

Get Your Vote On, Missouri State!



Voter Information and Resources 2023-24



Who are We?

Paws to the Polls is a nonpartisan grassroots campus initiative formed to increase voter engagement, access to unbiased resources, and voting knowledge at MSU.



Watch for our events!
[@pawstothepolls](#)

You're welcome to join us! pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu

Why Vote?

Issues that we vote on, and that our elected representatives vote on, affect us all. Because older people vote at higher rates than the younger demographic, the older generation is making decisions *for* you. Only about 15% of all citizens vote in local elections, so each vote has even more impact there. Local issues affect you, no matter where you're from. Let your voice be heard in *all* elections!

Where to Register While in College?

Vote Where You Sleep!

- You live here, sleep here, and may work here. You can vote here.
- If you are registered elsewhere, you can change to vote here during college, and re-register if you move back to your home community.
- You are more likely to vote if you vote where you live.
- MSU's Welcome Center is a Central Polling Location; vote on campus!
- Your residence hall can be used as your local address.
- See p. 3 & 4 about ID needed to register and to vote in MO.




You Are Eligible to Vote in MO if:

- You are a U.S. citizen.
- You are at least 17½ years old, and will be 18 by Election Day.
- You have no felony convictions - eligible to vote after completion of sentence and end of probation or parole.



Registering to Vote in MO

Be aware of registration deadlines!

Are you registered? If so, where? Check [here](#) to see if you're registered to vote in Missouri, or visit our Linktree. 



You can register using the *street address for your residence hall* – find this on the [Ways to Register to Vote](#) page on our website, or access from our Linktree. (Use the street address, not res. hall name, and add your room number!)

Online Registration

To register to vote online, you'll also begin at the [Ways to Register to Vote](#) page on our website, or access from our Linktree.

Paper Registration



- Email pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu or go to Strong Hall 463
- Meyer Library Rm 202-J (2nd floor, NW corner)
- Greene County Clerk's Office, 940 N. Boonville Ave, Springfield, MO 417-868-4055

You'll need the last four digits of your Social Security number to register.

ID for Voting in MO

- Current Missouri Driver's License or Non-Driver License
- Passport or Military ID
- See next page if you're from another state!



Are You from Another State? Two options:

1. Click [here](#) for instructions on getting a free MO ID for voting, or go to our Linktree (see previous page).
2. If you don't plan to get a MO state-issued ID, you can register to vote here using your student ID or out-of-state ID; when you vote in MO without MO ID, they should give you a "provisional ballot." If your signature from registration matches your ballot, your vote counts!

Election Dates 2024* (Springfield, MO)

Election Day	Type of Election	Last Day to Register*
Apr 2, 2024	General Municipal (Local) Election	Mar 6, 2024
Aug 6, 2024	Primary Election	Jul 10, 2024
Nov 5, 2024	General Election	Oct 9, 2024

* No Missouri election will be held in November of 2023

Municipal (local) elections are important!
Local ballot issues, who's in school board, city council, and mayor positions affect you here where you live and study!

Elections are on Tuesdays – plan accordingly!

Casting Your Vote in MO

Be Prepared

- Ensure you are registered in the county where you plan to vote.
- See a sample ballot from county clerk's website.
- View nonpartisan Voter Guides by:
 - League of Women Voters for major elections
 - Paws to the Polls guide for local elections
- Nonpartisan websites/apps on p. 7 of this booklet



Three [Ways to Vote](#) in Missouri (or see our Linktree, p. 3)

1. In-Person Voting on Election Day

Polls are open 6am to 7pm

You can vote at:

- MSU Welcome Center if you are registered here in Greene County
OR
- The polling location noted on your Voter ID card.
- See our Linktree for links to your polling location (if Greene County).



2. Absentee Voting by Mail

If you cannot vote in person in the county where you are registered on Election Day, one option is to vote absentee by mail.

Start the process early - see our Linktree for details!

3. “In-Person Absentee” Voting *before* Election Day

- Going home within six weeks of Election Day? Vote in person at your Election Authority – usually a County Clerk office.
- See our Linktree for more info!

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 Places 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

Problems at the Polls?



Nonpartisan election protection: call 866-687-8683 from your polling place if you are concerned that your voting rights are being infringed upon. Someone will help you immediately.



Voting FAQs

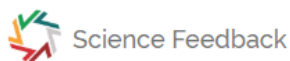
- **Where do I vote?**
At the polling location listed on your Voter ID card OR vote at MSU Welcome Center if registered to vote here in Greene County.
- **I'm unsure about some things on the ballot – do I have to vote for everything?**
No! Vote only for what you're sure about; your ballot will still count!
- **What if I 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.
- **Can I vote both here in Springfield and at home?**
No! It is illegal to vote more than once in any election; it's a felony in many states. But you can easily change your voter registration between elections.
- **Do I need to declare a political party when I register?**
No, declaring a political affiliation is optional in Missouri.

See our [website](#) for more voting Q and A.



Educate Yourself – Nonpartisan Sources

Fact-Checking websites:



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



ActiVote www.activote.net: App that is the one-stop shop for all things political: elected officials, candidates, current legislation, plus daily surveys and results

See Linktree (p. 3) for access to unbiased websites/apps, or click [here](#).

Voting and MSU's Public Affairs Mission

When you vote, you are using your voice to take part in the democratic process as well as fulfilling all three components of Missouri State's Public Affairs mission.

- Ethical Leadership
- Cultural Competence
- Community Engagement



Questions?

- Come by Strong Hall room 463, e-mail us at: pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu or visit <https://www.missouristate.edu/ADP/paws-to-the-polls.htm>
- Office of Public Affairs Support, Meyer Library Room 202-J (NW corner) 417-836-8832
- Greene County Clerk, countyclerk@greencountymo.gov, 417-868-4055
- Missouri Secretary of State <https://www.sos.mo.gov>

Follow me...



To the Polls

Follow our Instagram [@pawstothepolls](https://www.instagram.com/pawstothepolls) – and watch for our social media contests each semester!

<https://www.missouristate.edu/ADP/paws-to-the-polls.htm>

