

# How to Register to Vote by Mail

1. Access a mail-in registration from the Secretary of State's website or from your county circuit clerk's office. Fill in the information, and mail to the correct county clerk's office. You may either use your driver's license number or last four digits of your social security number. If you do not have these, you may attach one of the following to your application:
  - a. A copy of a current and valid photo ID.
  - b. A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government documents that show your name and address.
2. Applications must be postmarked at least 30 days before the date of the election you wish to vote in.

*Voter Registration Applications are also available at your local Circuit Clerk's office, Municipal Clerk's office, public library and other participating government offices.*



## Know Your Rights!

*As an American citizen, you have a constitutional right to participate in the democratic process and cast ballots for those you feel would best represent your interests. Becoming your true self doesn't change your voting rights!*

- You are able to vote even if your photo ID shows an outdated photo, as long as the poll worker can reasonably tell that it is you in the picture.
- Poll workers are not allowed to ask about your medical history, including your transition. Personal information is not relevant to your ability to vote.
- If poll workers do not accept your ID, you can still cast your vote through an affidavit ballot. An affidavit ballot will allow you five days to go to the county clerk's office and present ID.

### Before You Go to the Polls

- Do your research - you want to make sure you are electing the person who will best represent you and your interests.
- Make sure you are going to the right polling station, as they are sometimes different for certain elections.

### On Election Day

- Bring multiple forms of ID if you can. This will help in case the poll workers declare one of your IDs as "invalid" due to your gender identity.
- Bring this pamphlet to the poll with you and show the "information for poll workers" to any election officials who try to question your right to vote.
- If none of your photo IDs are accepted, you can still vote by affidavit ballot. You must present your photo ID to the Circuit or Municipal Clerk's office within five business days after the election.

# ID ME



## Voting Rights for Transgender Mississippians

**ACLU  
MS**

# Info for Poll Workers and Election Officials

Transgender people may not be able to update their IDs to reflect their identity for a number of reasons. This is NOT illegal. As long as the relevant voter data (usually the name and address) matches one of the acceptable forms of ID, the voter has the right to vote.

## More Useful Info

- Different clothing, makeup or hairstyle on an ID photo is not a valid reason to deny a regular ballot. As long as you can identify the voter from their picture, the ID is valid for voting.
- A voter's transgender status and medical history is private. Although you may be curious or confused about a voter's appearance, asking personal questions is offensive, and not relevant to their right to vote.
- Transgender voters are not doing anything wrong or trying to deceive you—they are just being themselves. Transgender people have the right to vote just like everyone else, and it is your responsibility to ensure they are able to do so without hassle.

## Follow Us



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[www.aclu-ms.org](http://www.aclu-ms.org)

601.354.3408

## Voter ID

To vote in Mississippi, you will need a valid photo ID. Below are acceptable forms of identification. Bring one of the following to the precinct location when you go to cast a ballot:

1. A driver's license
2. A government issued photo ID card
3. A United States passport
4. A firearms license
5. A student photo ID issued by a college, or community college
6. A United States military ID
7. A tribal photo ID
8. Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or State government
9. A Mississippi Voter Identification Card

Source: Mississippi Secretary of State's Office

**You do not need to change your legal name or the gender on your identification to be able to vote. Updating your photo ID to accurately reflect your gender identity is helpful, but not necessary as long as the poll worker can identify that it is you in the photo. However, Mississippi has a strict voter ID law that can result in transgender voters being deterred from voting, harassed, or turned away at the voting site.**



If you are refused the opportunity to vote, contact the ACLU of Mississippi immediately at 601-354-3408 or by emailing [office@aclu-ms.org](mailto:office@aclu-ms.org).

## Obtaining A Name Change

To get your name legally changed, follow these steps:

1. File a petition, get it notarized and pay the filing fee. Bring your social security card and additional identity documents in case they are needed.
2. Once the paperwork is filed, you will be given a court date to appear in front of the judge.
3. Once approved, you will have to update your information with several government agencies, including the Social Security Administration. Be sure to ask government officials for a list of all agencies that will need to be given updated information.

\*See ID Me Road-Map on our website.

Changing your legal gender is a bit more complex. Mississippi law requires that an individual have sex reassignment surgery before their birth certificate can be amended to reflect their gender identity. To change your legal gender, follow these steps:

- Obtain a legal name change. Contact us if you need help.
- Obtain a medical statement from your physician attesting to sex reassignment surgery.
- Pay the filing fee (\$28).
- Mail documents and fee to: Mississippi Vital Records P.O. Box 1700 Jackson, MS 39215 (601) 206-8200

