Voter Registration

Requirements to Register to Vote
In Tennessee, you must register to vote thirty (30) days prior to any election to vote in that election. To register to vote, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old on or before election day;
- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be a resident of the state of Tennessee (Guidelines for Determining Residency); and
- Not have been convicted of a felony; or, if you have been convicted of a felony, you must have had your voting rights restored (Restoration of Voting Rights).

How & Where to Become a Registered Voter

In Person

- **Election Commission office**
  Bedford County Election Commission
  100 Public Square West, Basement, Shelbyville, TN 37160
  Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

- **State Agencies:**
  Department of Safety, Department of Human Services, Health Department, and the WIC office

By Mail

Forms are available at the following locations

- All Local Post Offices
- Public Library
- On-line through the [Tennessee State website](#)

*Please Note: All by-mail applications must be postmarked no later than 30 days before an election. You are not a registered voter until you receive your voter card. By-mail applicants must vote in-person the first time.*

Why Should I Vote And How Can I Be An Informed Voter?
Voting is the heart of our strong democratic system. Your vote:

- Voices your opinion on current events and on your preference for your representation in government;
- Shows support for our democracy and our nation;
- Ensures that the struggle of those who have fought and died for your right to vote was worthwhile.

In order to understand how current issues, public policies, and laws relate to you and to the community, you must be an informed voter. Becoming an informed voter may involve:

- Using different sources for information. Read newspapers and magazines, watch television programs, listen to radio stations, and check internet sites. You can also get information from political parties.
- Focusing on issues that are of particular importance to you throughout the year and following up on them after the election
- Meeting the candidates and asking them questions.
- Talking with other voters. Exchanging ideas and opinions with people that you know may strengthen your understanding of issues specific to your community.