

*Share the Knowledge,
Spread Democracy*

TIRRC's VOTING GUIDE



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Why Should I Vote?

- Throughout the past year, the immigrant and refugee community has faced many unique challenges, and many more are to come.
- We can definitely expect to face a bill similar to the Arizona legislation (SB 1070) here at the state level.
- We must be engaged in this year's elections in order to to defeat these attacks on our communities.
- Lets show politicians that the immigrant vote can decide this year's election.
- Decisions are being made, with or without us. By voting we can affect those decisions and create better outcomes.
- When you vote, you make important decisions for the country, the state of Tennessee and your local area.



*Let's promote voter registration, and hit the polls on Election Day!
Together we can defeat any anti-immigrant bill, build a stronger immigrant
and refugee voice, bring about positive policy change and have a more inclu-
sive state for all Tennesseans.*

Only you have the power to make a difference!

*We can no longer remain silent as our community continues to be marginal-
ized. Through our vote we can bring about the change we desire.*

The stakes... are too high for government

to be a spectator sport.

Barbara Jordan

Can I vote?

Now that you are aware of the many individual, statewide, and national benefits of voting, you may be wondering if you are eligible to vote. You must register within your state of residency in order to vote. So, let's review the registration requirements. Please check yes or no to the following questions:

- Are you a citizen of the United States?
Yes No
- Are you 18 years or older before the election date?
Yes No
- Are you a resident of Tennessee?
Yes No.
- If you are a convicted felons please visit www.aclu-tn.org/votingrights.html for more info on how to get your rights restored.

**Note--- If you are in the military and abroad, or living in a foreign country, you still must register in your state of permanent residency.*

If you have answered YES to all questions, congratulations, you can vote!

If you have answered NO to any of these questions, it is still important that you review the guide. Therefore, when you reach the age of 18, or become a U.S. citizen, you will be ready to make your voice heard or you can share this information with others!

Great! I am eligible to vote! Now, what do I have to do?

As previously mentioned, registration is required to vote. So, here is the basic info on how to register and vote. You only need to register once. This registration will be good for any upcoming state or federal election .

You must register at least 30 days before the Election Day.


Last day to Register to Vote.	October 4, 2010.
First Day for Early Voting in Person.	October 13, 2010.
Last Day for Early Voting in Person	October 28, 2010.
Election Day (State and Federal General Elections)	November 2, 2010.

Please note that the deadline to register to vote in the November 2010 elections is October 4, 2010!

How and Where To Register To Vote

If you are within the 30 day time frame for the next elections, this is great news! You may be eligible to exercise your right to vote! Here is some information on **how and where to register to vote**.

- **First Step:** Find a Registration Form.
 - Where can I get it? You can find them in many places. For instance, we have some at the TIRRC office to share with you! Other places where you can find them include your local election commission, post office, public library, or Department of Safety, to name a few.

Mail-In Application For Voter Registration 

You can use this form to:
 register to vote in Tennessee, or to
 let us know that your name or address has changed.
 To register to vote:
 you must be a U.S. citizen, AND
 you must be a resident of Tennessee, AND
 you must be at least 18 years old on or before the next election, AND
 you must not have been convicted of a felony, or if you have, your full rights of citizenship must have been restored (or you must have received a pardon).
 Anyone who registers by mail, must vote in person the first time he or she votes after registering.

E3368314
 Are you interested in working on Election Day?
 Yes
 No

MAIL OR HAND DELIVER THIS FORM TO YOUR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION.

Instructions / Checklist:
 Please PRINT with a blue or black INK pen (not felt tip).
 Provide the information in items 1-8 below, read the VOTER DECLARATION, and sign by the "X".
 An application for voter registration must be postmarked or hand delivered to the proper county election commission office at least 30 days before an election.
 Voter registration records are public records, open to inspection by any citizen of Tennessee.

YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD.

If you are qualified and the information on your form is complete, we will send your name to the county's voter rolls. We will then mail you a voter card. This card will tell you where to vote.
 For more information, call your county election commission.

88-5010 REV 11/01		FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION USE ONLY			
1 CHECK ONE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW REGISTRATION		Reg #		ES Code	
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE		Dist		Precinct	
<input type="checkbox"/> NAME CHANGE		Ward			
2 LAST NAME: Doe		MIDDLE INITIAL: John		RACE (OPTIONAL): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> W	
3 ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (DO NOT Omit A P.O. BOX): 700 2nd Av. S.		CITY: Nashville		COUNTY: Davidson	
4 ADDRESS WHERE YOU GET YOUR MAIL (IF DIFFERENT FROM #3): P.O. Box 1250		CITY: Nashville		COUNTY: Davidson	
5 DATE OF BIRTH: 10-19-63		PLACE OF BIRTH: TN		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (if any): 6 123-45-6789	
6 NAME AND ADDRESS ON LAST VOTER REGISTRATION:		APR # B-1		DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: 761-862-8800	
NAME: _____		ADDRESS: _____		STATE: _____ ZIP: _____	
CITY: _____		COUNTY: _____		STATE: _____ ZIP: _____	
VOTER DECLARATION By completing the questions below and signing my name (I am swearing or affirming) that the information I have provided is true, subject to the WARNING, as stated.		WARNING: Giving false information to register to vote or attempting to register when not qualified is a felony punishable by not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years imprisonment or a fine of \$3,000 or both.			
1. I am a U.S. citizen.		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Signature of Person Assisting: _____	
2. I am a resident of the State of Tennessee.		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Date: 6/25/2008	
3. I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Signature of Person Assisting: _____	
4. I have been convicted of a felony.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Date: _____	

Note: Registration is required if: You change your name (except marital status), your right to vote is restored pursuant to T.C.A 2-2-139, or if you have moved from another county or state

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- **Second Step:** Complete the registration form and mail it, or hand it to your local County Election Commission office!
 - If you are registering to vote for the first time, you must present an acceptable form of identification, such as: TN drivers license, student I.D, or military I.D.
 - Mail applications: Make sure you mail your application to your local county election commission office. Be aware that if you mail your form, you must vote in person, if this happens to be your first time voting.
 - Register in person: You can register in person at the same location in which you obtained your application.

To find the location of your local county election office, please visit:
http://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php

If you have any questions when filling out the application, or need translation assistance, please contact TIRRC. We will be glad to assist you throughout this process!

Please do not be discouraged from registering to vote if you do not submit your application within the 30 days time frame. You will still be able to vote in future elections. So, complete the voter registration form in preparation for upcoming elections!

Note:

Mail applications needs to be postmarked, and has to be delivered to the election commission within the 30 day time frame. If you have registered by mail, you should vote in person. Voting by mail will not be allowed for first time voters who did not register in person.

*Democracy's ceremonial, its feast,
its great function, is the election.
H.G. Wells*

I am registered to vote now! What should I do next before Election Day?

Once you have been approved by the Election Commission, you will receive your voter registration card in the mail. Usually, it takes up to a couple of weeks to receive your voter registration card.

Please review this sample voter identification card so you become more familiar with it.

Place where you will go vote, "Poll Location".

Voting Districts

DAVIDSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
602 S.W. 4th St., First Floor
Nashville, TN 37210
Voter Registration Director (615) 862-8800
Administration/Early Voting Director (615) 862-8810
TTY: 1-800-848-0291 or Relay 711 &
website: www.cashella.gov/elections

Date of Birth 9-9-1965
Election Day Polling Location
Starwood Amphitheater
1234 Murfreesboro PK

Council District 01 Precinct District 02 School District 4 State House 60 State Senate 21 U.S. Congress 7

Date Registered 9-3-1984 Registration Type A

If you need special accommodations, contact the ADA Coordinator at (615) 862-8800 (voice) or (TTY) 1-800-848-0291 or Relay 711

John O. Public
1234 Murfreesboro PK
Nashville, TN 37000

The above is entitled to vote as and after the issuance of this card provided the registration has not been voided.

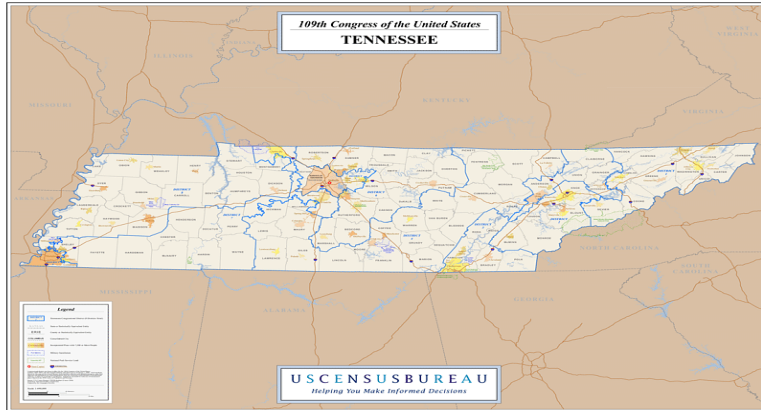
Ray Barrett
ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTIONS

VOTER'S SIGNATURE

Which is my District?

To vote, you will need to determine what district you are in. If you know your district, you will know the candidates that you can vote for, as well as their respective positions on issues and current legislation.

Your voter identification card has a list of numbers on the front. These numbers are your district numbers. For example on the sample voter identification shown, the State House district is 60, the State Senate district is 21 and the U.S. Congress district is 7.



Who Are My Candidates?

Now that you know your voting district, you should figure out which candidates within the district need your vote. To find out more about this, please visit the list of official candidates for the 2010 elections from Tennessee Department of State (<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/qualify/index.htm>); contact your county election commission, public library, or your local League of Women Voters (www.LWV-TN.org).

How Can I Find More Information on Candidates?

Now that you know your choices, you should exercise your right to vote wisely. To help you determine the best candidate for you, ask yourself the following questions: Who shares your ideas and values? Who represents your beliefs? Who will fight for issues important to you? Who has the most experience? The best method through which you can get to know your candidates is through media, public forums or debates. So, keep track of them and listen to their ideas and make sure how each candidate stands on issues important to you! You can also visit the candidates' web pages or call their office for more information about them.

Where will I go vote? (Poll Location)

A poll location is the place where you go to vote. Volunteers or poll workers will be present at poll locations to assist you through your voting process. If you are voting on election day (Nov 2) you can only go vote at the address or poll location found on your voter card. If you are an early voter (voting between Oct 13-Oct 28) you can vote on any poll location from your county.

For more information on poll location addresses please visit <http://findwhereivote.nashville.gov/>

Mark Your Calendar!

Remember, Election Day is
November 2, 2010!

NOVEMBER 2010						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Democracy is measured
not by its leaders doing extraordinary things,
but by its citizens doing things extraordinarily well.

John Gardner

Absentee Voting

There are two categories for absentee voting:

1. **Early voting.**

- Early voting means that you can go vote in person earlier than on Election Day (Nov 2).
- Early voting dates happen between 20 days and 5 days before the elections, that is October 13– until October 28.
- The only requirement is to be a registered voter.
- **We encourage you to vote early!** Here are some reasons why to do it:
 - You don't have to stand in long lines on Election Day, it is faster and easier!
 - You can go vote at any location within your county that is convenient for you.
 - You can go vote with family and friends at the same poll location.
 - If you have any problem when trying to vote, this gives you plenty of time to solve it before Election Day is over and have your vote counted.*

2. **By mail.** This applies to those who will be outside the county or state of registration*, seniors, disabled individuals, active members of the military who are out of state or country, overseas citizens, and others. If you need to vote by mail, here are the requirements you need to fulfill to do so:

- Request an absentee-ballot from your local county election commission office either by mail, fax or email. Make sure you request this within the time frame established, between day 90 and 7 days before the Election Day.
- You need to create a document with the following info:
 - Your name, address and social security number.
 - The election in which you wish to participate.
 - Reason why you are requesting these documents by mail.
 - If you will be outside the country, provide them an address to mail the ballot.
 - Your signature.

If it is your first time voting, you can vote by mail as long as you register to vote in person, or if you are a permanent absentee voter.



- (1): If you have any problem when voting at the polls please call our hotline at (615) 414-1030.
- (2): For more information about the categories for mail voting please visit: <http://state.tn.us/sos/election/bymail.htm#1>

What should I do for Election Day (or on early voting days)?

- If you chose to do early voting remember you can go vote at any poll location from your county of residence.
- If you are voting on Election Day you must vote at the poll location found on your Voter Identification Card.
- Don't forget to bring a copy of your voter registration card. Additionally, we recommend bringing a government issued photo identification card as well.
- Once you arrive at the poll location a volunteer, poll worker or Assistant Registrar will verify your identity, check you on the voters list and lead you to a voting machine.
- Voting will take place on a Machine.
 - A voting machine is a computer where you will vote on an electronic ballot. The ballot will have all the candidates you can vote for.
 - Voting on a machine is just the same and as easy as voting on a paper ballot.
 - Your vote will be mechanically counted.
 - Don't be afraid. The machine will be set up for you and someone will help you through the process and make sure that you completed all the steps!



For on how to use a voting machine please visit: http://www.tennessee.gov/sos/election/voting_systems/index.htm

Still Have Questions or Comments on How to Vote?

Contact TIRRC!

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Right's Coalition (TIRRC) is a statewide, immigrant and refugee-led collaboration whose mission is to empower immigrants and refugees throughout Tennessee to develop a unified voice, defend their rights, and create an atmosphere in which they are recognized as positive contributors to the state. Evidently, one of the best ways to do so is by voting!

The ballot is stronger than the bullet.
Abraham Lincoln

We will be glad to help you with any question regarding the voting process, registration, important dates, or any other questions. However, as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization we do not endorse, support, oppose nor will make any recommendations about any candidate.

If you have any comments and questions, or need help to register to vote, please contact Remziya Suleyman at 615.833.0384 ext 105 or at remziya@tnimmigrant.org.



Contact Your Local County Election Commission.

Davidson County

Phone: 615.862.8800

Email: ray.barrett@nashville.gov

Web Site: nashville.gov/vote

Knox County

Phone: 865.215.2480

Email: election.central@knoxcounty.org

Web Site: knoxvotes.org

Rutherford County

Phone: 615.898.7743

EmailWeb Site: www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/election/

: election@rutherfordcounty.org

Shelby County

Phone: 901.545.2600

Web Site: www.Shelbyvote.com

Email: voteinfo@shelbycountyttn.gov

Williamson County

Phone: 615.790.5711

Email: annb@williamson-tn.org

Web Site: www.williamsoncounty-tn.gov/index.asp?nid=40

For more information of other County Election Commissions,
please visit:

[http://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php?
County=All](http://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php?County=All)



Life After Voting

Voting is only one of the many ways to participate in your community, make a difference, and exercise your democratic rights. You can also make your voice heard and get involved with your government by:

- *Contacting your public officials about any issue that might be of concern to you or your community;*

To contact your public officials, you can do so by email, letter, fax, phone, or you can make an appointment to meet in person. Remember, you must always be friendly, respectful, and patient when talking to any of your public officials, even if you don't agree with them on an issue.

- *Join an advocacy group such as TIRRC;*
An advocacy group is a group or organization that works together to promote a cause such as immigrant and refugee rights for example. If you want to be involved with TIRRC's advocacy work, take part and be informed about issues relevant to the immigrant community, please join our mailing list by visiting: <http://www.tnimmigrant.org/subscribe/>
- *Take part in campaigns, rallies and demonstrations.*
- *Attend TIRRC's New American Day on the Hill.*

Every spring TIRRC's New American Day on the Hills takes place. Don't miss out on this incredible event! On this Annual Advocacy Day you will have the opportunity to meet with your state senators and representatives, and let them know how you feel about issues affecting the lives of Tennessee's immigrant and refugee communities.



Other Useful Tools:

- Tennessee Department of State, Information for Elections:
<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/>
- *Polling Place Locator and Address Lookup:*
<http://findwhereivote.nashville.gov/>
- More info on how to register:
<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/registration.htm> or
http://www.nashville.gov/vote/voter_reg.asp
- *Change of Address*
http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/address_changes.htm.
- Davidson County Form for Change in Address:
[http://www.nashville.gov/vote/docs/
address_change_new_procedure_fax.pdf](http://www.nashville.gov/vote/docs/address_change_new_procedure_fax.pdf)
- Guidelines to determine if you are a resident:
http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/address_changes.htm
- Voter Registration Information Lookup:
<http://tnmap.state.tn.us/voterlookup/>
- *Calendar for Metro Elections:*
[http://www.nashville.gov/vote/docs/main/
Election Commission Calendar.pdf](http://www.nashville.gov/vote/docs/main/Election_Commission_Calendar.pdf)
- Official List of 2010 Candidates:
<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/qualify/index.htm>
- To find your County Election Commission offices:
http://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php?County=All
- Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.nashville.gov/vote/faq.asp>
- More questions in Nashville Email : vote.questions@nashville.gov
- *ACLU of Tennessee (Voting Rights):*
<http://www.aclu-tn.org/votingrights.htm>



**Tennessee Immigrant and
Refugee Rights Coalition**

**446 Metroplex Dr.
Building A, Suite 224
Nashville TN. 37211**

TIRRC's Voter Hotline: (615) 414-1030