
Mississippi

Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide

Provided by

VOTER
REFERENCE 
FOUNDATION

State Guide to Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Statutes

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to voter registration and voter list maintenance.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

This guide was last updated on 02/29/2024.

CONTENTS:

[Who can I contact with election related questions?](#)

[How do I register to vote?](#)

[How do I cancel my voter registration?](#)

[How is voter list maintenance handled?](#)

[List of Voter Registration Status and their definitions](#)

Who can I contact with election related questions?

[Link to Elections Official](#)

Chief Elections Office:	Secretary of State, Michael Watson <u>Elections Division</u>
Physical Address:	Heber Ladner Building 401 Mississippi Street Jackson, MS 39201
Mailing Address:	Mississippi Secretary of State's Office Elections Division P.O. Box 136 Jackson, MS 39205-0136
Phone Number:	601-576-2550
Fax Number:	601-576-2545
Online Contact:	<u>ElectionsAnswers@sos.ms.gov</u>

How do I register to vote?

[Link to Register](#)
[Link to Statutes](#)

[Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-11](#) Qualifications, generally.

Every inhabitant of this state, except persons adjudicated to be non compos mentis, who is a citizen of the United States of America, eighteen (18) years old and upwards, who has resided in this state for thirty (30) days and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he or she seeks to vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated municipality in which he or she seeks to vote, and who has been duly registered as an elector under Section 23-15-33, and who has never been convicted of vote fraud or of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, shall be a qualified elector in and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of his or her residence, and shall be entitled to vote at any election upon compliance with Section 23-15-563.

Any person who will be eighteen (18) years of age or older on or before the date of the general election and who is duly registered to vote not less than thirty (30) days before the primary election associated with the general election, may vote in the primary election even though the person has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday at the time that the person seeks to vote at the primary election. No others than those specified in this section shall be entitled, or shall be allowed, to vote at any election.

How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Form to Cancel](#)
[Link to Statutes](#)

[Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-153](#)

(1) At least during the following times, the election commissioners shall meet at the office of the registrar or the office of the election commissioners to carefully revise the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System and remove from the roll the names of all voters who have requested to be purged from the voter roll

To cancel your voter registration:

1. Complete, print and sign the cancellation form below.
2. Insert it into an envelope.
3. Add your former [County Circuit Clerk's](#) address on the envelope
4. Affix a stamp and mail your cancellation.

How is voter list maintenance handled?

§ 23-15-151. List of persons convicted of certain crimes to be kept by circuit clerk and entered into Statewide Elections Management System; removal of disenfranchised voters from system.

The circuit clerk of each county is authorized and directed to prepare and keep in his or her office a full and complete list, in alphabetical order, of persons convicted of voter fraud or of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890. A certified copy of any enrollment by one clerk to another will be sufficient authority for the enrollment of the name, or names, in another county. A list of persons convicted of voter fraud, any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or any crime interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions, shall also be entered into the Statewide Elections Management System on a quarterly basis. Voters who have been convicted in a Mississippi state court of any disenfranchising crime are not qualified electors as defined by Section 23-15-11 and shall be purged or otherwise removed by the county registrar or county election commissioners from the Statewide Elections Management System.

§ 23-15-152. Confirmation notice to be sent to certain registered voters; placement of recipients of confirmation notice on inactive status; failure to respond by voter; purged status for failure to respond

(1) For the purposes of this section, “confirmation notice” means a notice sent by the election commissioners, by forwardable mail, with return postage prepaid, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, to a registered voter to confirm the registered voter’s current address. The notice shall comply with all applicable requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(2) The election commissioners shall send a confirmation notice to the following:

- (a) A registered voter if it appears from the United States Postal Service change-of-address information that the registered voter has moved to a different residence;
- (b) A registered voter if a county election commissioner or county registrar has received notice from another state, or political subdivision of another state, that the registered voter has registered to vote in another state;
- (c) A registered voter who has failed to vote at least once in any election or update his or her registration during a period that begins in the year of a presidential preference primary and extends until the next general election for President of the United States that does not occur in the same year as the beginning of the period; or
- (d) A registered voter if the registrar or election commissioners have received reliable information that he or she has moved within or outside of the state. Reliable information includes, but is not limited to: official mail returned as undeliverable by the county election commission, registrar or other county or municipal office, Secretary of State; application for homestead exemption filed by the voter at an address other than the address of current registration; or any information from another state or county entity indicating the voter no longer resides at the address of voter registration.

No registered voter shall be sent a confirmation notice under paragraph (c) of this subsection if he or she has been sent a confirmation notice for those same reasons within the last six (6) years.

(3) The county election commissioners shall place any registered voter who has been sent a confirmation notice on inactive status in the Statewide Elections Management System. Any registered voter who is placed on inactive status shall be unable to cast a regular ballot on election day but shall be able to cast an affidavit ballot as provided in Section 23-15-573.

Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-152 , Cont.

4) A registered voter “fails to respond to the confirmation notice” if the voter, during a period beginning on the date the confirmation notice was sent and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for federal office that occurs after the date of the notice, fails to:

- (a) Respond to the confirmation notice; or
- (b) Update the elector’s registration information.

(A registered voter who votes at least once in any election in the registered voter’s county or municipality of registration during the period beginning from the date of the delivery of the confirmation notice provided in this subsection (4) or who is active or reserve military or who serves on jury duty or responds to a summons for jury duty shall not be purged from the Statewide Elections Management System.

(5) The county registrar or county election commission shall move those registered voters who fail to respond to the confirmation notice as provided in subsection (4) of this section and who fail to vote as provided in subsection (4) of this section to purged status in the Statewide Elections Management System.

(6) No systematic list maintenance shall occur during the ninety (90) days immediately preceding a federal primary or general election which is limited to moving a voter to inactive status in subsection (2) of this section or purged status in subsection (5) of this section.

(7) The county registrar shall retain purged voter registration records after they are purged for a period that includes at least two (2) federal general elections and shall record the reason for the removal.

§ 23-15-153. Revision of county voter roll by election commissioners; removal of voters from roll; amount and limitations of per diem payments to election commissioners; distribution of master voter roll to municipal registrars; certification of hours worked; number of days in calendar year for which election commissioners entitled to receive compensation.

(1) At least during the following times, the election commissioners shall meet at the office of the registrar or the office of the election commissioners to carefully revise the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System and remove from the roll the names of all voters who have requested to be purged from the voter roll, died, received an adjudication of non compos mentis, been convicted of a disenfranchising crime, failed to comply with the provisions of Section 23-15-152, or otherwise become disqualified as electors for any cause, and shall register the names of all persons who have duly applied to be registered but have been illegally denied registration:

- (a) On the Tuesday after the second Monday in January 1987 and every following year;
- (b) On the first Tuesday in the month immediately preceding the first primary election for members of Congress in the years when members of Congress are elected;
- (c) On the first Monday in the month immediately preceding the first primary election for state, state district legislative, county and county district offices in the years in which those offices are elected; and
- (d) On the second Monday of September preceding the general election or regular special election day in years in which a general election is not conducted.

Except for the names of those voters who are duly qualified to vote in the election, no name shall be permitted to remain in the Statewide Elections Management System; however, no name shall be purged from the Statewide Elections Management System based on a change in the residence of an elector except in accordance with procedures provided for by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and as provided in Section 23-15-152. Except as otherwise provided by Section 23-15-573, no person shall vote at any election whose name is not in the county voter roll electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System.

[The National Voter Registration Act of 1993](#)

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the “NVRA” and the “Motor Voter Act”), to enhance voting opportunities for every American. The Act has made it easier for all Americans to register to vote and to maintain their registration. Section 8 of the NVRA contains requirements with respect to the administration of voter registration by States and requires States to implement procedures to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists.

For more information about the NVRA, please visit the [Department of Justice website](#).

List of voter registration statuses and their definitions

[Link to Statutes](#)

Registration Statuses	
Active - Every inhabitant of this state, except persons adjudicated to be non compos mentis, who is a citizen of the United States of America, eighteen (18) years old and upwards, who has resided in this state for thirty (30) days and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he seeks to vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated municipality in which he seeks to vote, and who has been duly registered as an elector under Section 23-15-33, and who has never been convicted of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, shall be a qualified elector in and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of his residence, and shall be entitled to vote at any election.	Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-11
Inactive - The county election commissioners shall place any registered voter who has been sent a confirmation notice on inactive status in the Statewide Elections Management System. Any registered voter who is placed on inactive status shall be unable to cast a regular ballot on election day but shall be able to cast an affidavit ballot as provided in Section 23-15-573.	Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-152
Canceled - voters who have requested to be purged from the voter roll, died, received an adjudication of non compos mentis, been convicted of a disenfranchising crime, failed to comply with the provisions of Section 23-15-152, or otherwise become disqualified as electors for any cause	Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-153

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to HAVA Complaint Form](#)

Any person who believes there is a HAVA Title III violation (including a violation which has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur) may file a written complaint with the Secretary of State's Office. The complaint must be notarized, signed and sworn to by the complainant.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Statutes](#)

[Link to County Election Commissioners](#)

[§ 23-15-903. Procedure for filing complaint of violation of election law.](#)

In addition to any other procedure provided by law, any person who has reason to believe that any election law has been violated may file a written complaint with the [election commissioners](#) of the county in which the alleged violation occurred. If the election commissioners determine the allegations in the complaint, if true, would be a violation of this chapter or Section 97-13-1, et seq., the election commissioners shall refer the complaint to the district attorney for prosecution.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State, Bureau of Elections	
Physical Address:	Secretary of State's Office Elections Division 401 Mississippi Street Jackson, MS 39201
Mailing Address:	Secretary of State's Office Elections Division P.O. Box 136 Jackson, MS 39205-0136
Phone Number:	601-576-2550
Fax Number:	601-576-2545
Email Address:	ElectionsAnswers@sos.ms.gov

[County Election Commissioners](#)