

CANDIDATES' 2026 GUIDE TO ELECTIONS

GIBSON COUNTY
TENNESSEE

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A candidate's guide to **Gibson County Elections**

This guide will provide basic information about:

Getting on the ballot

Nominating Petitions

Disclaimer Law

Appointment of Political Treasurer

Campaign Financial Disclosure reporting

Information and resources in the Election Commission

Disclaimer Law

Poll Watchers

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Early Voting Period and Election Schedule

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Voter registration assistance

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Other election questions

Nominating petitions: (original only – no photocopies)

OBTAINING A VALID PETITION

- Petitions are not issued more than sixty (60) days before the qualifying deadline.
- Petitions must be signed and dated by the issuer on each page.
- An individual may pick up a petition on a candidate's behalf. An individual may return the petition for the candidate. However, only the candidate may complete the candidate's section and the candidate's signature.
- Titles (Example: Mr., Mrs., Dr., Esq.) may not be printed on the petition.
- Photocopied petition pages may not be used to obtain signatures. Additional pages must be issued by the county office or the state coordinator and must bear the signature of the candidate and the date.
- If a candidate loses the original petition, the candidate must start the process over and obtain another original petition from the county election office.
- Petitions that are altered or photocopied will not be accepted.

CIRCULATING A PETITION

- A candidate's qualifying petition is required to have twenty-five **(25)** nominating signatures (a candidate's signature does not count). These signatures must be people who are eligible to vote for the candidate. It is recommended that the candidate obtain at least fifty **(40)** signatures due to the fact that some people may not be registered voters, may have become ineligible to vote, or have not changed their address with the Election Office.
- Voters signing the petition should sign their name as it is listed on their voter registration record. (Example: If their name is listed as Eula Mae Doe on their voter registration record, they shouldn't sign it Bessie Doe or Mrs. Joe Doe, even though that may be what they are called.)
- Voters should list their correct residential address including the city. Post Office Box numbers will not be accepted as a residential address.

FILING PETITIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A postmark does not satisfy the filing deadline. For this reason, the election commission recommends that the candidate or their staff hand deliver the petition in person. The election office staff will provide a date stamped copy of the filed petition for the candidate's record. Any petition filed after the **Noon deadline** will prevent the candidate's name from being placed on the ballot.
- All candidates are encouraged to return their nominating petition before the last day of the qualifying period to avoid missing the **Noon deadline**. Nominating petitions will be checked in the order in which they are returned without exception.
- All nominating petitions that are issued and filed are public record and open to public inspection.

PETITION STATUS AND QUALIFICATION PROCESS

- The members of the Gibson County Election Commission have the legal responsibility to place only the names of candidates on the ballot who have met all the necessary qualifications. A nominating petition is part of the process along with residency, felony inquiries, and qualification checks.
- Candidates for Sheriff must file affidavits with the state agencies no later than **fourteen (14) days before the qualifying deadline**.
- Candidates for School Board and Constable are required to file proof of high school graduation or proof of GED before the qualifying deadline. Individuals holding the office of Constable on or before June 30, 2011 and those reelected after July 1, 2011 without an interruption of service in the office shall only file a Constable Affidavit.

CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE AND FEDERAL OFFICES

- Candidates for statewide offices and federal offices must file their original nomination petition with the State Election Commission by the qualifying deadline. These offices include: Governor, United States Senate, and United States House of Representatives.
- Candidates for the above offices must also file a certified copy of the nominating petition with the coordinator of elections and with the chair of the party's state executive committee by the noon qualifying deadline.
- Candidates for the above offices cannot file their nominating petitions at the county election office. Candidates cannot qualify to seek public office if the petitions are filed incorrectly.

CANDIDATES NOT SEEKING STATEWIDE OR FEDERAL OFFICES

- All other candidates file their original nominating petition with the county election office in which the candidate is a resident by the qualifying deadline.
- A certified duplicate of the petition issued by the election commission must be filed with the county election offices in all counties, wholly or partially, within the area served by the office sought by the Noon qualifying deadline.
 - *These offices include: 24th District State Senate (Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Obion and Weakley Counties), 79th District House of Representatives (Gibson, Carroll, and Henderson Counties), 82nd District House of Representatives (Gibson, Crockett, Lauderdale, and Obion Counties), 24th District Republican and Democratic Party Executive Committeeman and Committeewoman (Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Obion and Weakley Counties).*

WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

- Individuals who wish to withdraw their nominating petition must do so no later than seven (7) days after the qualifying deadline at Noon. A written request over the candidate's original signature must be filed by the Noon withdrawal deadline with the local County Election Commission. A fax will not be accepted. An e-mail will not be accepted. A phone call will not be accepted.

- Candidates who are required to file certified duplicate copies of a petition in more than one county must file a withdrawal letter in all counties prior to the Noon withdrawal deadline in order to properly withdraw as a candidate. Failure to file a withdrawal statement with any county election commission will result in the candidate's name being placed on the ballot in all counties.

IMPORTANT

YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO TURN YOUR COMPLETED PETITION INTO THE ELECTION OFFICE AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE NOON QUALIFYING DEADLINE IN THE EVENT THAT AN ERROR OR DEFICIENCY NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED OR ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES NEED TO BE OBTAINED.

THE NOON QUALIFYING DEADLINE IS STRICTLY ENFORCED!

Challenges:

Your right to appear on the ballot may be challenged if your petition(s) fail to meet these standards. Entire petitions can be challenged if they are in improper form or fail to provide all necessary information. Individual signatures also can be excluded if they do not match the voter registration signature or if the voter in question is not eligible to vote in your district. If a combination of improper petitions and excluded signatures leaves you with less than the required number of valid signatures, your name may not be placed on the ballot.

Candidates can be excluded for other reasons. For instance, candidates must hold the proper credentials for the office they are seeking. As an example, if you seek an office for which you must be a licensed attorney-at-law, you must hold a current license. If you seek an office on the school board you must have the proper educational background. You should consider seeking legal advice to ensure you have met all requirements for the office you seek. You may also acquire this information from the Gibson County Election Commission or the Law Director of the appropriate jurisdiction.

Appointment of Political Treasurer:

Prior to receiving or spending any monies you must file with the Gibson County Election Commission an appointment of Political Treasurer form. This form is available in the office of the Gibson County Election Commission. You may be required to file with the Registry of Election Finance in Nashville. The Election Commission staff will advise you.

Campaign Financial Disclosure Reporting

The requirements of the Financial Disclosure reporting laws reflect the belief that voters have the right to know who is making contributions to candidates.

Our discussion of financial disclosure reporting is not intended to cover all the details you will need to know. We want to introduce to you the idea of disclosure requirements, explain some important concepts and send you to the right source for information. You should consider requesting a copy of "Campaign Financial Disclosure Guidelines" from the Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite #104, Nashville, TN 37243.

The Gibson County Election Commission or the Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance will mail you all the necessary forms for filing your financial responsibility disclosure before any filing deadline. You may, however, pick up these forms at any time in the office of the Election Commission or the Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance.

Financial disclosure filings are kept in the office of the Gibson County Election Commission or in the office of the Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance in Nashville and are available for public review. Frequently, candidates, community organizations and the media research candidates through these reports.

All records used by a candidate to prepare a Campaign Financial Disclosure statement must be retained for at least one (1) year after the date of the election to which the records refer.

The Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance and each county Election Commission will maintain all reports filed with their respective offices for five (5) years.

Campaign Contributions limits acts of 1995
(Public Chapter 531)

Who does the law affect?

All candidates for state and local elected offices.

Per election, the following dollar (\$) limitations are placed on campaign contributions made by individuals and PACS (multi-candidate political campaign committees):

<u>Office Sought</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>PAC</u>	Total contributions from PACS (excludes) Political Party PACS
Statewide (Governor)	\$5,300	\$15,400	50% of total PAC contributions
State Senate	\$1,900	\$30,800	\$307,00
State Rep	\$1,900	\$15,400	\$153,500
Other State and all local elected offices	\$1,900	\$10,100	\$153,500

Political party PACS include those committees controlled by a political party on the national, state or local level and caucuses of a political party established by members of either house of the General Assembly.

What is included in the \$ limitations?

Campaign contributions made by cash or written instrument (such as a check) or in-kind contributions would be subject to the limitations of the law.

An individual who endorses or guarantees a candidate's campaign loan shall be considered to have made a contribution to the candidate's campaign in the amount of the endorsement or guaranty.

What is not included in the \$ limitations?

The limitations do not apply to the retention or transfer of funds by a candidate to his/her own campaign from surplus funds from another campaign of the candidate. (A candidate shall not transfer funds from a local campaign account to a legislative or gubernatorial campaign account).

A loan obtained by a candidate from a financial institution would not be subject to the limitations if it meets the following criteria:

- a) Is made in the ordinary course of business;
- b) Is made on a basis reasonably designed to assure repayment, evidenced by a written instrument and subject to a payment due date or amortization schedule; and
- c) Bears the unusual and customary interest rate of the lending institution.

What can a candidate do if he/she receives in excess of the \$ limitation?

A campaign contribution made or accepted in excess of the limitations of this law is not a violation if a candidate returns or refunds the monies to the person or PAC making the contributions within sixty (60) days of the candidate's receipt of the contribution.

What restrictions are placed on campaign fundraising under this law?

From the first day of Annual Legislative Session through either May 15 or the last day of annual session, whichever is earlier, a member or candidate for member of the general assembly may not have a fundraiser or solicit or accept campaign contributions for the candidate's benefit or for the benefit of another legislative candidate, gubernatorial candidate, a political party caucus PAC or any member of a political party legislative caucus PAC.

From the first day of annual legislative session through either May 15 or the last day of session, whichever is earlier, in even numbered years or June 1 in odd numbered years, a political party PAC is prohibited from conducting a fundraiser, soliciting or accepting campaign contributions for the benefit of a legislative candidate, gubernatorial candidate, a caucus or any other caucus member.

A lobbyist, employer of a lobbyist or a PAC controlled by a lobbyist is prohibited from making a campaign contribution to a gubernatorial or legislative candidate during legislative session.

What are some other highlights of this law?

During the 10 days period prior to any election date, a PAC is prohibited from making a campaign contribution to a candidate for state or local office, unless the committee is a political party PAC.

Candidates and PACS will be required to provide the dates of receipts of campaign contributions and expenditures from campaign funds.

Campaign contributions made to candidates by affiliated PACS shall be considered made by a single PAC. (Affiliated PACS are essentially those that are established, financed, maintained or controlled by a single corporation, union or other organization or by a person or group of persons).

All campaign contributions directed through an intermediary person or organization to a candidate shall be treated as a contribution from the person supplying the funds.

A campaign contribution made to any political campaign committee authorized by a candidate to accept contributions on the candidate's behalf is to be treated as a contribution to the candidate.

A candidate's surplus campaign funds from a campaign for a local public office cannot be transferred to the candidate's campaign account or any other person's account for election to the General Assembly or for Governor.

Independent candidates for state or local public office who are running in a general election must also now file pre-primary and post-primary campaign disclosure reports, where appropriate.

What are the penalties for violating the Law?

A campaign contribution made or accepted in violation of this new law can subject a person or committee to a maximum civil penalty of the greater of \$10,000 or 15% of the amount of all contributions made or accepted in excess of the limitations established by this law.

Where to file financial disclosures and statements of interest:

Office candidate is seeking	Financial Disclosure	Statement of Interest
Governor	Bureau (Registry)	Bureau (Ethics)
Delegate to Tennessee Constitutional Convention	Bureau (Registry)	Bureau (Ethics)
State Senator	Bureau (Registry)	Bureau (Ethics)
State Representative	Bureau (Registry)	Bureau (Ethics)
Member, Exec. Committee of Political Party	Local County Election Commission in each county where candidate is on the ballot	Bureau (Ethics)
District Attorney General	Bureau (Registry)	Bureau (Ethics)
District Public Defender	Bureau (Registry)	Bureau (Ethics)
Supreme Court Justice, Judge of Court of Appeals, Judge of Court of Criminal Appeals, Chancellors, Circuit Court Judges, Criminal Court Judges and Probate Court Judges	Bureau (Registry)	Bureau (Ethics)
General Sessions Judges and Juvenile Court Judges	Local County Election Commission in each county where candidate is on the ballot	Bureau (Ethics)
All other Candidates for Elected Public Office (Includes City & County)	Local Election Commission	Bureau (Ethics)

Please remember if a candidate is seeking an office for which service is part-time, compensation is less than \$1,000.00 a month, and the candidate does not spend more than \$1,000.00 to get elected to office, the candidate does not have to file campaign financial disclosure statements unless the office sought is a Chief Administrative office. However, the candidate must file a Statement of Interest.

Information and Resources of the Gibson County Election Commission

Maps:

Maps showing wards and precincts for council and commission, senatorial, representative and school districts may be acquired from the Gibson County Election Commission Office, One Court Square Suite 101, Trenton, TN 38382. If you are unsure which ward(s) or precinct(s) are in your district, the Election Commission will provide you with a list.

Voter Lists, Labels, USB drives:

A candidate may purchase voter information from the Election Commission office to be used for political purposes only. A request in writing must be made to the Gibson County Election Commission and a fee is assessed. Request forms are available in the election office. USB drives cost \$42.50. Cash and checks are accepted. Checks are made payable to **Gibson County Trustee**. The Gibson County Election Commission has five (5) business days to process the request once received.

Election Results:

Results from past elections are available in the office of the Gibson County Election Commission, on our website, www.gibsonelections.com, and from the office of the State Coordinator or Election. (See address on last page).

T. C. A. § 2-19-120 - Commonly Referred to as the “Disclaimer Law”

I. Highlights of the Disclaimer Law

A. To whom does it apply? Candidates

1. Definition of Candidate – T. C. A. § 2-10-102(3) provides that "Candidate" means an individual who has made a formal announcement of candidacy or who is qualified under the law of this state to seek nomination for election or elections to public office, or has received contributions or made expenditures except for incidental expenditures to determine if one shall be a candidate, or has given consent for a campaign committee to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about the individual's nomination for election or election to state public office.

B. When does the statute apply? Whenever any person:

1. Makes an expenditure to finance a communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, or
2. Solicits any contribution, through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, poster, yard sign, direct mailing or any other form of general public political advertising.
3. Exceptions: The requirements of this section do not apply to bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens, novelties, and similar small items upon which the disclaimer cannot be conveniently printed.

C. What is the penalty for its violation? Class C misdemeanor

D. Who enforces the statute? The District Attorney General

II. Actual Text of the Statute

(a) Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing a communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, as defined by § 2-10-102, or that solicits any contribution, through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, poster, yard sign, direct mailing or any other form of general public political advertising, a disclaimer meeting the requirements of subdivision (a)(1), (2), (3) or (4) shall appear and be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner to give the reader, observer or listener adequate notice of the identity of persons who paid for and, where required, who authorized the communication. Such person is not required to place the disclaimer on the front face or page of any such material, as

long as a disclaimer appears within the communication, except on communications, such as billboards, that contain only a front face.

(1) Such communication, including any solicitation, if paid for and authorized by a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, or its agent shall clearly state that the communication has been paid for by the authorized political committee, in addition to the identity of the person who is the head of such committee, or the identity of the treasurer of such committee.

(2) Such communication, including any solicitation, if authorized by a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate or an agent thereof, but paid for by any other person, shall clearly state that the communication is paid for by such other person and is authorized by such candidate, authorized committee or agent.

(3) Such communication, including any solicitation, if made on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate, but paid for by any other person and not authorized by a candidate, authorized committee of a candidate or its agent, shall clearly state that the communication has been paid for by such person and is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

(4) (A) For solicitations directed to the general public on behalf of a political committee which is not an authorized committee of a candidate, such solicitation shall clearly state the full name of the person who paid for the communication.

(B) For purposes of this section, whenever a separate segregated fund solicits contributions to the fund from those persons it may solicit, such communication shall not be considered a form of general public advertising. Such advertisements shall also include the name of the printer of such advertisement, and the identity of the person who paid for the advertisement.

(b) (1) [Deleted by 2004 amendment.]

(2) [Deleted by 2004 amendment.]

(3) The requirements of this section do not apply to bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens, novelties, and similar small items upon which the disclaimer cannot be conveniently printed.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

T.C.A. § 2-7-104
POLL WATCHERS

I. WHO MAY APPOINT POLL WATCHERS?

- A. Each political party.
- B. Each candidate in a general or primary election.
- C. Any citizen's organization interested in a question on the ballot.
- D. Any citizen's organization interested in preserving the purity of elections and in guarding against abuse of the election franchise.

II. HOW MANY POLL WATCHERS MAY BE APPOINTED?

- A. Political parties may appoint two (2).
- B. Each candidate may appoint one (1) or more (although multiple poll watchers may be appointed, only one (1) or more (although multiple poll watchers may be appointed, only one (1) of the poll watchers may be in a polling place at any given time.)
- C. Each citizen's organization may appoint two (2).

III. HOW DO POLL WATCHERS GET APPOINTED?

- A. Appointments must be submitted to the county election commission, and
- B. Appointments must be written and signed by the person or organization authorized to make the appointment
- C. Appointments may designate the same person to serve in more than one polling location.

IV. TO WHAT LOCATIONS MAY POLL WATCHERS BE APPOINTED?

- A. Early Voting
 - 1. County election commission office
 - 2. Satellite locations
 - 3. Nursing homes
 - 4. Penal institutions
- B. Election Day
 - 1. Polling site
 - 2. Absentee Counting Board

V. WHEN MUST APPOINTMENTS BE MADE?

- A. Early Voting
 - 1. No later than 12:00 noon two (2) business days before the first day of early voting; or
 - 2. No later than 12:00 noon two (2) business days before the poll watcher will be present at the early voting site.
- B. Election Day
 - 1. Appointments must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon two (2) business days before the election.

VI. WHO MAY NOT BE APPOINTED AS A POLL WATCHER?

- A. Anyone who will be or who is a candidate for an office on the ballot.
- B. County election commission members.
- C. Anyone under the age of 17.

VII. WHAT DO POLL WATCHERS DO UPON ARRIVING AT THE POLLS?

- A. Upon arrival at the polling place, a watcher shall display his appointment to the Officer of Elections.
- B. The poll watcher shall sign the register of poll watchers.
- C. The poll watcher shall wear a badge displaying their "name" and the words "POLL WATCHER." The County Election Commission will provide the badges for candidates or campaign committees to use so the precinct officials know they have been duly appointed.

VIII. WHAT MAY POLL WATCHERS DO?

- A. Watch and inspect performance in and around polling place.
- B. Speak to the judges and the officer of elections.
- C. Through judges, challenge voters.
- D. During preparation and certification, inspect the poll list.
- E. Inspect the ballots while being called and counted.
- F. During preparation and certification, inspect the tally sheets.
- G. Present a protest of any aspect of the conduct of the election to the officer of elections, county election commission or inspector.

IX. WHAT MAY POLL WATCHERS NOT DO?

- A. Interfere with any voter in preparing or casting voter's ballot.
- B. Prevent election official from performing his or her duties.
- C. Inspect signature lists during the election hours.
- D. Observe the giving of assistance to a voter.
- E. Wear campaign material of any kind during the performance of his or her duties.
- F. Exit the room of the counting board after the actual counting of ballots begins.
- G. Possess electronic devices when they are observing the duties of the absentee counting board.
- H. Speak to the voters. This includes greeting the voter or standing in the doorway where the voter enters.

X. MAY POLL WATCHERS ENGAGE IN CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES?

- A. In the polling place – NO
- B. Outside the 100' boundary
 - 1. Yes, they may engage in campaign activity outside of the campaign free zone.
 - 2. However, once the poll watcher resumes their duties as a poll watcher, they must cease the campaign activity.

Campaign Activity at the Polling Place

(T.C.A. § 2-7-111)

1. WHERE DOES THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE END?

- A. Generally - 100' from the entrances of the building in which the election is being held
- B. At the end of public property and at the beginning of private property over which the county election commission has no control

2. HOW MUST THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE BE DESIGNATED?

- A. Signs marking the boundary line must be placed at the end of the required distance from the entrance of the building

3. WHAT ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED IN THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE?

- A. No campaign posters, signs or other campaign materials may be displayed
- B. No person may distribute campaign materials, or solicit votes for or against any person or political party or position on a question
- C. No person may solicit or collect for any cause
 - 1. Except - Shelby County
 - 2. Except - Normal activities that may occur at such polling place such as a church, school, grocery, etc.

4. WHAT ACTIVITY IS PERMITTED IN THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE?

- A. An individual voter may bring a sample ballot or other campaign literature inside the boundary as long as the voter does not display the campaign literature to other voters.
- B. If the parking place of the polling place lies within the boundary, then a vehicle having campaign literature displayed on it may be parked within the boundary, only for as long as necessary for the occupant of the vehicle to vote. This does not include vans that transport multiple persons.

5. WHAT ACTIVITY IS PERMITTED OUTSIDE OF THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE?

- A. Campaign workers may distribute campaign literature and other materials and may speak to voters regarding the candidates and issues.
- B. Candidate may be present and/or have signs in the area.
- C. Persons may solicit and collect for any legal cause.

6. HOW DOES THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE APPLY TO COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICES LOCATED IN COURTHOUSES DURING EARLY VOTING?

- A. Outside of the courthouse
 - 1. Signs marking the boundary line must be placed
- B. Inside the courthouse
 - 1. Incumbent candidates may not linger around the county election commission office any longer than necessary to vote
 - 2. Incumbent candidates may not be allowed to talk in the courthouse or in the campaign free zone to individuals who have come to vote
 - 3. Campaign literature must be removed

7. WHO ENFORCES THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE?

- A. Officer of elections at each polling location
- B. County election commission

8. WHEN A VIOLATION OCCURS, TO WHAT EXTENT MAY THE COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION GO TO ENFORCE THE CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE?

- A. Contact the police
- B. If deemed necessary, forward information to the district attorney for violation of *T.C.A. § 2-19-119*

9. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE PROPERTY OWNER DOES NOT WANT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY ON ANY PART OF THE PROPERTY USED FOR THE POLLING PLACE?

- A. The owner must be notified that the county election commission cannot prohibit campaign activity that occurs outside of the campaign free zone.
- B. If the owner refuses to allow campaign activity beyond the campaign free zone, the county election commission should relocate the polling place.

Early Voting Period:

A voter who desires to vote early shall go to the County Election Commission office or any other location designated by the County Election Commission.

- County Primary (May 5, 2026 election day)
April 15-30, 2026
- County General, State and Federal Primary (August 6, 2026 election day)
July 17- August 1, 2026
- State and Federal General (November 3, 2026 election day)
October 14-29, 2026

Absentee Voting Period:

Voters who will meet the following qualifications may vote absentee by mail.

- 1) Persons over 60 years of age
- 2) Outside of the county during all hours of early voting and Election Day (must include mailing address outside county to mail absentee ballot)
- 3) Voter with a disability and polling place is inaccessible
- 4) Member of the military or family member of the military or am an overseas citizen and otherwise qualified to vote in Tennessee
- 5) Resident of a licensed facility, outside the county, providing relatively permanent domiciliary care (nursing home)
- 6) Hospitalized, ill or physically disabled voter or caretaker of a person who is
- 7) Candidates for office
- 8) Election officials
- 9) On the jury in a state or federal court
- 10) Observance of a religious holiday
- 11) Have a Commercial Driver's License or Transportation Worker Identification Credential and will be out of county early voting and Election Day

An absentee ballot may be requested at the Gibson County Commission office or by mail.

Voter Registration:

Mail-in voter registration forms are available in the office of the Election Commission. It is of utmost importance that these are returned as soon as they have been completed in order that the Election Commission has time to process them prior to the election. If a voter is unsure as to whether he/she is currently registered in Gibson County, contact our office at (731) 855-7669. The last day to register is thirty (30) days prior to each election.

Photo I.D. Requirements

All voters must present an ID, meeting the requirements below, containing the voter's name and photograph, whether voting early or on Election Day.

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

- Tennessee driver's license with your photo,
- United States Passport,
- Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security photo ID
- Photo ID issued by the federal or Tennessee state government, such as an employee ID from the U.S. Department of Energy with your photo
- United States Military photo ID, including a Veteran Identification Card
- Tennessee handgun carry permit card with your photo

What forms of photo ID are NOT acceptable?

- College student photo IDs
- Privately issued photo IDs, such as your discount club or bank card with your photo
- Photo IDs issued by other states or by county or city governments, including library cards

Who is exempt?

- Voters who vote absentee by mail. (View requirements at <http://www.tn.gov/sos/election/bymail.htm>)
- Voters who are residents of a licensed nursing home or assisted living center and who vote at the facility
- Voters who are hospitalized
- Voters with a religious objection to being photographed
- Voters who are indigent and unable to obtain a photo ID without paying a fee

What if I don't bring a photo ID to the polling place?

- If you do not bring a photo ID, you will vote a provisional ballot.
- You will then have until two (2) business days after Election Day to return to the county election commission office to show a valid photo ID.

What if I don't have a photo ID?

- You may obtain a free photo ID from the Tennessee Department of Safety.

Where can I find out more information?

- Call or visit your county election commission, or
- Visit our website at <http://tn.gov/sos/elections>

Please notify your county election commission if your residence changes.

Election Day Procedures:

1. Campaign guidelines:

Candidates may only enter the polling place to vote. They may not campaign while there and, other than voting; they must not approach nearer than 100 feet of any polling place. Candidates may enter a polling place after the close of polls.

After the polls close, the officer of elections will post a tape of the election results.

2. Poll watchers guidelines:

Many campaigns place observers in polling places on election day to make sure that everything runs smoothly, election officials follow proper procedures, all eligible voters are allowed to vote and no ineligible voters are given ballots. These observers are called poll watchers.

Each candidate in primary elections and each independent candidate in general elections may appoint one (1) or more poll watchers for each polling place; provided, however, at any given time, each such candidate shall have not more than one (1) such poll watcher on duty at each polling place. You must obtain a credential from our office for every poll watcher you appoint. This must be done prior to noon of the second day before the election.

Poll watchers may observe all election procedures except the actual voting. They cannot handle materials however and may not disrupt the election process. No poll watcher may interfere with any voter.

Gibson County polls are open from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on election day.

After Election Day:

After the conclusion of a primary, general, or special election, candidates in such election shall be responsible for the removal of any signs, posters, or placards advocating their candidacy, which have been placed on highway rights-of-way or other publicly owned property. The removal of such material shall be accomplished within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed three (3) weeks.

Any candidate in a primary election who will also be a candidate in a general election following the primary shall not be required to remove any signs until after the conclusion of the general or special election.

Display of Campaign Materials At the Polls on Election Day

T.C.A. § 2-7-111(b)(1) provides:

Within the appropriate boundary...and the buildings in which the polling place is located, the display of campaign posters, signs, or other campaign materials, distribution of campaign materials, and solicitation of votes for or against any person or political party or position on a question are prohibited. No campaign posters, signs or other campaign literature may be displayed on or in any building or on the grounds of any building in which a polling place is located.

It is the opinion of the Coordinator of Elections, State of Tennessee, that “the display of” means showing or making something public within the boundary. “Campaign materials” encompasses not only the items listed in T.C.A. 2-7-(b), i.e. “Campaign posters, signs or other campaign materials...or other campaign literature” but also mean all political paraphernalia, i.e. hats, buttons, pins, cards, tee-shirts and anything else that may be worn or carried for its political message. “Solicitation of votes” includes all verbal and non-verbal campaign or politicking. Thus, wearing or carrying campaign items constitutes solicitation of votes and is prohibited.

Therefore, these items must be left outside the boundaries of the polling place or they must be somehow hidden so that they are not capable of delivering a political message.

Please advise all your workers to inform people desiring access to the polls that they must leave campaign items outside the boundaries of the polling place. Note: If it is not possible to remove or cover a campaign tee shirt, the person must be denied entry until the tee shirt has been removed or covered.

Useful Address and Phone Numbers

State Coordinator of Elections	(615) 741-7956
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue	(615) 741-1278 fax
7 th Floor, Snodgrass Tower	
Nashville, TN 37243	

www.tn.gov/sos/election/

Tennessee Registry of Election Finance	(615) 741-7959
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 104	(615) 532-8905 fax
Nashville, TN 37243	

www.tn.gov/tref/

Gibson County Election Commission	(731) 855-7669
1 Court Square, Suite 101	(731) 855-7606 fax
Trenton, TN 38382	

www.gibsonelections.com