



Early Voting

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Early voting applies to all elections, including municipal elections. T.C.A. §§ 2-6-101, *et seq.* The time and the place for early voting is not more than 20 days nor fewer than five days before the date of the election, at the office of the county election commission. However, in the case of a municipal election in which there is no opposition for any of the offices involved, the period is not more than 10 or fewer than five days before the election. Furthermore, with the exception of Nashville and Memphis, early voting is abolished in a municipal election not held in conjunction with a primary election, the regular August or November election or any special primary or general election for state or federal office if there is no opposition for any of the offices at issue.

The time during which the county election commission offices must be open for early voting is set in T.C.A. § 2-6-103 and includes certain Saturdays. However, municipalities of less than 5,000 in population may set the Saturday schedule. Certain rules govern the hours that election commission offices are open for early voting in municipal elections in the principal city in counties with a population of more than 150,000.

T.C.A. § 2-6-112 also provides that, at the request of the municipality, the county election commission must establish a satellite voting location for municipal elections, where the election is held at times other than the regular state general elections in August and November. The municipality is responsible for the cost of the satellite location.

The county election commission may choose not to have early voting at the election commission office when a municipality with a satellite voting location requests this. T.C.A. § 2-6-112.

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

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