

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, last name, first initial, and date of birth.

How precise is the match standard? The SSN must match exactly, and either the date of birth, last name, or first initial must also match exactly.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? The matching process is fully automated.

Description of matching process: Currently, the state elections office regularly receives an electronic file from the Department of Public Safety; state officials use this file to perform the automatic match. Tennessee plans to link the databases in real-time in the near future. Results of the match will be sent to county elections offices for any necessary follow-up.

Note: Tennessee takes three additional steps before placing an applicant on the rolls. County officials will manually attempt to match each applicant's street address against a database of valid street addresses; if no match can be found, the application will be rejected. County officials will also manually attempt to match the applicant's name and date of birth against the database of persons with felony convictions; if a match is found, the application will be rejected. Finally, county election officials will mail a voter registration card to each prospective registrant. If the card is returned, the address is checked for errors and the card is sent again; if the card is again returned, the application will be rejected.⁵

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? The applicant will be registered, but like all voters, she will have to show identification at the polls.

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? No. The applicant may submit a new form with correct information by the voter registration deadline, or may appear in person to correct the information at the county election commission up through 5 days before the election.⁶

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? Tennessee has no relevant stated policy.

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Yes, if the correction is made in person at the county election commission up through 5 days before the election.

Description of notice and correction process: The county election commission will attempt to notify, by mail or telephone, an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, or illegible; the application will be considered "pending." The

applicant may correct the missing information by mailing in a new registration form by the voter registration deadline, or by appearing at the office of the county election commission up until 5 days before the election.⁷ Tennessee law also provides that the county commission “may correct any errors in registration records which are apparent on the face of the records or which are called to its attention by the voter whose record is incorrect.”⁸

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? Every voter must provide identification at the polls. In addition, a voter whose registration is “pending” on Election Day must show proof of residence to vote a provisional ballot.⁹

What forms of identification are accepted?

A voter whose registration is “pending” must, in order to vote a provisional ballot, show a document bearing the voter’s address.¹⁰ All voters must show any form of identification that contains a signature or execute an affidavit of identity.¹¹

Forms of ID:

every voter:	any document with signature affidavit
voters whose registration is “pending,” including voters with no identifying number:	any document with address

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter will not be allowed to vote. A voter must show at least proof of residence to vote a provisional ballot.¹² That ballot will then be counted if it is determined, after examining the records of the election commission and the state departments of health, human services, mental health and developmental disabilities, safety and veterans affairs, that the voter “should have been registered to vote.”¹³

Statutes and Regulations

TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 2-2-101 *et seq.* generally concern registration. TENN. CODE ANN. § 2-2-301 directs the state coordinator of elections to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration system. TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. ch. 1360-2-11 comprises the applicable regulations.

End Notes

Note: Pursuant to the recommendation of state officials, county officials were also interviewed for this summary.

¹ TENN. CODE ANN. § 2-2-109.

² *Id.* §§ 2-2-302, 303; electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 22.

³ TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 2-2-201, 2-2-204, 2-2-205.

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 TENN. CODE ANN. § 2-2-115.

⁶ *Id.* § 2-2-109; TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 1360-2-11-.07. Tennessee regulations from 1975 appear to state that corrections may not be made after the voter registration deadline, but in so doing refer to a statutory section that no longer exists. TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 1360-2-11-.08.

⁷ TENN. CODE ANN. § 2-2-109; TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 1360-2-11-.07.

⁸ TENN. CODE ANN. § 2-2-131.

⁹ *Id.* § 2-7-112.

¹⁰ *Id.* § 2-7-112. Tennessee law specifies that such proof of residence “shall include, but is not limited to,” a Tennessee driver license, residential lease agreement, utility bill, or other document bearing the voter’s address. *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.* § 2-7-112. Tennessee law specifies that such evidence of identification “shall be a valid voter’s registration certificate, Tennessee driver license, social security card, credit card with signature, or other document bearing the voter’s signature. *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

Mail-In Application For Voter Registration

You can use this form to:

-  register to vote in Tennessee, or to
-  let us know that your name or address has changed.

To register to vote:

-  you must be a U.S. citizen, AND
 -  you must be a resident of Tennessee, AND
 -  you must be at least 18 years old on/or before the next election, AND
 -  you must not have been convicted of a felony, or if you have, your full rights of citizenship must have been restored (or you must have received a pardon).
-  Anyone who registers by mail, must vote in person the first time he or she votes after registering.**

Are you interested in working on Election Day?

- Yes
 No

MAIL OR HAND DELIVER THIS FORM TO YOUR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION.

Instructions / checklist:

- Please PRINT with a blue or black **INK** pen (not felt tip).
- Provide the information in items 1-8 below, read the VOTER DECLARATION, and sign by the "X".
- An application for voter registration must be postmarked or hand delivered to the proper county election commission office at least 30 days before an election.
- Voter registration records are public records, open to inspection by any citizen of Tennessee.

YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD.

If you are qualified and the information on your form is complete, we will add your name to the county's voter rolls. We will then mail you a voter card. This card will tell you where to vote.

For more information, call your county election commission.

Fold Here



SS-3010 REV 11/01

FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION USE ONLY

Mail _____ Reg # _____ Approved _____ Eff. Date _____
P/A _____ District _____ Precinct _____ Ward _____

1 CHECK ONE: NEW REGISTRATION
 ADDRESS CHANGE NAME CHANGE

2 LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____ SEX M F RACE (OPTIONAL) _____

3 ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (DO NOT GIVE A P.O. BOX) _____ APT. # _____ CITY _____ COUNTY _____ ZIP CODE _____

4 ADDRESS WHERE YOU GET YOUR MAIL (IF DIFFERENT FROM #3) _____

5 DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____ **6** SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, if any _____ (required under TCA 2-2-116 for purposes of identification and to avoid duplicate registration) **7** DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER _____

8 NAME AND ADDRESS ON LAST VOTER REGISTRATION
NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

VOTER DECLARATION By completing the questions below and signing my name, I am swearing (or affirming) that the information I have provided is true, subject to the WARNING as stated.

WARNING: Giving false information to register to vote or attempting to register when not qualified is a felony punishable by not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years' imprisonment or a fine of \$3,000 or both.

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. I am a U.S. citizen. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. I am a resident of the State of Tennessee. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. I will be at least 18 years old on/or before the next election. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. I have been convicted of a felony. | _____ | _____ |

X _____ Date _____
Signature (or mark) of Applicant
If applicant is unable to sign, provide signature of person who signed for applicant.

Signature of Person Assisting _____

Address _____