voter Registration, if the ID is expired, the voter must also present one of the following:

- > Copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address

Voters Without ID: If you are unable to provide ID, you will be able to vote a provisional ballot. You will then have 2 business days after Election Day to return to the election commission office to show a valid photo ID. Upon returning to the election commission office, the voter will sign an affidavit, and a copy of the voter's photo ID will be made to be reviewed by the counting board.

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.

For more information visit the Tennessee Secretary of State Election portal.

RECENT VOTING CHANGES IN TENNESSEE

- > Lawmakers in 2024 shortened the voting period in nursing homes from 29 days before an election to 27 days.
- > Redistricting in early 2022 altered certain boundaries of U.S. congressional and state legislative districts, but those changes have been challenged in court. Litigation is ongoing, so check back for updates.
- > Convicted felons may regain their right to vote in certain circumstances. Visit the Secretary of State's website for more information.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

➔ **Tennessee Secretary of State:**
<https://sos.tn.gov/elections>

➔ **Voter Protection Hotline/ACLU:**
https://www.aclu-tn.org/issue_types/voting-rights/
Phone; (615) 320-7142