



# Civic Engagement

**“I am Engaged in the Life of This Community”  
-True Blue Pledge**



THE GOAL OF THIS  
PROJECT IS TO OFFER  
A CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
OPPORTUNITY TO ALL  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STUDENTS

TCA 2-6-201 (2) ..... If a voter  
is enrolled as a full time  
student in an accredited  
college, university or similar  
accredited institution of  
learning in this state which is  
outside the county where the  
voter is registered. This  
provision also applies to the  
spouse of the student who  
resides with the student.





# PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 768



## State of Tennessee

### PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 768

SENATE BILL NO. 2101

By Ketron, Tracy

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2125

By Terry, Dawn White, Sparks, Womick

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 3, relative to voting centers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 3, is amended by deleting part 3 in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

#### 2-3-301.

(a) The purpose of this part is to create a pilot project to determine whether convenient voting centers could successfully be established for local and state elections to make it convenient for voters to vote at centralized voting areas on election day in the county in which the voter is registered, regardless of the voter's precinct.

(b) A county shall indicate its willingness to participate in such a pilot project by adopting a resolution by a super majority vote of its county election commission. A super majority of at least four (4) of the five (5) county election commissioners must approve their willingness to participate in the pilot program. The super majority vote shall also be required to establish the number and locations of convenient centers in each county. Unless four (4) out of five (5) county election commissioners vote in favor of participating in the pilot program and the number and location of the convenient voting centers, the voting precincts as described in §§ 2-3-102 and 2-3-103 must be utilized.

(c) Upon affirmative vote by the super majority vote of the county election commission, the commission shall submit to the coordinator of elections a project plan for the convenient voting centers. The coordinator of elections shall approve the project plan prior to the county election commission implementing the plan.

#### 2-3-302.

(a) Upon approval of the project plan for the convenient voting centers, the county election commission shall create a program that establishes convenient voting centers within the county pursuant to § 2-3-303 for local and state elections scheduled in 2018 after the effective date of this act.

(b) If convenient voting centers are used in the election, the county election commission shall not be limited by the provisions set forth in § 2-3-101(a); provided, that no polling location may be changed within ten (10) days of an election except in an emergency.

(c) Each convenient voting center used in the pilot project shall have a secure electronic connection, certified by the coordinator of elections, to the computerized voter registration system maintained by the county election commission permitting all voting information processed by any computer at a convenient voting center to be immediately accessible to all other computers at all convenient voting centers in the county. The secure electronic connection shall be sufficient to prevent any voter from

SB 2101

voting more than once and to prevent unauthorized access to the computerized voter registration system.

(d) Each convenient voting center shall meet applicable federal and state laws, including the accessibility requirements of the Help America Vote Act, codified generally in 42 U.S.C. § 15301.

(e) Chapter 7 of this title applies to all convenient voting centers.

**2-3-303.** Taking into consideration all facts and circumstances, the county election commission that has a county participating in the pilot project shall determine the number of convenient voting centers to be used in the county election. For every ten thousand (10,000) registered voters, the county election commission shall locate at least one (1) convenient voting center; provided, that each county election commission shall locate at least two (2) convenient voting centers within a county. In determining the location of the convenient voting centers, the county election commission shall consider the density of the county population, the geographic dividers, and all other facts and circumstances that exist within the county.

**2-3-304.** If the county election commission establishes convenient voting centers within a county pursuant to § 2-3-303, the county election commission shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation the location of the convenient voting centers not less than thirty (30) days before the election. The county election commission shall mail to each registered voter a notice containing a list of the convenient voting centers located within the county. If more than one (1) registered voter is at the same address, then only one (1) notice may be sent to that address. Furthermore, immediately after any establishment of a convenient voting center, the county election commission shall give written notification of the changes to the office of local government, the comptroller of the treasury, and the coordinator of elections.

**2-3-305.** Section 2-3-107 shall apply to convenient voting centers.

#### 2-3-306.

(a) Convenient voting centers shall be open for voting for a minimum of ten (10) continuous hours but no more than thirteen (13) hours. All convenient voting centers in the eastern time zone shall close at eight o'clock p.m. (8:00 p.m.), prevailing time, and convenient voting centers in the central time zone shall close at seven o'clock p.m. (7:00 p.m.) prevailing time.

(b) At least fifteen (15) days before the date of each election, the county election commission shall determine a uniform time for the opening of all convenient voting centers.

**2-3-307.** The coordinator of elections shall file a report with the state and local government committee of the senate and the local government committee of the house of representatives by January 31 following any election conducted under the pilot project. The report shall contain the coordinator's evaluation of the pilot project, together with the coordinator's recommendations as to whether convenient voting centers should continue for future elections.

**2-3-308.** This part shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred sixty-two thousand six hundred (262,600) nor more than two hundred sixty-two thousand seven hundred (262,700) according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2101

PASSED: April 4, 2016


  
RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 19th day of April 2016

  
BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR

# WHAT EXACTLY ARE CONVENIENT VOTE CENTERS?

- They are polling locations throughout the county that any voter can appear to . It does not matter where you live within Rutherford County.
- Convenient Vote Centers is a concept that we use during early voting. It utilizes technology to tabulate your vote in your proper precinct. By doing this, it allows you to vote at any location, thus making voting more convenient.
- If a voter has a change of address, Vote Centers allow the voter to change their address and VOTE at that location on Election Day. In the past, the voter had to go to a fail safe center to make these changes.

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Middle Tennessee State  
University

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**About This Report**

**Your Institution's Voting Data**

Voting and Registration Rates

How Your Institution's Numbers  
Compare

**Your Students' Voting Data**

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By Education Level

By Undergraduate Class Year

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By Gender

By Field of Study

# MTSU CAMPUS REPORT ON 2012 & 2016 VOTING DATA

- National Study of over 1,000 colleges and universities.
- A signature initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education.

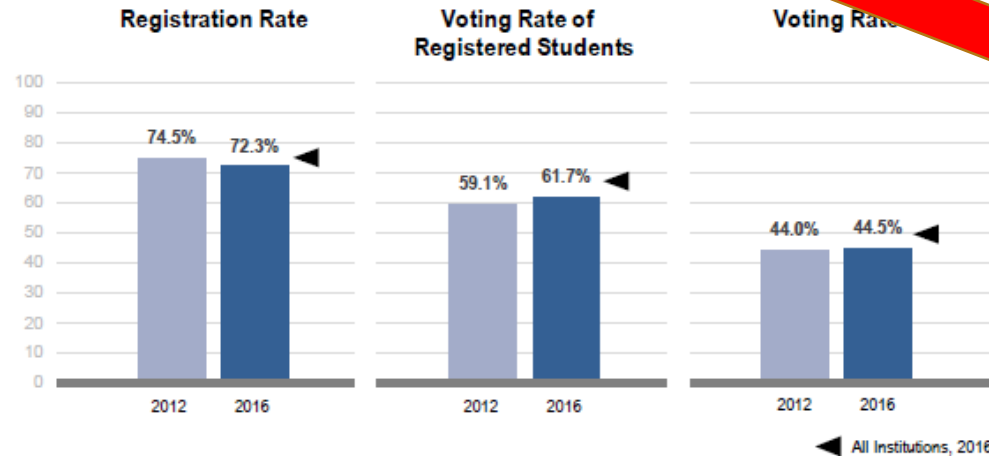


## Voting and Registration Rates

2016 Voting Rate

**44.5%**CHANGE  
FROM 2012  
**0.5**2016 VOTING RATE  
FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS  
**50.4%**

**Well below  
average  
compared to  
all 1,000+  
institutions**

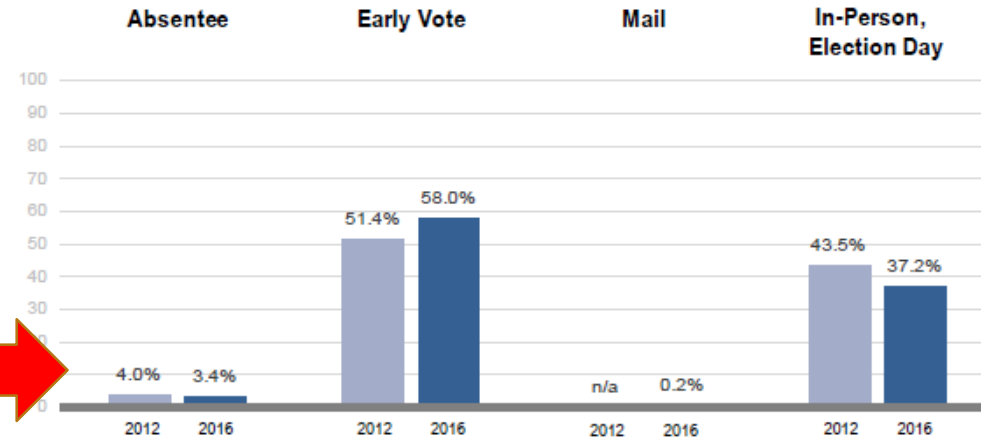


**Tennessee  
experienced a near  
record voter  
turnout in 2016 but  
we only saw a .5%  
increase over 2012.**

	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	24,213	21,475	↓ -2,738
Age under 18/Unknown	(95)	(507)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(614)	(1,053)	
FERPA records blocked	(134)	(28)	
Total eligible voters	23,370	19,887	↓ -3,483
Number of students who registered	17,416	14,369	↓ -3,047
Number of students who voted	10,290	8,858	↓ -1,432
Registration rate	74.5%	72.3%	↓ -2.3
Voting rate of registered students	59.1%	61.7%	↑ 2.6
Voting rate	44.0%	44.5%	↑ 0.5
Difference from all institutions	-2.9	-5.9	

## By Voting Method\*

**Educating students on the Absentee Voting process will generate significant improvement**

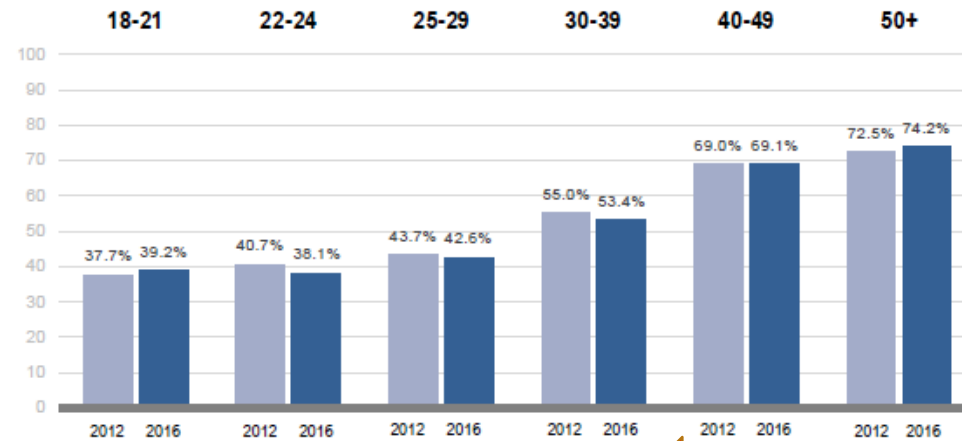


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	407	4.0%	302	3.4%	↓ -0.6
Early Vote	5,285	51.4%	5,138	58.0%	↑ 6.6
Mail	*	n/a	16	0.2%	n/a
In-Person, Election Day	4,472	43.5%	3,291	37.2%	↓ -6.3
Unknown	120	1.2%	111	1.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,290</b>		<b>8,858</b>		

\* Your students' data broken down by voting method. If your campus has a high number of voting method "Unknown", it means that this information was not reported by local officials where your students voted.



## By Age Group\*

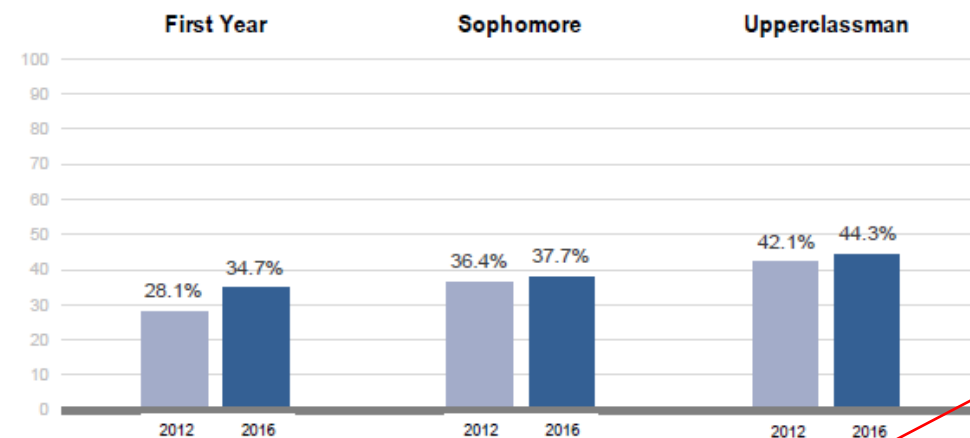


	2012			2016			
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change
18-21	11,222	4,227	37.7%	10,504	4,116	39.2%	↑ 1.5
22-24	5,721	2,326	40.7%	4,812	1,834	38.1%	↓ -2.6
25-29	3,106	1,356	43.7%	2,644	1,127	42.6%	↓ -1.0
30-39	2,490	1,370	55.0%	1,882	1,005	53.4%	↓ -1.6
40-49	1,053	727	69.0%	753	520	69.1%	↔ 0.0
50+	392	284	72.5%	345	256	74.2%	↑ 1.8
Unknown	0			0			

**Following National Trend**

\* Your students' data broken down by age at the time of the election. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

## By Undergraduate Class Year\*



	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	1,137	319	28.1%	4,059	1,408	34.7%	↑ 6.6
Sophomore	3,247	1,183	36.4%	3,814	1,439	37.7%	↑ 1.3
Upperclassman	10,086	4,247	42.1%	10,472	4,643	44.3%	↑ 2.2

**Generating a higher level of awareness with incoming freshman would improve our overall level of engagement**

\* Your students' data broken down by undergraduate students' class level. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

## By Field of Study\*

\* Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus's top three and bottom three voting rates by field of study.

	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Agriculture and Agriculture Operations	539	235	43.6%	495	209	42.2% ↓	-1.4
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	892	366	41.0%	1,073	435	40.5% ↓	-0.5
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,406	1,400	41.1%	3,025	1,203	39.8% ↓	-1.3
Communication and Journalism	1,375	571	41.5%	1,232	580	47.1% ↑	5.6
Communications Technologies/Technicians	35	*	n/a	84	36	42.9%	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	419	164	39.1%	552	189	34.2% ↓	-4.9
Education	2,421	1,350	55.8%	1,349	739	54.8% ↓	-1.0
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	720	237	32.9%	791	264	33.4% ↑	0.5
English Language and Literature	535	245	45.8%	375	199	53.1% ↑	7.3
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	606	270	44.6%	502	184	36.7% ↓	-7.9
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	167	76	45.5%	166	75	45.2% ↓	-0.3
Health Professions	1,663	778	46.8%	1,426	662	46.4% ↓	-0.4
History	421	231	54.9%	308	174	56.5% ↑	1.6
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	875	349	39.9%	700	260	37.1% ↓	-2.8
Leisure and Recreational Activities	161	106	65.8%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,380	642	46.5%	1,626	770	47.4% ↑	0.8
Library Science	0	0	n/a	21	17	81.0%	n/a
Mathematics and Statistics	261	94	36.0%	178	67	37.6% ↑	1.6
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,248	487	39.0%	880	378	43.0% ↑	3.9
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	934	346	37.0%	938	337	35.9% ↓	-1.1
Philosophy and Religious Studies	52	20	38.5%	40	14	35.0% ↓	-3.5
Physical Sciences	328	138	42.1%	319	136	42.6% ↑	0.6
Psychology	1,182	509	43.1%	931	393	42.2% ↓	-0.9

## 2016 compared to 2012

### Largest Increase by Major

**English** +7.3%  
**Mass Com** +5.6%

### Largest decline of voters by major

**Family & Human Sciences** -7.9%  
**Social Services** -6.3%



Public Administration and Social Service Professions	416	230	55.3%	339	166	49.0% ↓	-6.3
Social Sciences	802	377	47.0%	575	291	50.6% ↑	3.6
Transportation and Materials Moving	721	257	35.6%	741	249	33.6% ↓	-2.0
Visual and Performing Arts	2,367	767	32.4%	1,845	675	36.6% ↑	4.2
Unknown	58	37	63.8%	429	156	36.4% ↓	-27.4

# How Can WE Improve Student Civic Engagement?

- **MTSU Board of Trustees** create a culture of importance by establishing a university platform for civic engagement to be utilized by students
- **Instruct the University Marketing and Communications Office** to engage with the **Rutherford County Election** staff to develop **True Blue Civic Engagement** programming, messaging, collateral materials and most importantly, implement information into existing university platforms. **Creating awareness and visibility via social media, web based applications, banners, and posters promoting civic engagement that display how to participate.**



# How Can WE Improve Student Civic Engagement?- Continued



- **We would have an election official at each CUSTOMS session to register in person any incoming student (in RuCo or another TN county) to vote at the time the student gets their student ID. This would satisfy the requirements within TCA § 2-2-115 (b) (7)**
- **Election Commission staff would work with MTSU Student Government or a student organization at determined time periods during a state and federal election to create awareness by reminding and educating students of important dates and deadlines in the absentee voting process.**



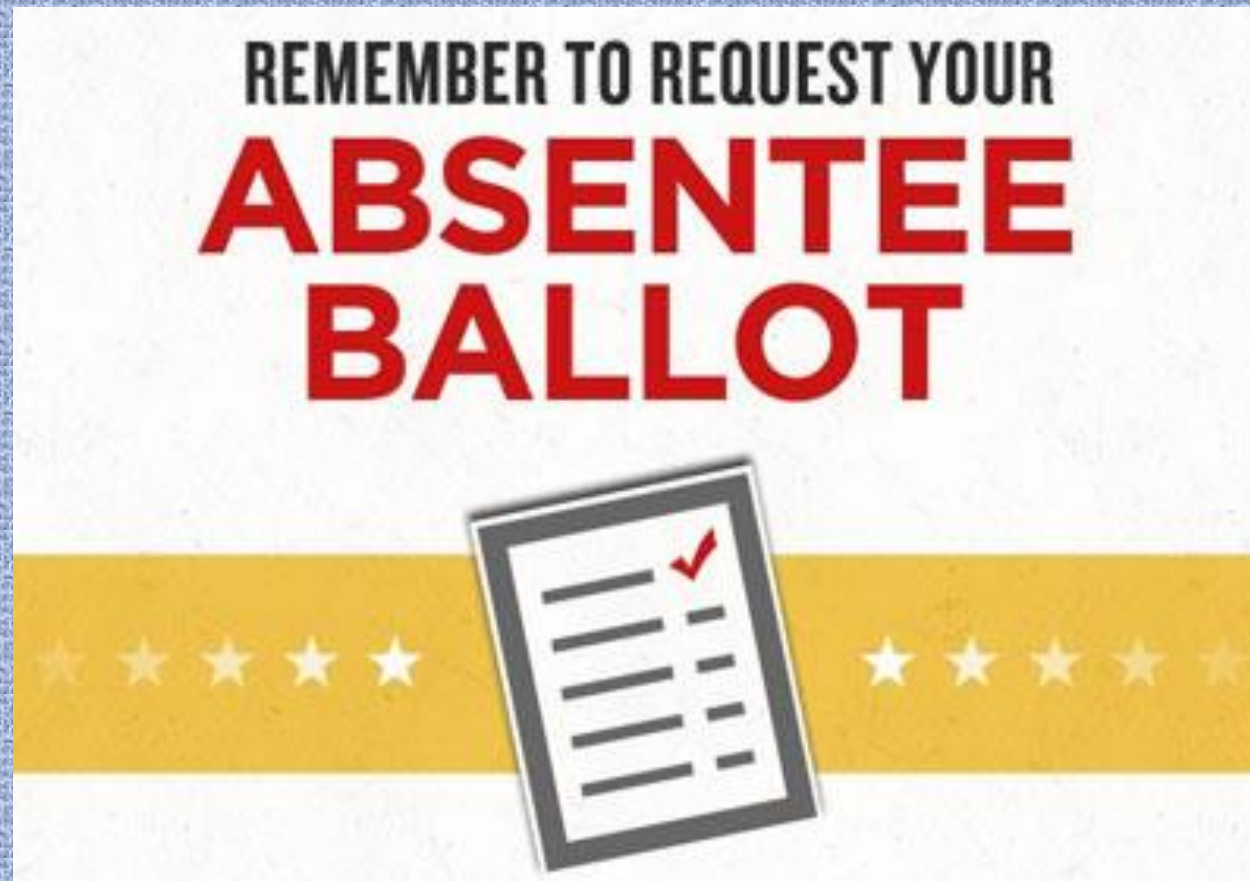




SAMPLE QR CODE



# THE ABSENTEE PROCESS IS SIMPLE AND EASY



The background of the entire image is a stylized American flag. The top left corner features a blue field with white stars, while the rest of the image is filled with horizontal red and white stripes. The text 'REGISTER TO VOTE' is overlaid on this background in a large, bold, grey font with a white outline.

# REGISTER

**STEP ONE**

# TO

**Register to Vote /  
Vote In-Person**

# VOTE



# Tennessee Voter Registration Awareness Campaign



# STEP TWO

## Fill out Absentee Ballot Request Form



**RUTHERFORD COUNTY**  
*Election Commission*

SCOTTIE BOWEN, Chairman    JAMES BOWEN, Member  
GARY L. DICKSON, Secretary    ADRIAN ZAVALA, Secretary  
RICHARD ROBERTS, Member    ALAN PERRY, Administrator

Home   Voter Information   Candidate Information   Election Worker   Maps   Contact Us   Past Results

**Quick Links**

- 2018 Election Information
- Candidate Financial Disclosures
- Polling Locations
- Legal Notices
- GoVoteTN Phone App

1 South Side Square  
Suite 103  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
Phone: (615) 898-7743  
Fax: (615) 898-7938  
[Email Us](#)  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday thru Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
(except holidays)

### MTSU Student Voting and Registration Information

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

MTSU students are encouraged to participate in upcoming elections. It is important that every citizen be involved and vote when they are eligible.

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

MTSU students who have established a residence within Rutherford County can register to vote in Rutherford County if they so choose. MTSU students can register to vote in the county of their primary residence and they MUST vote in the county in which they are registered.

Eligible voters in Tennessee must be registered at least 30 days prior to an election. Voter Registration applications and other election information may be obtained by visiting the Rutherford County Election Commission website at [www.election.rutherfordcountyttn.gov](http://www.election.rutherfordcountyttn.gov).

MTSU students living on campus should provide their residential address as 1301 E Main Street, with appropriate MTSU PO Box number or if mail is received by general delivery.

**ABSENTEE VOTING (STUDENT REGISTERED TO VOTE OUTSIDE OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY)**

Under TCA § 2-6-201 (2), a student who is registered to vote in their home county of residence and is attending a university or college outside their home of voter registration may request an absentee ballot from their County Election Commission office and vote by absentee ballot.

Or the student, if residing in Rutherford County, may choose to change their county of residence, and re-register to vote in Rutherford County, and then vote during the Early Voting period or on Election Day. This process will cancel voter registration in the previous county of residence.

If you are a first-time voter, under TCA § 2-2-115 (b) (7), it is very important that you register to vote in person at your local county election commission office. Each person who registers by mail shall appear in person to vote in the first election the person votes in after such registration becomes effective.

A request for an absentee ballot can be filed with the Election Commission **90** days before an election. Click here [Request for Absentee Ballot](#) to print the request form, complete it, and then send it to your county election commission. The last day to file a request for an absentee ballot is **7** days before an election. The completed ballot must be received by U.S. Mail in the election commission by the time the polls close on Election Day to be counted.

**ELECTION DAY OR EARLY VOTING (STUDENT REGISTERED IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY)**

A student who is residing and is registered to vote inside Rutherford County may vote during the Early Voting period or on Election Day. If you wish to vote during the early voting period, please visit any one of our seven (7) early voting sites to cast your ballot. The early voting site located at the Rutherford County Election Commission office on the Public Square is open from 7am till 7pm Monday – Friday, and 8am till Noon on Saturday.

If you prefer to cast your vote on Election Day, please visit any of our twenty-eight (28) convenient vote centers to cast your vote. You can visit [www.ruco.vote](http://www.ruco.vote) to locate your nearest convenient vote center.

Students with questions about any election process should call the Rutherford County Election Commission at (615) 898-7743, or e-mail inquiries to [election@rutherfordcountyttn.gov](mailto:election@rutherfordcountyttn.gov).

The Rutherford County Election Commission is located at 1 South Public Square, Suite 103, Murfreesboro, TN. 37130. [Go Blue Raiders!](#)



**ATTENTION \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION**  
**Mail, fax or email completed request to your county election commission**

I formally "Request an Absentee Ballot" based upon the following information.

1) PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 2) PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

3) ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE \_\_\_\_\_

4) MAIL MY ABSENTEE BALLOT TO THIS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

5) SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_ 6) DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

7) I WISH TO VOTE IN THE: ☐ General Election ☐ Primary Election ( ☐ Republican ☐ Democratic) or ☐ Other

8) REASON FOR VOTING ABSENTEE (Check One)

☐ I am over 60 years of age.

☐ I will be outside of this county during all hours of early voting and Election Day.

☐ I am enrolled as a full-time student (or spouse of a student) at an institution inside Tennessee and outside the county where I am registered.

☐ I am a voter with a disability and my polling place is inaccessible.

☐ I reside in a licensed facility, outside the county, providing relatively permanent domiciliary care, i.e. Nursing Home.

☐ I am hospitalized, ill or physically disabled and because of such condition, I am unable to appear at my polling place for this election.

☐ I am a caretaker of a person who is hospitalized, ill or physically disabled.

☐ I am a candidate.

☐ I am on jury duty in a state or federal court.

☐ I am serving as an election official or a member or employee of the election commission on Election Day.

☐ I am observing a religious holiday that prevents me from voting early or on Election Day.

☐ I have a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) (or spouse or a person possessing a CDL or a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), will be out of county during early voting and Election Day, and have no specific out-of-county or out-of-state address to receive mail during this time. Enclosed is a copy of my CDL or my spouse's CDL or my TWIC card. The CDL# is \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I am a ☐ member of the military, spouse or dependent, ☐ an activated National Guard member on state orders, ☐ overseas citizen and otherwise qualified to vote in Tennessee (must include mailing address outside county even if ballot is emailed). Ballot to be sent: ☐ By Mail ☐ Email: email address \_\_\_\_\_

I swear or affirm, under the penalty of perjury, that all information on this form is true and correct and that I am eligible to vote in the election.

8) SIGNATURE OF VOTER \_\_\_\_\_

(Digital Signature Not Accepted)

If voter is unable to sign their name or make a mark, the person assisting and one witness must also sign their names and provide their addresses.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person assisting

Name and address of person witnessing



## STEP THREE



**Student would submit their Absentee Ballot Request form by U.S. Mail or e-mail to the proper County Election Commission in the county where they are registered starting **90** days before an Election, but **NO** later than **7** days before**

# IMPORTANT ABSENTEE VOTING DATES FOR TENNESSEE

## May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – County Primary Election

**First day to request an Absentee Ballot: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

**Last day to receive an Absentee Request: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 – State & Federal Primary County General Election

**First day to request an Absentee Ballot: May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Last day to receive an Absentee Request: July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – General Election

**First day to request an Absentee Ballot: August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Last day to receive an Absentee Request: October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**