

Deputy Registrar Training

Thank you for being a Deputy Registrar. Here's a few things you need to know. As a Deputy Registrar, voters who appear before you are considered to have registered in person if they complete the form in your presence. In order for us to know that you registered them in person, you will need to write the code "NP" at the top of the form followed by your initials.

When can I register voters?

At any event or even door to door if you tell us at least two weeks in advance so that we can publish the required legal notice. If you don't tell us, you can still register voters but, it's not an official Shelby County Election Commission event. They will be considered registered by mail.

Qualifications for Registering to Vote:

- must be a US citizen.
- must be 18 by the next election.
- must be a resident of Tennessee. (You are free to accept registrations from residents of other counties but let them know that it will take longer as we have to mail the forms to that county.)
- cannot be disqualified under the law. Generally individuals with felony convictions whose rights have not been restored cannot register.

Forms:

Use the buff voter registration form for new voters. Please use the white change of name or address form for those voters who are already registered in Shelby County or those who only want a new card. A Spanish voter registration form is located on our website. It is OK to copy forms or download them off the internet. However, we **must have the form with an original signature.**

Don't know if they are registered or not? You can find them on the GoVoteTN app.



Social Security Numbers:

Tennessee law requires the social security number in order for the registration to be processed. Registrants often do not wish to provide their number but it is required to complete processing of the registration. If you make copies of the completed forms, you must redact the social security number on the copy that you keep. (A black Sharpie marker works well for this.) If a voter is more comfortable mailing the form, suggest that they seal the form with tape and mail it in. There are address labels in your packet.

Completing the Form:

After the voter completes the form, take a quick look at it for a couple of very common problems.

- Make sure the two questions at the top and the two at the bottom are completed.
- Make sure that line 5 is an actual address and not a PO Box. We assign precincts based on physical address, which is where the voter normally sleeps. Homeless citizens or those without a fixed address can register to vote but, call us for advice if they are using a non-traditional address like under the "1-40 bridge at 3rd Street".
- We are happy to send mail to PO boxes; just fill in line 6.
- Make sure the voter has signed the form. It must be an original signature. If the voter
 is illiterate or has a physical disability that prevents them from completing the form,
 make sure that whomever helped them complete the form signs at the bottom.

Non-Partisan:

As a Deputy Registrar, you are representing the Shelby County Election Commission, and we are non-partisan. We register anyone who asks, and we don't engage in political activity while wearing our badges. If you want to engage in political activity, you can still register voters but, it becomes a "by mail" situation. If you become a candidate for political office, your certification is revoked; please return your badge when you file your petition.

Questions?

Contact Suzanne Thompson, suzanne.thompson@shelbycountytn.gov. Our main office number is 901-222-1200.

In an emergency, contact Linda Phillips, Administrator of Elections, on her county cell phone at (901) 430-2909.

Returning the Forms:

Return them to either office within **five days of completion.** Forms must be delivered to us by the close of business on the **voter registration deadline** in order for the registration form to be processed in time for an upcoming election. Please, please get the forms to us in a timely manner. Drop them off at either location during business hours. Please be aware that failure to return the forms to us by the voter registration deadline is a **Class E felony**.

Operations Center:

980 Nixon Drive Memphis, TN 38134

Downtown:

157 Poplar, Suite 157 Memphis, TN 38103

Both offices are open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. weekdays.