



May 01, 2025

Inactive Voters and Provisional Ballots

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county 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 county 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 CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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County election commissions are permitted to establish a centrally located polling place for voters whose registration is inactive or whose registration has been transferred to a new precinct. T.C.A. §§ 2-7-140 and 2-7-141. When a voter attempts to vote at a precinct where he or she is no longer eligible to vote, the election official at the voter's old polling place would notify the voter that he or she has the choice to vote at either the centrally located place or the new polling place. If the central location is other than the county election commission office, then the site must be equipped with computers linked to the county election commission office to allow voters' records to be changed.

In 2003, the General Assembly authorized provisional ballots in Tennessee. T.C.A. § 2-7-112. Under this law, a person shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot if they claim to be properly registered in the county and eligible to vote at the precinct, but their eligibility cannot be determined by the computer signature list or by examination of the permanent registration records or an election official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote.

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