VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE
ORGANIZER TOOLKIT

#YallVote

YallVote.ms

Thank you for taking the time to consider hosting a voter registration drive. It is our hope that through your exemplary civic responsibility and engagement, others will be inspired to get involved and register voters as well. To make your planning and process as smooth as possible, we have provided you with all of the resources needed to guide you from start to finish.

Before planning your drive, familiarize yourself with the information provided in this toolkit and be sure to let our team know if you have any questions! Remember: voter education is non-partisan, and you are the best person to help register your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers!

Thank you for your service to the state of Mississippi!

Thank you,

Michael Watson
Secretary of State
State of Mississippi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GETTING STARTED.....1

GET SOCIAL.....2

VOLUNTEER EDUCATION.....3

MISSISSIPPI ELECTIONS CALENDAR.....4

AFTER THE EVENT.....5

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....6

APPENDIX A – VOTER REGISTRATION GUIDES.....7

APPENDIX B – VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.....8

GETTING STARTED

MAKE YOUR PLAN

- **Who?** Recruit reliable volunteers to help you plan and conduct the registration drive.
- **What?** Encourage eligible Mississippians to register to vote regardless of party affiliation. For eligibility information, consult the Voter Registration Guide (page 7).
- **When?** Decide a day and time for the event.
- **Where?** Choose a busy location where you are likely to interact with a wide range of people.
- **Why?** Because voting is one of our greatest civil liberties and the best way to let our voices be heard!

Remember:

- **Start Early.** It's never too soon to start planning. Figure out the items you need and what you can check off your list early.
- **Get Connected.** Use social media to spread the word and show off your voter registration success. Use the hashtag #YallVote.
- **Ask for Help.** Do not hesitate to reach out for assistance or guidance.
  - For assistance with a voter registration drive, contact our External Affairs Division at ExternalAffairs@sos.ms.gov.
  - For election specific information, contact our Elections Division at ElectionsAnswers@sos.ms.gov or the Elections Hotline at 1-800-829-6786.
- **Stay Nonpartisan.** You are not there to tell people who to vote for but to help them complete the voter registration process.
- **Have fun!**

Gather the following items before your event:

- Blank Voter Registration Applications (page 8) located on the Secretary of State's website under the Elections Division.
- Voter Registration Guides (page 7).
- Pens.
- A table and chairs.
- List of volunteers.
- Envelope or box for completed registration forms.
- A copy of the FAQ page (page 6).
- Signage for the table and the facility where you are holding your event.

CHECKLIST

Need help planning your drive? Start with this list of questions:

✓ Have you chosen a location?
✓ What is the date and time?
✓ Has the public been made aware of the event?
✓ Have you confirmed that there are no other registration drives at that time?

GET SOCIAL

Social media is one of the best tools to reach a wide range of people. Utilize one of the many design websites to create quick and easy graphics. Keep your text short and simple and let the graphic speak for itself. Take a look at these examples:

SAMPLE

VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Once you have confirmed volunteers for your voter registration drive, educate them on the process and what their role will be on the day of your event.

Be sure to review the following:

- Who is eligible to vote in Mississippi? Consult the Voter Registration Guide (page 8).
- The Voter Registration Application (page 8) located on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website under the Elections Division.
- How to properly complete a registration form including all required fields.
- Be aware of common mistakes, such as forgetting to sign the form.
- The sample question/answer document (page 6), and contact information for questions that go beyond the content provided in this toolkit.
- What to do with completed registrations.
- The Mississippi Elections Calendar (opposite page).

TIPS FOR TALKING TO VOTERS:

- **BE FRIENDLY!**
  Think about how you would want someone to speak to you during this process.
- **BE IMPARTIAL!**
  Remember, you are not telling people who to vote for, only how to register to vote.
- **BE ENCOURAGING!**
  Reassure each person about the importance of making their voice heard!

MISSISSIPPI ELECTIONS CALENDAR

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

July 10.....Primary Election
July 31.....Primary Election Runoff
October 9.....In-person Registration – General Election*
October 10.....Mail-in Registration – General Election*
October 30.....General Election Runoff

*October 9th is the in-person deadline at the Circuit Clerk's Office
*October 10th is the mail-in deadline and **applications** must be postmarked on or before October 10th

2023 ELECTION

August 8.....Primary Election
August 29.....Primary Runoff Election
November 7.....General Election
November 28.....General Runoff Election

Elected Offices for 2023

Governor
Lt. Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General
Auditor
Treasurer
Commissioner of Insurance
Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce
State Senators
State Representatives
Transportation Commissioners
Public Service Commissioners
District Attorney
Sheriff
Chancery Clerk
Circuit Clerk
Tax Assessor
Tax Collector
Coroner
County Attorney
Surveyor
County Supervisor
Justice Court Judges
Constables
Election Commissioners

AFTER THE EVENT

Upon completion of your voter registration event:

- Gather all materials and place all completed registration applications in an envelope.
- Deliver completed registration applications to the appropriate Circuit Clerk offices. Locate the mailing address for each Circuit Clerk Office in the online directory located in the Publications Division on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website.
    - Note--Registration forms must be received or postmarked 30 days before the date of an election. If the 30th day falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, then both the postmark and in-person deadline are extended to the next regular business day.
    - For questions, contact the Elections Hotline at the Office of the Secretary of State at 1-800-829-6786.
- Be sure to thank your volunteers for assisting. A personal touch like a phone call or hand-written note can have a huge impact and exemplify your appreciation for their time.

CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist to help you after your event:

✓ Are all applications complete?
✓ Are you aware of the deadline to submit completed applications?
✓ Do you know where to deliver completed applications?
✓ Have you thanked volunteers?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What personal information is needed to register to vote?
A. All that is needed is a driver's license number or the last four digits of a social security number.

Q. I am 17 years old but will be 18 by Election Day. Can I still register?
A. Yes. A person may register to vote early if they turn 18 on or before Election Day Also, a person who is 17 but will be 18 on or before General Election Day can register to vote in a primary election.

Q. Is a voter registration drive just for registering new voters?
A. No! Already registered voters may also update their registration information including name change and/or address change.

Q. Can this form be filled out for someone else?
A. No. A valid signature of the person registering to vote is required.

Q. Does a person have to fill out the application on the day of the voter registration drive?
A. No. The registration application can be completed at a later date as long as it is postmarked, or hand delivered to the Circuit Clerk's Office located in the county in which they are trying to register no later than 30 days before an election.

Q. How can we promote the event?
A. There are many ways to promote your event. A few of the most effective are utilizing social media, signage, and don't underestimate word of mouth. Be sure people understand it is just voter registration and not a political event.

Q. Can we use the Secretary of State's logo and/or pictures of Secretary Michael Watson for promotion?
A. Agency logos and photos of Secretary Watson are reserved for official partnerships. Contact our External Affairs Division at ExternalAffairs@sos.ms.gov to get more information on if you are eligible to become an official partner.

For more information, visit the Secretary of State's Y'all Vote website at Yallvote.ms.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

REGISTRATION QUALIFICATIONS

Every U.S. citizen who possesses the following qualifications is eligible to register to vote in Mississippi:

- A resident of Mississippi and the county, city, or town for 30 days prior to the election;
- At least 18 years old (or will be 18 by the date of the next General Election);
- Not declared mentally incompetent by a court; and
- Not convicted of a disenfranchising crime as defined by Section 241 of the Mississippi Constitution or by Attorney General Opinion, unless pardoned, rights of citizenship restored by the Governor or suffrage rights restored by the Legislature.

REGISTERING BY MAIL

Mail-In Registration Applications may be downloaded from our website at yallvote.ms. Please follow the instructions on that website for sending in registration applications by mail to the Circuit Clerk in the county of your residence. You must include a copy of a current and valid photo ID or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address.

REGISTERING IN PERSON

You may register to vote in person at any of the following locations:

- Circuit Clerk's Office;
- Municipal Clerk's Office;
- Department of Public Safety; or
- Any state or federal agency offering government services, such as the Department of Human Services.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

You must register to vote 30 days before the date of the election. If the 30th day falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, then both the postmark and in-person deadline is extended to the next regular business day. Voters who have not yet reached the age of 18 at the time of the primary election may vote in the primary election so long as he/she will reach the age of 18 on or before the date of the general election.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

See the Step-by-Step Voter Guide to Absentee Voting" on YallVote.ms.

WHERE TO VOTE

After registering to vote, your Voter Registration Card will be sent to your residence/mailing address provided on your application. Your Voter Registration Card will provide the name, location and number of the precinct in which you will vote.

VOTING WITH PHOTO ID

All Mississippi voters casting a ballot in person at the polls or casting an absentee ballot in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk's Office must present an acceptable photo ID. See Voter ID | Michael Watson Secretary of State (ms.gov) for additional information. If you do not present an acceptable form of photo ID or are unable to do so because of a religious objection, you are entitled to cast an affidavit ballot. Call 1-800-MSVoter (1-800-678-6837) for Voter ID information or assistance in obtaining a Mississippi Voter Identification Card.

MISSISSIPPI MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Agency Code:

- You can use this form to: register to vote in Mississippi or change your name and/or address.
- If you are registering for the first time in Mississippi and DO NOT have a Mississippi driver's license or social security number, you must send with this application a copy of a current and valid photo ID or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address in this county.
- An application for voter registration must be postmarked or hand delivered to the Circuit Clerk's Office located in the county of your voting residence no later than 30 days before an election.
- You may not register to vote if you have been convicted in a Mississippi state court of any of the following crimes: voter fraud, murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement, bigamy, armed robbery, extortion, felony bad check, felony shoplifting, larceny, receiving stolen property, robbery, timber larceny, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, statutory rape, carjacking or larceny under lease or rental agreement.
- If you live in an area without house numbers or street names, please include a drawing of your location to enable us to identify your appropriate voting precinct.
- Photo ID Required to Vote: You will be required to present an acceptable form of photo identification when you vote at your polling place on Election Day or by absentee ballot in your Circuit Clerk's Office, unless exempted by law. For more information, go to www.MSVoterID.ms.gov or call (844) 678-6837.

Check One: ☐ **New Registration** ☐ **Change of Information**	**Are you a citizen of the United States of America?** Yes ☐ No ☐ **Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day?** Yes ☐ No ☐ ***NOTE: If you checked 'No' in response to either of these questions, DO NOT complete this form.*** **Would you like to serve as an Election Day poll worker?** Yes ☐ No ☐				
Name	Last Name	Maiden Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix
Physical Home Address (Where you live)	Number and Street/Road/Dorm/Apt #				
	City	County	State: MS	Zip	
Mailing Address (If different from above)	Street or Post Office Box				
	City	County	State:	Zip	
Date of Birth	Month	Day	Year	**MS Driver's License Number or Last 4 Digits of your Social Security Number**	_____ or ___ ___ ___ ___
Phone #	Cell	Work			
Email					
Previous Registration	Name		Address		
	City	County	State:	Zip	

VOTER DECLARATION- Read and Sign

I swear/affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

- I am a U.S. citizen.
- I will be 18 years of age on or before the next general Election Day.
- I am a resident of Mississippi, this county and this city for at least 30 days.
- I have not been adjudicated as mentally incompetent.
- I have never been convicted of voter fraud or any other disenfranchising crime OR, if convicted, I have had my voting rights restored as required by law.
- The address listed above is my legal place of residence.

WARNING: Giving false information to register to vote is a felony punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both. Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-17.

X _____ **Date:** _____

Signature (or mark) of applicant

X _____ **Date:** _____

If applicant is unable to sign, the person who assisted the applicant

_____

Address