

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be registered, but if uncorrected (see below), she will have to provide identification before voting or at the polls.

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number only.

How precise is the match standard? Mississippi intends to use an exact match standard, but has not yet finalized the criteria by which a match will be sought.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? Mississippi intends to use a fully automated system, but has not yet completed system design and has not yet fully determined the extent of human discretion that will be involved.

Description of matching process: The Secretary of State will attempt to match information on voter registration forms with information in records collected by DPS, but the process by which a match will be sought has not yet been determined. Currently, the state expects to seek an exact match of the identifying number alone. If the number can be found on Mississippi records, it will be deemed verified, and the voter will be exempt from identification requirements; if not, the voter will be registered, but must present identification at the polls.

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered, but if uncorrected (see below), she must show identification at the polls.

Mississippi will also send each prospective registrant a notification form; if the notice is returned as undeliverable, the registration will be rejected.⁵

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? Mississippi leaves this decision to the discretion of each circuit clerk. If the clerk believes that the defect is minor, and that the additional information can be supplied by mail or over the phone, the applicant may correct the error by mail or over the phone at any point before the close of voter registration.⁶

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? Mississippi leaves this decision to the discretion of each circuit clerk. If the clerk believes that the defect is minor, and that the additional information can be supplied by mail or over the phone, the applicant may correct the error by mail or over the phone at any point before the close of voter registration.⁷

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Mississippi leaves this decision to the discretion of each circuit clerk.

Description of notice and correction process: The circuit clerk will attempt to notify an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified, and if the circuit clerk believes that the defect is minor, the applicant may correct the error at any point before the close of registration.⁸ If the identifying number is not supplied or cannot be verified, the applicant will still be registered, but must provide identification at the polls.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? A voter who has not submitted a copy of valid identification, and whose identifying number has not been verified, must provide identification at the polls.

Forms of ID:

voters without verified identifying number:	current and valid photo ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov't document w/ name, address
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Note: Naturalized Mississippi citizens must also present a certified copy of the final order of naturalization or a certificate of naturalization at the time of registration.⁹

What forms of identification are accepted? A current and valid photo ID, a voter identification card, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter may cast a provisional ballot. The ballot will be counted if the county election commissioners believe the vote to have been cast by a properly registered voter or an eligible voter who was illegally denied registration.¹⁰

Statutes and Regulations

MISS. CODE ANN. §§ 23-15-11 *et seq.* generally concern registration. MISS. CODE ANN. § 23-15-165 directs the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration database. There are no applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ MISS. CODE ANN. §§ 23-15-47(2)(a), 23-15-125. Note that MISS. CODE ANN. § 23-15-79(2) seems to conflict, in stating that the date of receipt, not the date of postmark, is the relevant date for deadline purposes.

² electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 19; electionline.org, *Statewide Voter Registration Database Status*, at <http://www.electionline.org/Default.aspx?tabid=288>.

³ MISS. CODE ANN. §§ 23-15-35(2)-(3).

⁴ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁵ MISS. CODE ANN. § 23-15-47(2)(c).

⁶ *Id.* § 23-15-47(2)(e).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.* § 23-15-15.

¹⁰ *Id.* § 23-15-573.

MISSISSIPPI VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

IMPORTANT!

- If you are not registered to vote where you now live, you can use this form to register to vote or report that your name or address has changed.
- If you have questions call your county Circuit Clerk or call the Secretary of State at 1-800-829-6786.
- Complete all sections of this form, then mail or hand deliver it to your county Circuit Clerk AT LEAST 30 days before the election in which you want to vote.
- If you are qualified and the information on your form is complete, you will be mailed a voter card that tells you where to vote.

Section I. APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Please select one of the following: New Registration Change of Information

- 1) Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes No *NOTE: If you checked "No" in response to questions 1 or 2, do not complete this form.*
- 2) Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day? Yes No
- 3) Would you like to serve as an Election Day Poll Worker? Yes No

CIRCLE Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name:	First Name:	Middle/Maiden Name:	Suffix: (JR, II)
Physical Home Address (Number & Street/Road/Dorm/Apt. or Lot #):		City:	County:	State: MS Zip:
Mailing Address (if different from above, include zip code):			Date of Birth:	
Mississippi Driver's License Number (If you do not have a driver's license, then list the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number): ***				

*****Identification Requirement:** If you do not have a driver's license or social security number, and this form is submitted by mail, and you have never registered to vote in the county you are now registering in, you must send, with this application, either a) a copy of current and valid photo identification, or b) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. If you do not provide the information requested above, you may be required to provide to election officials either (a) or (b) above the first time you vote after January 1, 2004 at a voting place or by absentee ballot.

Section II. IF YOU WERE PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME OR ADDRESS, LIST THAT NAME OR ADDRESS

CIRCLE Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name:	First Name:	Middle/Maiden Name:	Suffix: (JR, II)
Previous Address (Number & Street/Road/Dorm/Apt. or Lot #):				
Previous City:	Previous County:	Previous State:	Previous Zip:	

Section III. VOTER DECLARATION- Read and Sign

I swear/affirm that: I am a U.S. citizen. I will have lived in this state and county for at least 30 days before voting, and if a resident of a municipality, I will have lived in the municipality for at least 30 days before voting. I have never been convicted of murder, arson, armed robbery, bigamy, bribery, embezzlement, extortion, felony bad check, felony shoplifting, forgery, larceny, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, rape, receiving stolen property, robbery, theft, timber larceny, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, statutory rape, or carjacking, or I have had my rights restored as required by law. I have not been declared mentally incompetent by a court. Furthermore, I certify that I am at least eighteen (18) years old (or I will be before the next general election), the information given by me is true and correct and that I have truly answered all questions on this application for registration, and that I will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Mississippi, and will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

X _____ Date: _____
Signature (or mark) of applicant

X _____ Date: _____
If applicant is unable to sign, the person who assisted the applicant must sign above

Daytime phone number(s) where applicant can be reached _____

WARNING: False registration is a felony. The penalty for conviction of false registration is imprisonment for not more than five (5) years or a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5000), or both.