

# Commonly asked Questions

## May 5, 2026

### Primary and Referendum Elections

The Election Commission is required by law to hold primary elections for the Republican and Democratic parties when called. The parties hold these primaries for their members or affiliated voters to each select a single candidate, respectively, which will later compete against each other in a general election.

**1. Why do I have to declare if I wish to vote Republican or Democrat?**

This is a primary election, you must declare the party primary you wish to participate in during the May 5, 2026 election.

**2. Will I be able to vote for both Republicans and Democrats on my ballot?**

No, you will have to choose which primary you wish to participate in and will only be able to vote in that party primary election.

**3. What if I am a registered Republican or Democrat?**

In the State of Tennessee, you are not registered by political party. You are free to choose the primary of your choice. You will be required to sign the following oath:

*I request a ballot to vote in this election and declare, under penalty of perjury, that I reside at the above address and am a registered and qualified voter in the precinct in which I am offering to vote. I also declare that I have not previously voted in this election, nor will I attempt to vote again in this election. If this is a primary election, I am a bona fide member of and affiliated with the political party in whose primary I seek to vote; or I declare allegiance to the political party in whose primary I seek to vote and state that I intend to affiliate with that party.*

**4. What if I consider myself Independent?**

Independent voters are by nature unaffiliated to a political party and do not meet the oath requirements for voting in a party primary.

If you wish to participate in this primary election, you will have to declare Republican or Democrat.

**5. Why do I not see any Independent candidates on my ballot?**

This is a primary election for the political parties. Independent candidates will only appear on the August General Election Ballot. During the general election you will be able to vote for the Republican primary winner, the Democratic primary winner, or qualified Independent candidates.

**6. What will I be required to bring when I vote?**

You will be required to provide an acceptable State of Tennessee issued photo ID, passport, military ID or other acceptable ID. A photo ID from other states **are not** acceptable.

**7. What if I have a Temporary Driver’s License (it literally says Temporary)?**

You will have to vote on a provisional (paper) ballot. You will have until 2 days after election day (May 7, 2026) to bring an acceptable photo ID to the Election Commission Office in order for your ballot to be counted.

**8. Will I be able to vote in the Lenoir City Sales and Use Tax Referendum?**

Only registered voters that reside in the city limits of Lenoir City will be allowed to participate in this referendum election. Just because you have a Lenoir City address does not mean you can vote on this referendum.

**9. If I live in a district that has two county commission seats (seat A & B), which seat, do I get to vote for?**

If you live in district 1, 2 or 5 your ballot will have a seat A & B choice. You can vote for 1 candidate for seat A, and 1 candidate for seat B.

**10. Why do some districts have 2 County Commission seats and 2 School Board seats?**

This is based on the census population of each district. District 1 (Chota, Loudon and Loudon Outside), District 2 (Lenoir City and Lenoir City Outside), and District 5 (Eaton and North) have larger populations represented than the other districts.

**11. The sample ballot has all the County Commission & County School Board candidates and the Lenoir City Sales and Use Tax referendum on it. So, does that mean I can vote for all of these?**

No, you will only be able to vote for the county wide offices, County Commission and County School board that pertain to your County Commission district. You must also reside in the city limits of Lenoir City to participate in that election.

**12. Why are there not any District 1, 3, 5 or 7 County School Board seats on the ballot?**

The Loudon County School Board runs on staggered terms. This election cycle District 2 (Lenoir City and Lenoir City Outside), District 4 (Davis, Luttrell and Philadelphia) and District 6 (Highland Park) will be on the ballot.

**13. What if I am challenged by a citizen or poll watcher about the Party Primary I wish to vote in?**

The person challenging your participation in the primary will have to present to 3 election workers representing the party of your ballot choice why you should not be allowed to participate in the selected primary. The 3 members may ask you pertinent questions, will then deliberate and decide if you will be allowed to vote in the primary you selected. The vote must be unanimous to prevent you from voting in the selected primary.

**14. Can I vote at any of the 3 early voting locations?**

Yes, for your convenience you can choose the location of your choice.

- Lenoir City & Loudon will be open April 15-30, 2026
- Tellico Village location will only be open April 22 & 23, 2026.
- The hours are 10 A.M.- 6 P.M. Monday -Friday, Saturday 9 A.M.- 12 Noon

**15. Can I vote at the early voting locations on Election Day?**

No, you must vote at your district precinct on Election Day. The early voting locations will not be open on Election Day.

**16. What is the deadline to request an absentee ballot?**

April 25, 2026

**17. Once I receive my absentee ballot when and how can I return it?**

You can return your ballot at any time after you have received your ballot and marked your choices. You cannot hand deliver the ballot to the Election Commission Office. The ballot must be returned by mail or courier service. If you have received a ballot and you choose to mail it, please allow at least 7 days for it to reach our office. You can always hand deliver the marked ballot to the Loudon Post Office. Once a ballot is received by the Election Commission, the ballot is logged in as received and placed in a secured locked ballot bag. A ballot must be received by the close of polls on Election Day. Ballots received after the close of polls will not be counted.

**18. I have power of attorney for someone; can I vote for them?**

Power of attorney is not recognized in election law. You cannot vote on another person's behalf.

**19. What if I moved, did my voter registration move with me?**

If you have moved from another county in Tennessee, your registration did not move with you. You must register in Loudon County prior to the registration deadline of April 6, 2026. If you have moved within Loudon County, we encourage you to update your registration prior to voting. This can be done:

- at the Election Commission office 100 River Road, Suite 108, Loudon, TN.
- or online at: <https://sos.tn.gov/govotetn>
- by mail.
- when you go to vote early voting.
- when you go to vote on election day. You could be directed to go to another polling location if your new address is in another district precinct.

**20. When are Early Voting votes counted?**

Early voting votes are not tallied until all polls are closed on Election Night.