



**Get Your Vote On,
Missouri State!**



Paws to the Polls 2021

Voter Information and Resources

Missouri State University

[Enter Here for Your Path to the Polls](#)

Who are We?



Paws to the Polls is a nonpartisan campus initiative to increase civic engagement at Missouri State University. We focus on increasing voter participation and offering resources for students to practice well-informed voting. This grassroots initiative is about taking action, the key to fulfilling the MSU's public affairs mission. Want to get involved? Contact us at pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu.

Voting and MSU's Public Affairs Mission

The three pillars of Missouri State University's Public Affairs Mission are:

- Ethical Leadership
- Cultural Competence
- Community Engagement

When you vote, you are not only using your voice to take part in the democratic process, but you are also fulfilling all three components of Missouri State's Public Affairs mission.

Questions About Voting?

On Campus:

- Public Affairs Support Office, Meyer Library 202-J; 417-836-8832
publicaffairssupport@missouristate.edu
- Paws to the Polls MSU Campus Voter Initiative,
pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu
<https://www.missouristate.edu/ADP/paws-to-the-polls.htm>



Off Campus:

- Greene County Clerk, countyclerk@greenecountymo.gov, 417-868-4055
- Missouri Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.mo.gov>
- League of Women Voters of SWMO, lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com

Trivia question: Why are U.S. elections always on a Tuesday? (See p. 8)

Gen Z Votes!

The U.S. college demographic has long had the lowest rates of voter participation, and older generations have the highest. But our rates are on an upward path. It's time for our generation to decide our own future – vote!



Who Can Vote in the U.S.?

- U.S. citizen
- 17½ to register, 18 years old by Election Day to vote
- In Missouri, voters must not have felony convictions
 - Eligible to vote only after completion & discharge from sentence and probation or parole



Election Dates 2021 (Springfield, MO)

All Elections Are Important!

| Election Day | What We're Voting On | Last Day to Register to Vote* |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Apr 6, 2021 | Local Government Candidates & Issues | March 10, 2021 |
| Aug 3, 2021 | State and Local Issues | July 7, 2021 |
| Nov 2, 2021 | State and Local Issues | October 6, 2021 |

*You don't need to re-register for every election, as long as you've previously registered in the county in which you're voting.

Registering to Vote in MO

If you're not yet registered in the county where you plan to vote, be aware of registration deadlines!

Paper Registration

- Meyer Library Room 202-J: Office of Public Affairs Support, (2nd floor, NW corner) 417-836-8832
- Contact pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu for appointment

Online Registration

- To register in Missouri: Secretary of State's office: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/> (when registering **online**, check the option for "using a tablet, phone, or other mobile device")
 - Use this website also to check if you're already registered in the county where you plan to vote
- If registering in other state, find your county clerk's office at <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/> to register OR just register to vote here on campus while you're a student here!



Registered Elsewhere?

Consider Changing Your Registration to Vote Here

- If you attend MSU, you are eligible to vote here in Greene County – MSU is even a Central Polling Location so you can vote on campus!
- Can use residence hall as your address; use actual street address, not just dorm name! Look it up at <https://reslife.missouristate.edu/residence-hall-living.htm> -- and don't forget to include your room number!
- Best way to ensure your vote: vote in person where you live
- If you register here while you're at school, just re-register when/if you move back to your home community



Casting Your Vote in MO

Before You Vote – Prepare Yourself!

- Ensure that you're registered (see previous page for MO Secretary of State website) in the county where you plan to vote
- See a sample ballot – QR code at right →
(countyclerk@greencountymo.gov); scroll down to find your city's ballot
- Look for League of Women Voters Voter Guide before major elections for nonpartisan voting information
- Check out the nonpartisan websites on the back of this brochure!



Options for Voting:

1. In-Person Voting

- Your polling location is noted on your Voter ID card. Or, locate at <https://voteroutreach.sos.mo.gov/> Polls are open 6am to 7pm
- If you are registered here in Greene County, you can vote at any of the four Central Polling Locations in Springfield (see Greene County Clerk website) -- One of them is on our campus! (JQH Arena)

2. Absentee Voting (mail in or drop off)

- If you will not be able to vote in person on Election Day, you can vote absentee.
 - You MUST request a ballot ahead of time!→
 - https://greencountymo.gov/county_clerk/ if registered in Greene County or <https://www.sos.mo.gov/> if registered elsewhere in Missouri.
- Your request MUST be RECEIVED by 5:00 pm on the second Wednesday prior to Election Day
- If your ballot with its pre-addressed return envelope does not arrive within 1 week, contact your County Clerk's office
- After voting your absentee ballot, you will need to have it **notarized** (unless you are incapacitated or confined due to illness or have other conditions listed on the request form) – **FREE notaries on campus**: <https://www.missouristate.edu/dos/notaries.htm>. Bring your ballot in the envelope and a photo ID (Driver's License, Bearpass, etc.) to notary.



- Your completed ballot **MUST** be **RECEIVED** in County Clerk’s office by **7:00 pm** on Election Day – you may mail it OR drop it off in person at the Historic Courthouse, 1st Floor Rotunda, 940 N. Boonville (open 8 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday)
- If you don’t mail your ballot on time, just take your ballot in its envelope to Courthouse any time up to 5 pm the night before Election Day **to vote in person**, or take it with you to the polls on Election Day. No need for ballot notarization if you are in person.

3. In-Person Absentee before Election Day (basically, early voting)

If you are registered in Greene County and cannot vote in person on Election Day, you can vote “in-person absentee” at the Election Center, 1126 N. Boonville Ave, beginning six weeks PRIOR TO any election. The Saturday before the election, voting is from 9 am to 1 pm. You will need to provide your “excuse” for not voting on Election Day (you’ll check off the reason from a list). The day before any election, absentee in-person voting closes at 5 pm. In other MO counties, in-person absentee voting hours may vary, so check with your County Clerk’s office!

Accessible Voting

- **Curbside voting:** for voters with limited mobility
- **Accessible Polling Places:** contact County Clerk’s office If your polling place is not accessible (Central Polling Locations are accessible)
- **Accessible Voting Systems:** Every polling place has an accessible voting system for those with disabilities
- **Permanent Absentee:** may be requested from County Clerk’s office; ballot sent prior to each election

ID for Voting in MO (need only one of these)

- Voter ID card
- Driver’s license or Non-Driver License
- Passport
- Military ID
- ID from university, college, or technical school
- Utility bills or bank statements with your name and address
- Government check or other document with your name and address (photo ID not necessary at this time)

Problems at the Polls?

Nonpartisan election protection; call 866-OurVote (866-687-8683)



Call directly from your polling place if you are concerned that your voting rights are being infringed upon. Someone will attend to you immediately.

Fill Out Your Voting Plan

| Election | Polling location | What time will I go?* | Who's my voting buddy? |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Apr 6 | | | |
| Aug 3 | | | |
| Nov 2 | | | |

* Allow plenty of time to vote – in major elections, there may be lines!

Voting FAQs

- How do I know if I'm registered to vote?
 - *Check the MO Secretary of State's website or call your local county clerk (see p. 4)*
- Where do I vote?
 - *Your polling location is listed on your Voter ID card, or find your polling location on the MO Secretary of State's website OR simply vote at a Central Polling Location in Springfield (see p. 5)*
- I'm unsure about some things on the ballot – do I have to vote for everything?
 - *No! Vote only for what you're sure about – your ballot will still count!*
- I'm worried I'll forget who and what I plan to vote for. Can I take my notes?
 - *Sure! This isn't a test. You can take your notes or a pre-marked sample ballot into the polling place (see p. 5 for sample ballot link).*
- Do I need a photo ID to vote?
 - *Not at this time, but in the future new legislation may require it.*

Educate Yourself

Use these websites and apps to learn about your candidates' positions and voting records, and about any ballot issues.

Fact-Checking websites:



Science Feedback

Unbiased sources of political information:



U.S. Vote Foundation www.usvotefoundation.org:

Assists citizens to register, vote and request absentee ballots; provides voter information



Vote Smart www.votesmart.org: Provides unbiased information on candidates via various categories of information



All Sides www.allsides.org: News from left, right, and center perspectives



Issue Voter www.issuevoter.org: Information on current bills in Congress, connects citizens with representatives to send opinions; tracks their votes and outcomes



Vote Spotter www.votespotter.org: Mobile app; Get alerts when representatives vote, contacts them to convey your opinions



Countable www.countable.us: Mobile app similar to Issue Voter and Vote Spotter

Watch for Paws to the Polls events and tabling!

Answer to trivia question: Tuesday is election day because historically many voters would attend church on Sunday, travel to the polling location on Monday, and vote before Wednesday, the typical day when farmers would sell their wares at the market.