

ACC STL Pro Bono Stand for Change Oct. 8, 2020

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MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION

It's National Voter Education Week!





Missouri Voter Protection Coalition



MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION

- I. Policy Advocacy
- II. Legal Advocacy & Litigation
- III. Education and Engagement
- IV. Election Protection



NAACP & LWV v. Missouri Lawsuit



ORAL ARGUMENTS OCT 6



Supreme Court of Missouri

Post Office Box 150 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102







Voting Rights Advocates Sue to Protect the Right to Vote of Missourians in the November 2020 Election

Challenge seeks to streamline processes for absentee and mail-in ballots and ensure counting of ballots cast by valid voters.

September 17, 2020

CONTACT:

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Danielle Spradley, ACLU of Missouri, dspradley@aclu-mo.org

ST. LOUIS, MO—Today, the Organization for Black Struggle, Missouri Faith Voices, the St. Louis and Greater Kansas City Chapters of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis Section filed a federal lawsuit against Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and Missouri's 116 local election authorities alleging that the state's absentee and mail voting systems place unlawful restrictions on Missourians' right to vote. The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, Dēmos, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition jointly represent the Plaintiffs.



ELECTION SUPPLIED PROTECTION

What is Election Protection?

- Nation's largest nonpartisan Voter Protection Coalition
- Hundreds of participating organizations
 - Legal Hotline
 - Poll Monitors
 - Social Media Monitors



 Goal: Every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot



ELECTION SURPROTECTION





#ProtectMoVoters



Purpose of Election Protection

- Help voters ensure all voters can cast a ballot
- Identify and Solve Problems
- Stop Deceptive Practices
- Stop Voter Suppression
- Collect data uncover obstacles, identify trends for advocacy & legal action



Why do we need Election Protection?

Help Voters

- Many voters are unaware of voting rules or changes
- Voters are empowered with information to assert their right to vote
- Identify problems and help voters advocate solutions
- Voter is able to cast a ballot

Collect Data

- Streamline the process
- Make the case for reforms
- Identify barriers and solutionson how to address them
- Identify impacted voters & witnesses



ELECTION The Process PROTECTION

COMPONENTS OF ELECTION PROTECTION:

- 1. Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE
 - Call Center Lawyers
 - Escalation Lawyers
- 2. Field Monitors
 - Poll Monitors
 - Social Media Monitors
- 3. Social Media Monitors



ELECTION SON PROTECTION

Questions or Problems Voting? CALL 1-866-OUR-VOTE

(1-866-687-8683) 866ourvote.org



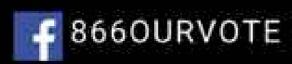
ELECTION SURPRISE

Questions about Voting?

Call us! We can help!

www.866ourvote.org





ELECTION PROTECTION ENGLISH

866-OUR-VOTE 866-687-8683

SPANISH/ENGLISH

888-VE-Y-VOTA

888-839-8682

ASIAN LANGUAGES/ENGLISH

888-API-VOTE

888-274-8683

ARABIC/ENGLISH

844-YALLA-US

844-925-5287



English



866-OUR-VOTE

Spanish



888-VE-Y-VOTA

Asian Languages





888-API-VOTE

Arabic



844-YALLA-US



CHAT WITH ELECTION PROTECTION

- 1) Go to <u>866ourvote.org</u>
- 2) Click on chat icon 💮
- 3) Complete the form and click "Start Chat" to get voting help





ELECTION 2020 Volunteer Roles

I.LEGAL (lawyers, law students, paralegals)

- Respond to Voter Calls into 866-OUR-VOTE
- Answer Questions from Field & Remote volunteers
- Research, Advocacy & Litigation Support

II.FIELD

- Contactless Poll Monitors (stay in car)
- Contactless Roving Monitors

III.SOCIAL MEDIA MONITOR

Remote-monitor media from home; stop misinformation

IV.SUPPORT

Put out signs, admin, etc.



SIGN UP at ProtectTheVote.net

ELECTION GUR PROTECTION





Election Protection in the age of COVID



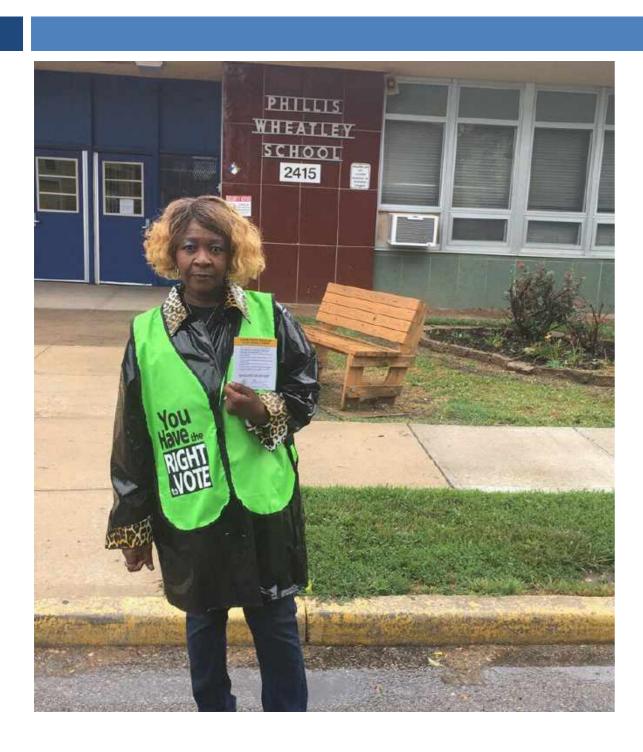


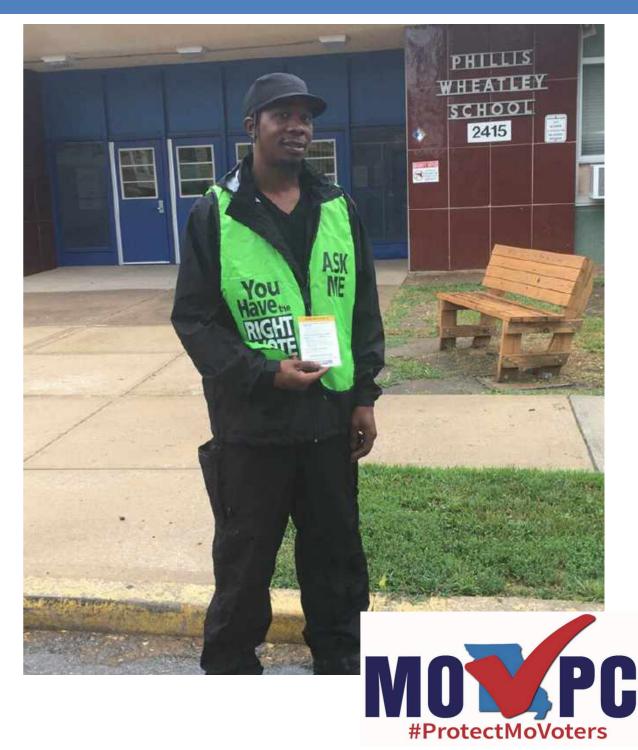
ELECTION PROTECTION COMMAND CENTER St. Louis - 2018



PROTECTION SURPLINE

ELECTION PROTECTION POLL MONITORS Kansas City - 2018









Election Protection in the Age of COVID

- Missouri Call Center is remote
- Lawyers handling escalated tickets to work remotely
- Field Program
 - Contactless Roving Monitors (stay in car)
 - Contactless Polling Place Monitors (with PPE)
 - Remote Monitors (monitor media from home)
 - More Yard Signs

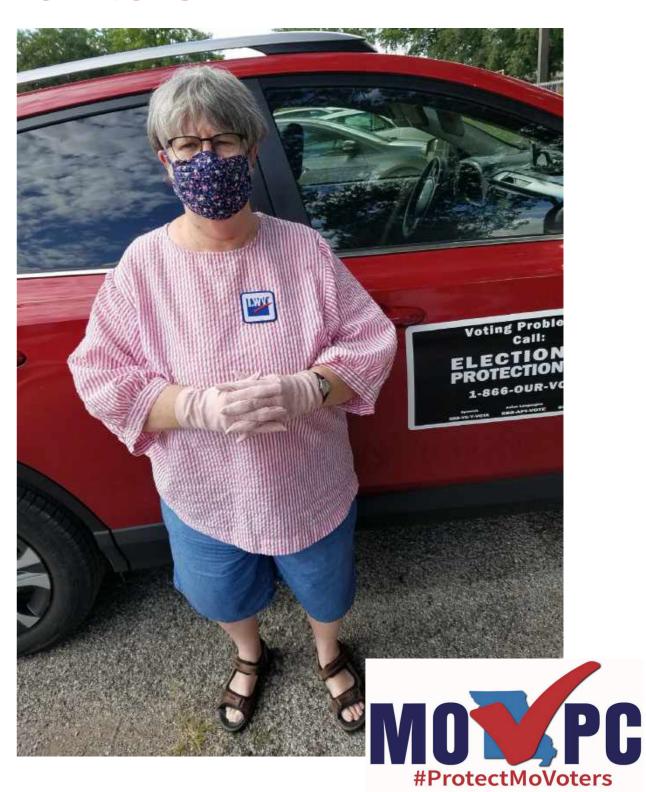




PROTECTION SURPLINE

Contactless Poll Monitors







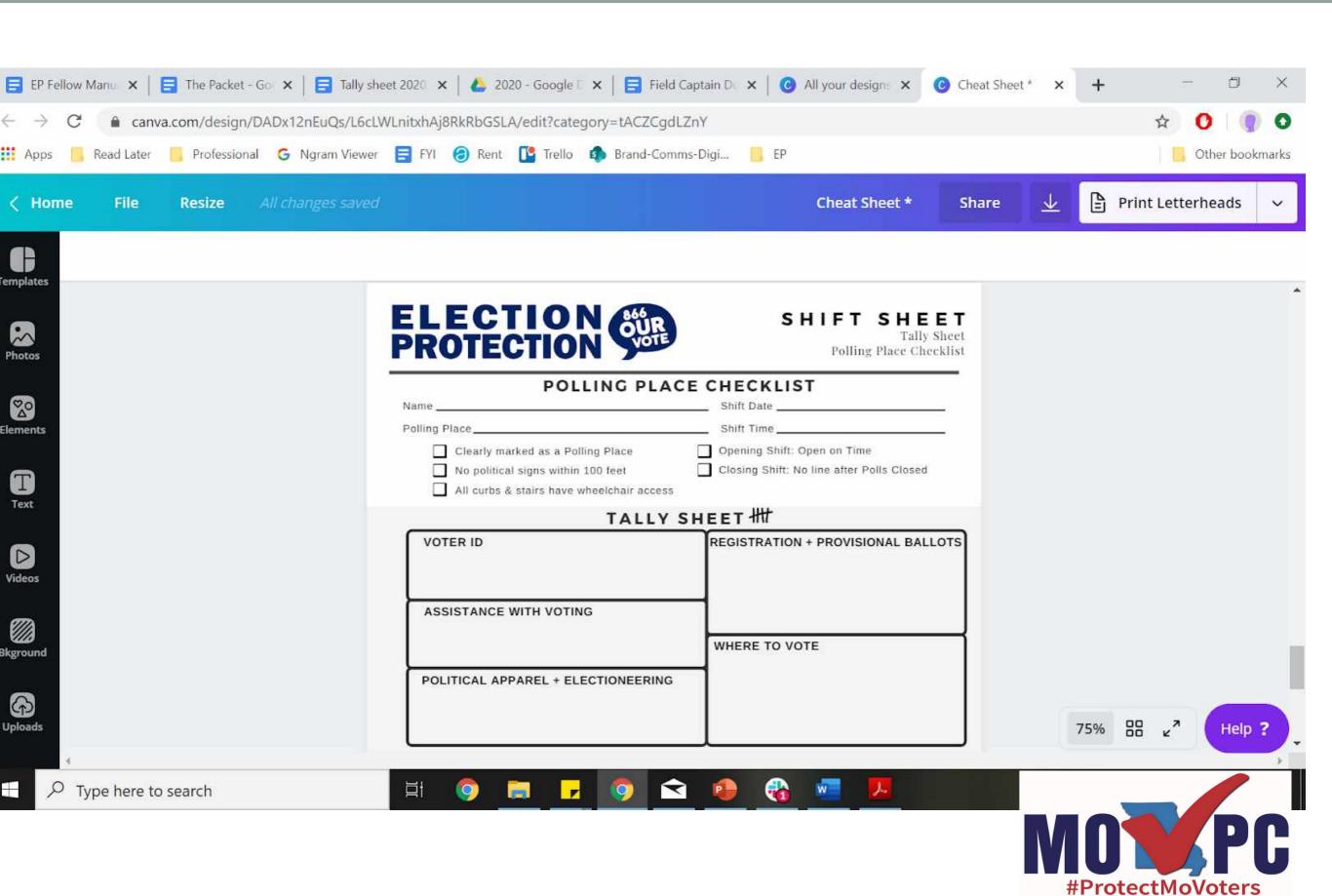
Roving Poll Monitors



Poll Monitor Basics

- Review your suggestedroute/Polling place list
- Visit your assignedpolling places duringpeak hours
- Observe conditions(i.e., lines, PPE, police)











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Questions Responses

PROTECTION PROTECTION

Missouri Primary Election - Election Protection **Roving Poll Monitor Reporting**

Please complete this form after you visit each polling location during your shift! If there are immediate issues that you want to flag for the Missouri Command Center, please call 866-OUR-VOTE.

Polling Place *			
Short answer text			

Poll Monitoring	Shift Time *
Time	(3)

Was the polling place open	at the time of your visit?*	
O Yes		
O No		
Other		

Is there clear and visible signage to indicate that the location is a p	olling place? *
○ Yes	
~ **	

Document!



ELECTION At The Polling Place

Things to Look Out For:

■ 866-OUR-VOTE sign visible

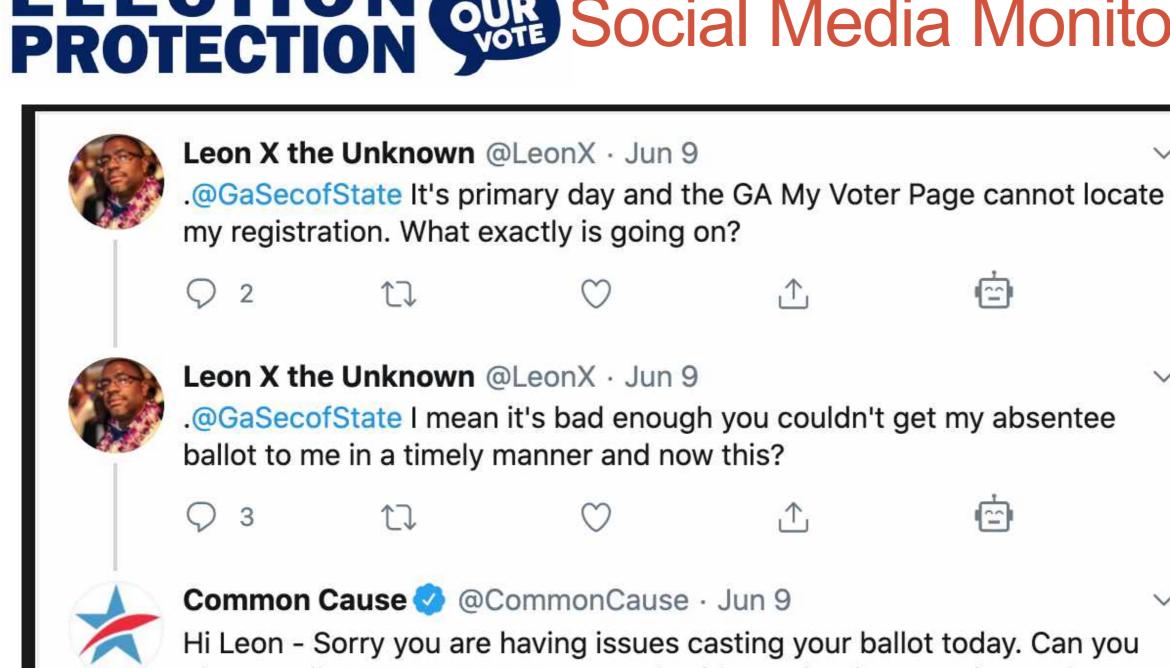
Long lines

PPE available

Voting Machines Not Working



ELECTION Social Media Monitors PROTECTION





Hi Leon - Sorry you are having issues casting your ballot today. Can you please call @8660URVOTE to speak with a trained nonpartisan volunteer? They are working to make sure voters get access to the ballot box and this information would help!











Before Election Day

On the ground before election day:

- Confer with election officials
- Prepare for Election Day protocols
- Legal advocacy where needed
- Support non-partisan civic engagement organizations
- Voter education/RTV workshops





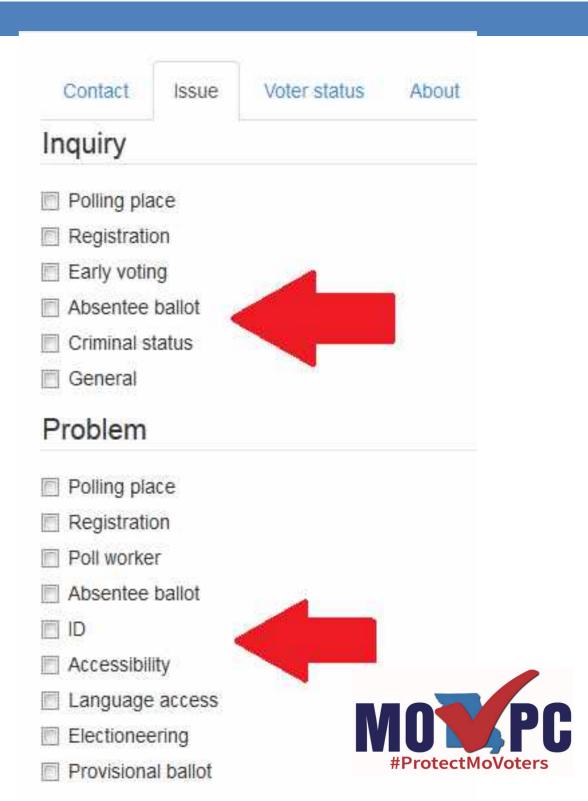
Process

- 1. Voters and monitors call into 866-OUR-VOTE hotline.
- 2. Call center lawyers gather information about the voter's situation and provide needed information to the voter.
- 3. If it was an inquiry, stop there. We're done.
- 4. All other unresolved issues go to lawyer escalation team, who call voter back, ask additional questions, document situation and assist voter or monitor in advocating their rights.
- 5. Next steps: coordination with legal team (on Zoom), research, written documentation & advocacy with election officials.
- 6. If demands not met, litigation team considers further action
- 7. Litigation as a last resort

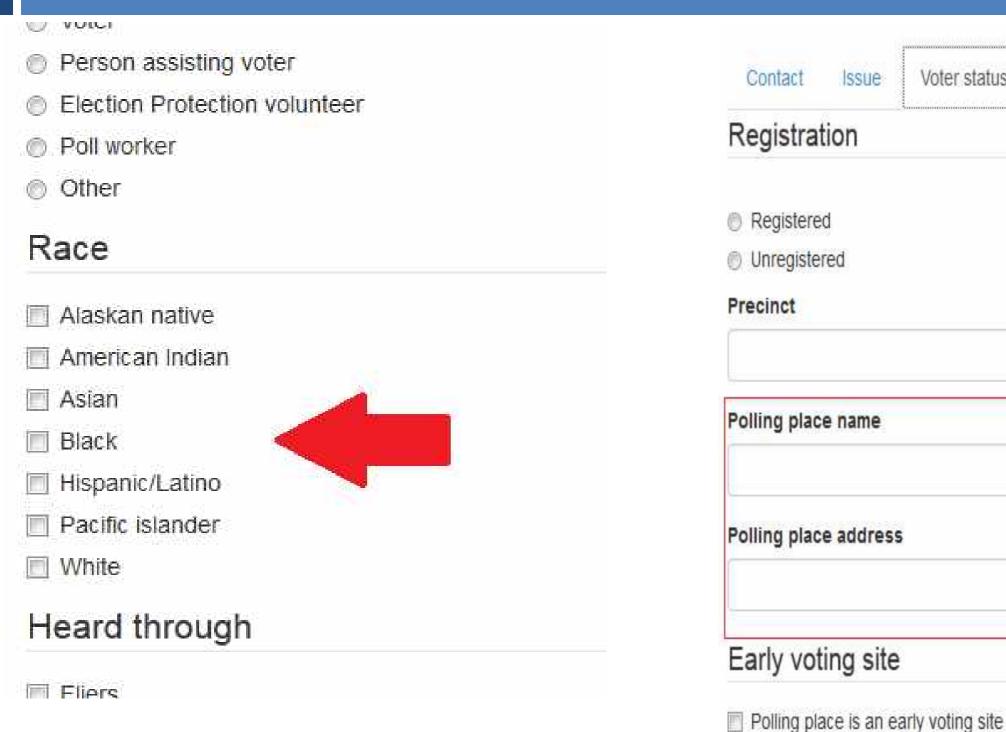
ELECTION SURPROTECTION

EP Database Documents calls into 866-OURVOTE

- **¤** Jurisdiction
- **a** Issue
- p Polling Place
- Demographic Info



ELECTION 555 PROTECTION 555



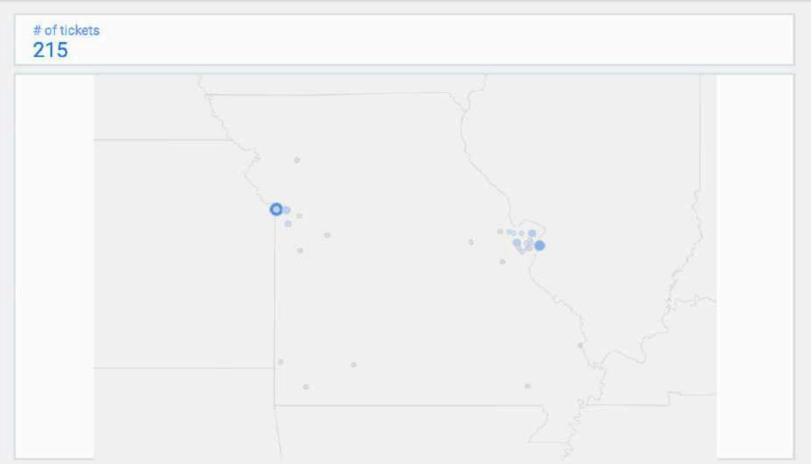
Contact Issue		
Registration	3	
Registered		
Unregistered		
Precinct		
Polling place name		
Polling place addre	iss	
Early voting sit	te	
		MO

#ProtectMoVoters

Election Protection | Missouri Overview



Polling Place

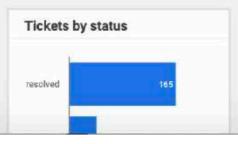


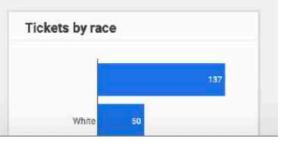
	County	# *
1.	St. Louis County	92
2.	Jackson County	38
3.	City of St. Louis	18
4.		9
5.	St. Louis city	8
6.	Greene County	8
7.	DeKalb County	5
8.	St. Charles County	5
9.	Franklin County	4
10.	Clay County	3
11.	Platte County	3

	City	# *
1.	Saint Louis	48
2.	Kansas City	29
3.	St. Louis County	21
4.	St Louis	16
5.	Springfield	8
6.	Florissant	7
7.		7
8.	Chesterfield	7
9.	Independence	6
10.	Missouri	5
11.	Jackson County	4

	Polling Place	# *
1.		189
2.	null	17
3.	Kaiser Elementary Sc	1
4.	BEULAH MISSIONARY	1
5.	Louis and Clark	1
6.	City of Refuge	1
7.	St. Ann's	1
8.	MOHART MULTI-PUR	1
9.	Shaw VPA Elementary	1
10.	Walbridge Community	1
11.	MISSOURI SCHOOL F	1



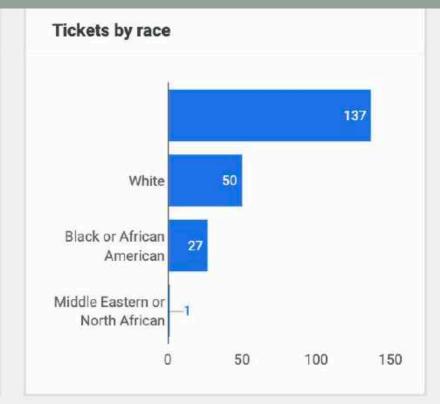






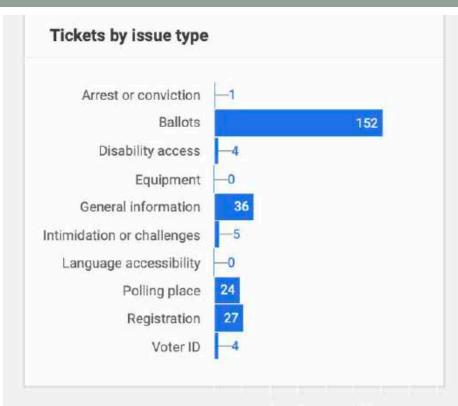




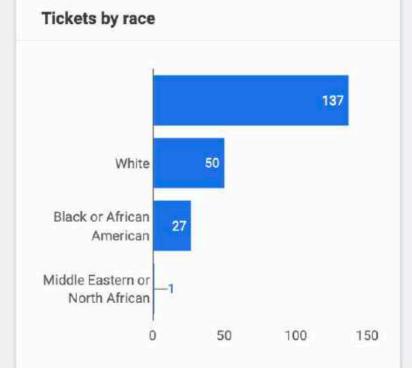


NOTE: All timestamps in the table are in Central Time.

	ID	OVL	Created *	State	County	City	Polling Pla	Subject	Issue	Status
1.	204914	Link	Jul 28, 2020, 8 AM	Missouri	St. Louis County	Kirkwood		VM - MO voter called and wants to know whether there was supposed to be an envelope included with her absentee ballot.	Ballots	open
2.	204917	Link	Jul 28, 2020, 8 AM	Missouri	St. Louis County	St. Louis County		MO - Voter wanted to know if he could bring his completed absentee ballot to the election office in person; I informed him he could and gave him the	Ballots	resolved
3.	204921	Link	Jul 28, 2020, 8 AM	Missouri	St. Louis County	University City		VM - MO voter applied to get her absentee ballot at her address in Portland, OR because she is currently away from her permanent address in MO.	Ballots	open
4.	204911	Link	Jul 27, 2020, 3 PM	Missouri	Clay County	Kansas City	null	AB ballot not yet received. I gave her the phone no for her boe.	Ballots	resolved
5.	204901	Link	Jul 27, 2020, 2 PM	Missouri	Jackson County	Independenc e		Voter wanted to know where to vote but would not give me contact information or her name.	Polling place lookup	resolved
6.	204866	Link	Jul 27, 2020, 11 AM	Missouri	St. Louis County	Saint Louis		Voter says he has trouble verifying his eligibility to vote. He received information from the election board that polling station has been changed.	Polling place lookup Registration Intimidation or challenges General information	open
7.	204857	Link	Jul 27, 2020, 11 AM	Missouri	St. Louis County	Ladue		Voter says local election office resolved her and her neighbors' missing absentee ballots.	Ballots	resolved
8.	204855	Link	Jul 27, 2020, 11 AM	Missouri	St. Louis County	St. Louis County		VM - MO voter wants to know where she can drop off her absentee ballot since she doesn't trust sending the ballot by mail for the 8/4 election.	Ballots	resolved







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Remember:

☑ Call the EP hotline (866-OUR-VOTE) 866-687-8683 to report problems and get help answering questions.

We are nonpartisan we help all voters. Don't share your political beliefs with voters or other volunteers. You cannot advocate for a candidate or ballot issue while volunteering for Election Protection



Do not refer to a voter as a client. Refer to yourself as an Election

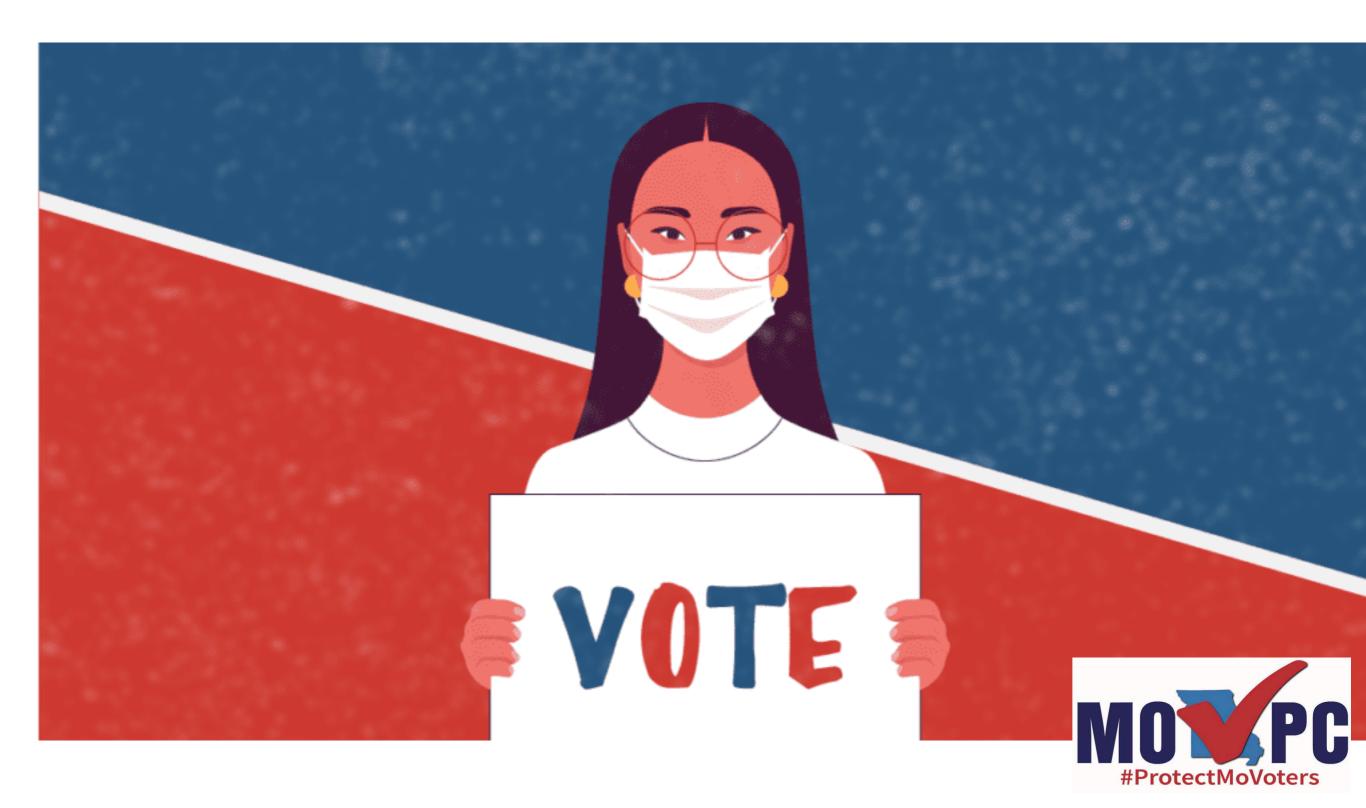


KEY ISSUES IN MISSOURI IN 2020

- Remote & Absentee voting: Absentee, Mail Ballots & Notary Requirements
- 2. Voter ID Requirements
- 3. Criminal Record Restrictions
- 4. Polling Place Closures
- 5. Curbside & Accessible Voting Requirements
- 6. Misinformation
- 7. Voter Intimidation



Voting in the age of COVID



MOVPC Recommendations to Ensure Voting in Missouri Amid the COVID-19 Crisis

- 1. All voters should be able to cast an absentee ballot by mail.
- 2. In-person advance voting.
- 3. Bolster voter registration opportunities.
- 4. Polling place modifications consistent with CDC Guidelines for Polling Sites.
- 5. Robust voter education.





Make A Voting Plan!

Make sure you are registered & make a plan to vote!

I NEED TO VOTE BY MAIL In Missouri, the best, most flexible way to vote by mail in 2020 is to request an ABSENTEE BY MAIL ballot using the excuse that best fits your situation. Health-related excuses #2 and #7 will not require a notary. Use MOVOTE.ORG for a quick online application process. This ballot can be returned IN PERSON or by a close family member to avoid mail delays.
I CAN VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON If you have one of the seven excuses for voting absentee, you can cast that ballot IN PERSON at your election authority office starting on September 22, 2020.
I CAN VOTE ON ELECTION DAY Wear a mask and gloves, and bring your own pen if possible. Or you can vote CURBSIDE from your car if you cannot go inside.
I HAVE QUESTIONS Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) to get free help for any questions or problems you have.











Missouri Absentee & Mail Ballots-2020

Excuse-based ABSENTEE Ballot

- 1. Away from jurisdiction
- Confined due to illness or disability (or serving as a caretaker) - NO NOTARY
- 3. Religious belief
- 4. Working as a poll worker
- 5. Incarcerated
- 6. Address confidentiality program
- 7. At-Risk Category for COVID-19 NO NOTARY

No-Excuse MAIL-IN Ballot

- Any Missouri Voter Can request a Mail-in Ballot
- Mail-in Ballots Must Be Notarized
- All Mail-in Ballots Must be Returned by US Mail



New Law for Voting in 2020

 Have or in at risk category for COVID-19? vote absentee All other Missouri voters can vote by mail in 2020

– NO NOTARY REQUIRED

– BALLOT MUST BE NOTARIZED



"at-risk" Categories - NO NOTARY Req'd

"at-risk" for COVID includes any voter who is:

- over age 65+
- in a long term care facility,
- chronic lung disease, or moderate/severe asthma
- serious heart condition,
- immunocompromised,
- diabetes,
- liver disease,
- chronic kidney disease/dialysis



MISSOURIANS CAN VOTE BY MAIL IN 2020



Questions or problems? Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE



STEP 1: ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN BALLOT?

By Mail: Voters with an excuse (such as confinement due to illness, or those at risk for COVID-19, including ALL voters over age 65) can vote Absentee by Mail. Others can cast a no-excuse Mail-in Ballot.

In Person: Voters can vote Absentee in person at their local election office

starting Stepbmer 22, 2020

STEP 2: APPLY FOR YOUR BALLOT!

To get an Absentee or no-excuse Mail-in Ballot by mail, send a request to your local election office. Find an application at sos.mo.gov. Ballot requests must be received by Oct. 21, but send it in as early as you can! Your application must be signed and if voting absentee, must list the reason you are voting absentee.



STEP 3: SEND THE FORM TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICE

Mail-In Ballot requests must be delivered in person or by mail.

Absentee Ballot applications can be sent by email or fax as well as mailed or delivered in person. The request must be received by Oct. 21 but send it AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE!

STEP 4: MAKE SURE YOUR REQUEST WAS ACCEPTED

Mistakes in filling out the form can result in your ballot request being rejected. Call after you send it in to make sure everything is OK, giving yourself time to correct any errors.







MAKE YOUR BALLOT COUNT IN 2020



Questions or problems? Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE



ABSENTEE

VOTING

BEGINS

SEPT. 22

Call your local election office to make sure they mailed your ballot to you. If you don't receive a ballot within two weeks of confirming your application, you can request a replacement, vote absentee in person or vote at the polls on Election Day.

STEP 5: CAST YOUR BALLOT

Voters have a right to assistance if they need help casting their ballot. The assistant will need to sign the ballot envelope where indicated. For nonpartisan information on what's on your ballot, visit Vote411.org



STEP 6: SEAL, SIGN, & DELIVER

Once you have voted, put the ballot in the envelope and seal it.

Complete the statement on the envelope, verify your address, and sign the ballot envelope, in front of a notary if required. Absentee ballots cast for to a health-related reason DO NOT require a notary.

STEP 7: MEET THE DEADLINE

Your ballot must be <u>RECEIVED</u> at your local election office by 7pm on Election Day. Absentee Ballots can be mailed in or dropped off in person. Mail-In Ballots can ONLY be submitted by US mail. Mail your ballot well in advance. Call to make sure it was received & accepted, and your options to vote at the polls if it hasn't arrived.







BY MAIL:

What Kind of Mail-Ballot is Right for Me?

Excuse-based ABSENTEE Ballot

- 1. Away from jurisdiction
- Confined due to illness or disability (or serving as a caretaker) - NO NOTARY
- 3. Religious belief
- 4. Working as a poll worker
- 5. Incarcerated
- 6. Address confidentiality program
- 7. At-Risk Category for COVID-19- NO NOTARY

No-Excuse MAIL-IN Ballot

- Any Missouri Voter Can request a Mail-in Ballot
- Mail-in Ballots Must Be Notarized
- All Mail-in Ballots Must be Returned by US Mail



What's the difference between Absentee by Mail &

No-Excuse Mail hallots?

Absentee: Requires excuse

Application can be returned by:

- Mail

By the voter or close relative

Ballot can be returned:

- US Mail

By the voter or close relative

Some Must Be Notarized

Mail: No excuse

Application can be returned by:

- ⊌ Mail
- In-person

By the voter or close relative

Ballot can be returned:

US Mail Only

All Must be Notarized



Know the difference

BETWEEN ABSENTEE BY MAIL & MAIL-IN BALLOTS IN MISSOURI

Absentee By Mail

- •Requested using an EXCUSE indicated on the application. Health-related excuses waive the ballot envelope notary requirement, but other absentee ballot envelopes will need to be notarized
- Applications can be submitted by email or fax in addition to in-person or by mail
- Ballots can be returned to the Election Board in person or by an immediate family member
- Voters can also simply vote absentee in person at the election board

Mail-In

- No excuse needed
- Applications can only be submitted in person or by mail
- Ballot envelopes must be notarized
- Ballots can ONLY be returned via US MAIL

REQUEST FOR MISSOURI ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 3, 2020

gahone Number:	\$7 A\$V\$W						
	Emeil Address:						
as to which ballot is to be maile	d (If different than above);						
	And the control of th						
The second second							
<u> </u>	ZIP Code:						
SSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST (S	elect ONE reason): LLY NOTED BELOW)						
Absence on Election Day from the	ne jurisdiction of the election authority in which I am registered						
	Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including caring for a person who is incapacitated o confined due to illness or disability. (No Notary Required)						
Religious belief or practice							
Employment as an election auth	ority or by an election authority at a location other than my polling place						
Incarceration, although I have re	tained all the necessary qualifications for voting						
Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589,660 to 589,661, RSN because of safety concerns							
	risk category for contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory syndrome , usint to Section 116.277.6, RSMo. (No Notary Required)						
	At-risk voters are individuals who:						
Are 65 years of age or older Have serious heart conditions Are introunocompromised Have liver disease	Live in a long-term care facility licensed under Chapter 198, RSMo. Have chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma Have chronic kidney disease and are undergoing distysis Have diabetes						
ou request an absentee ballot, this form of	ray be returned to your local election authority in person, by mail, by fax, or by email.						
AIL-IN BALLOT REQUEST:							
OTARY REQUIRED FOR ALL MAIL IN BA							
	est a mail-in ballot. If selecting this option, this form must be delivered y in person or by mail only.						







REQUEST FO	R MISSOURI ABSENTEE OR MAIL IN BALLOT
GENE	RAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 3, 2020
foter's Name	
	A SUCTED SHOW OF THE SHOW OF THE SHOW OF THE SUCKEY
or identification purposes: Date of Birth (N	M/OD/YY) or last four digits of Social Security number
agratered Voting Address:	1
ty.	ZIP Code:
elephone Number:	Email Address:
ddress to which ballot is to be mailed (f different than above);
Street:	Section (Control of Mark
South	
By.	ZIP Code
confined due to illness or disability. Religious belief or practice Employment as an election authori Incarcecation, although I have retai Certified participation in the address because of safety concerns I have contracted or am in an all-ris coronevirus 2 (CCVID-19), pursuar	y or by an election authority at a location other than my polling place ned all the necessary qualifications for voting a confidentiality program established under sections 589,660 to 589,681, RSMs k category for contracting or transmitting severs acute respiratory syndrome . It to Section 115,277.6, RSMo. (No Notary Required)
Are 65 years of age or older	At-risk voters are Individuals who: Live in a long-term care facility sceneed under Chapter 198, RSMs.
Have serious heaf conditions Are symunocompromised Have Ever disease	Have chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma Have chronic kidney disease and are undergoing distysis Have distretes.
you request an absence belief, this form may	be returned to your local election authority in person, by mail, by fax, or by email.
MAIL-IN BALLOT REQUEST: NOTARY REQUIRED FOR ALL MAIL-IN BALL	OTS)
Any registered voter can reques to your local election authority is	t a mail-in ballot. If selecting this option, this form must be delivered in person or by mail only.
I do solemnly awear that all statement	s made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge and beliaf
Spoker of Regionred Votes	Date
	authority Contact information can be found on the Masouri Secretary of State's

Absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are two different things.

If you are using this application, found on the MO SOS website, fill out one section or the other, NOT BOTH. Filling out both sections may result in delays in your application being processed.

This section is for absentee ballots.

This section is for mail-in ballots.



In-Person Absentee Voting: Sept. 22

Excuse-based Absentee Ballot

- 1. Away from jurisdiction
- Confined due to illness or disability (or serving as a caretaker)
- 3. Religious belief
- 4. Working as a poll worker
- 5. Incarcerated
- 6. Address confidentiality program
- 7. At-Risk Category for COVID-19

IN PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING

- In-person absentee voting begins Sept. 22, 2020
- Can vote absentee in-person until 5p.m. Mon. Nov. 2
- In-person absentee voting available Saturday Oct. 31
- Vote in-person at local election authority (& satellites)
- Must present ID
- NO notary required





notaryhub.movpc.org

How do I vote?

Download our quick reference guide and make sure your voice is heard.

Download the Guide



Get My Ballot Notarized

Find A Notary

Become A Notary

Interested in becoming a notary so that you can notarize ballots? We'll walk you through the process

Become A Notary

Get Your Ballot Notarized

Need your ballot notarized? We'll help you find a notary.

Find A Notary

Organize

Does your organization that wants to host a notarization drive? We'll connect you to notaries.

Get Connected

Help Notarize Ballots

Already a notary? Volunteer to notarize ballots.

Volunteer



Acceptable IDs to Vote

Present ONE of the following forms of identification (examples).

ID issued by state of Missouri or the U.S. government



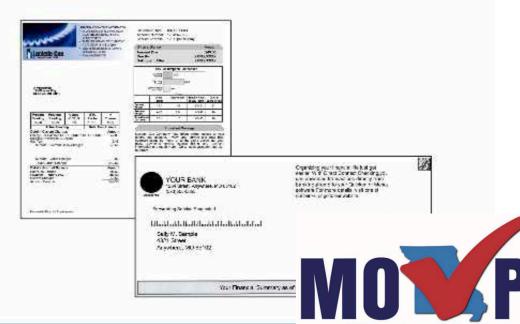
ID from a Missouri university, college, vocational or technical school



ID issued by a local election authority



A current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains the name and address of the voter



#ProtectMoVoters

NO ID? Provisional Ballot

Registered, but have no ID. Vote a provisional ballot.



There are two ways your vote counts:

- If you come back to your polling place on election day and show a photo ID, your vote counts.
- If your signature matches the signature in the voter registry, your vote counts.



Revised January 2020

If you're a registered voter, you can vote!







More than 35 million Americans with Disabilities 1/6 of the total electorate are eligible to vote in the U.S. but many face accessibility barriers in

registering and voting.

Accessibility

- Help America Vote Act requires accessible voting equipment & ballots
- Americans with Disabilities Act –
 prohibits discrimination based on
 a disability
- Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act - mandates accessible polling places
- Voting Rights Act Sec. 208 –
 ensues the right to assistance in voting





Assistance at Polling Place 115.445 RSMo

- ✓ Voters can request help from a pair of election officials <u>OR</u> bring any person of their choice if they need help before, during or after voting
- Assistant does not need to be 18, a registered voter or US citizen.
- Children ARE allowed in polling place





Accessible Voting 115.436 RSMo

- Curbside voting
- Hospital voting
- All polls must have accessible voting machines
- Reassign polling place
- Permanent absentee voter list





Misinformation & Intimidation

- False rhetoric of voter fraud and "rigged" elections
- Deceptive flyers & social media
- Misleading robocalls
- Targeting of particular communities for voter challenges; use of flawed lists
- Unwanted/invasive photography
- Undue police presence at the polls
- Brandishing weapons
- Blocking or impeding entrances to polling places
- Aggressive poll watchers
- Baseless Challenges



Everyone's Talking About Disinformation

That Uplifting Tweet You Just Shared? A Russian Troll Sent It

Here's what Russia's 2020 disinformation operations look like, according to two experts on social media and propaganda.

By DARREN LINVILL & PATRICK WARREN



How TikTok could be a player in election disinformation

How neighbourhood app Nextdoor is driving both community aid and conspiracy theories

Inside 4chan's Election Day Mayhem And Misinformation Playbook TECH

Facebook civil rights audit warns of Trump, voter suppression ahead of presidential election

Jessica Guynn USA TODAY

Published 8:32 n.m. ET Jul. 8, 2020 | Updated 6:15 p.m. ET Jul. 17, 2020

"Outright Lies": Voting Misinformation Flourishes on Facebook

Study: Chinese-American immigrants fall prey to WeChat's misinformation problem



or people who feel unsafe about voting in person but now fear the USPS will be unable to deliver a "mailin" ballot in a timely fashion — here is a way around it:

- 1. Request a mail-in h
- 2. Do not mailet.
- 3. Good to long superist of elections to the transport of your many labels. It's usually NOT THE POLING PLACE. All soft is allow this! Here is what you're are a lishing by doing this:
- Your ballot gets in on time no net re what happens to the USBS.
- 2. You don't have to come but standing in a general ricking infection. Suppling by to drop it off.
- 3. You still voted! Hooray!
- 4. Also, when you drop it off, find out how to track it online to make sure it is verified. California, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado have systems that can track your ballot just like tracking a package from Amazon.

In Missouri, only Absentee by Mail Ballots can be returned in person. No-excuse Mail-In Ballots can only be returned by mail.



WELL-INTENTIONED MISINFORMATION IS STILL HARMFUL

STOP BEFORE

- DON'T COPY & PASTE POSTS
 WITH VOTING INFO
- DON'T SHARE MEMES OR GRAPHICS THAT YOU CAN'T TRACE DIRECTLY TO A KNOWN AUTHORITY SUCH AS MOVPC OR THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
- •CALL THE ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE AT 1-866-OUR-VOTE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

YOUSHARE

voting info online



Source: The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition

The New York Times

Trump Renews Fears of Voter Intimidation as G.O.P. Poll Watchers Mobilize

Republicans are putting together what they call an army of Trump supporters to monitor election procedures.

Sept. 30, 2020







"I'm urging my supporters to go into the polls and watch very carefully, because that's what has to happen. I am urging them to do it,"



NEWS | POLITICS & ELECTIONS

The Trump Campaign Is Deploying "Army" of Poll Watchers to Intimidate Voters

"What we're seeing include calls for civil war and racebased conflict through increased acquisition of weapons and also calling for a physical response and presence at polling places."





Voter Intimidation

Voter suppression, intimidation, misleading information and disorderly conduct are illegal under federal and Missouri law.

baseless challenges
intimidating voters
spreading false information
interfering with a voter or polling place
Police presence



Who Can Be at the Polls in Missouri

Poll Watchers

- Outside the Polls
- Anyone
- No list or credential
- Must Stay within buffer zone (no closer than 25 feet)
- Can impede or block entrance/exit
- Cannot intimidate voters

Challengers

- Can be inside polls
- Credentialed by political parties
- Names submitted ahead of time
- Can stand next to check-in table and challenge eligibility of voters
- Cannot talk to voters
- Cannot disrupt voting process





Rules Prohibiting Intimidation at the Polls

Prohibited everywhere:

- Discrimination or targeting voters based on race, sex or disability or other characteristics
- Baseless challenges
- Interfering with right to vote.

Differs by state:

- Challenge protocols
- Buffer zone lengths
- Poll watcher rules
- Photography



ELECTION OF PROTECTION

Voting Rights Act Sec. 11(b)

"No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intimidate, threaten, coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such other person to vote or to vote as he may choose, or of causing such other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for [federal] office."



Federal Law Prohibits Intimidation

Intimidating voters is a 5-year felony.

—52 USC 20511

Conspiring to intimidate voters is a 10-year felony.
 — 18 USC 241

 Violence to interfere with voting is a 10-year felony.

— 18 USC 245

Constitutional Advocacy and Protection GEORGETOWN LAW

Fact Sheet: Unlawful Militias in Missouri

What is a militia?

Federal and state laws generally use the term "militia" to refer to all able-bodied residents between certain ages who may be called forth by the government to defend the United States or an individual state. See 10 U.S.C. § 246. When not called forth, they are sometimes referred to as the "unorganized militia." A group of people who consider themselves part of the able-bodied residents referred to as members of the militia under state or federal law is not legally permitted to activate itself for duty. A private militia that attempts to activate itself for duty, outside of the authority of the state or federal government, is illegal.

How do I know if a group of armed people is an unauthorized private militia?

Groups of armed individuals that engage in paramilitary activity or law enforcement functions without being called forth by a governor or the federal government and without reporting to any government authority are acting as unauthorized private militias. They sometimes train together and respond to events using firearms and other paramilitary techniques, such as staking out tactical positions and operating in military-style formations. They often purport to have authority to engage in military and law enforcement functions such as protecting property and engaging in crowd control.

These groups often engage in behaviors that show their intent to act as a private militia, such as wearing militarystyle uniforms, tactical gear, or identifying insignia; wielding firearms or other weapons; and operating within a coordinated command structure. Other factors—such as statements by leaders or members' efforts to direct the actions of others—also may suggest that a group is acting as a private militia. Groups of armed individuals may engage in unauthorized militia activity even if they do not consider themselves to be "members" of a paramilitary organization.

Does the Second Amendment protect private militias?

No. In fact, the Supreme Court decided in 1886—and repeated in 2008—that the Second Amendment "does not prevent the prohibition of private paramilitary organizations." *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 621 (2008) (citing *Presser v. Illinois*, 116 U.S. 252 (1886)).

Is it legal to act as a private militia in Missouri?

No. All 50 states prohibit private, unauthorized militias and military units from engaging in activities reserved for the state militia, including law enforcement activities. Some, including Missouri, also prohibit paramilitary activity during or in furtherance of a civil disorder. Missouri's laws are described below:

Missouri Constitution: The Missouri Constitution forbids private military units from operating outside state authority, providing that "[t]he military shall be always in strict subordination to the civil power." Mo. Const. art. I, § 24.

Missouri Statute - Prohibition on paramilitary activity: It is a felony in Missouri to "teach[] or demonstrate[] to any other person the use, application, or construction of any firearm, explosive, or incendiary device capable of causing injury or death to any person, knowing or intending that such firearm, explosive, or incendiary device be used in furtherance of a civil disorder." Mo. Rev. Stat. § 574.070(2).



ELECTION Missouri Law

It is illegal to induce, threaten, impede or prevent or attempt to impede or prevent someone from voting by abduction, duress or any fraudulent device.

115.635 RSMo



ELECTION SURPROTECTION

No one may electioneer or try to influence a vote within 25 feet of the entrance of the polling place

Electioneering & intimidation 115.637 RSMo





Electioneering & intimidation 115.637 RSMo

No one at a polling place may interfere with voting or intimidate voters, including police.





MYTHS! You can still vote!



- **▼** Felony*
- Unpaid Tickets
- Unpaid Child
 Support
- Unpaid Taxes
- **Warrant**



Election Protection



1-866-OUR-VOTE

(1-866-687-8683)



THANK YOU!
Denise Lieberman
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Missouri Voter Protection Coalition