

COVID-19

SAFETY AT THE POLLS

To ensure voting is safe and secure on Election Day, the Secretary of State's Office is providing the following to all Counties:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE): Every poll manager will be provided with a mask, face shield, and gloves to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Hand sanitizer for each polling place.
- Masks for voters who do not bring their own to the polling place and wish to wear a mask.
(Voters are not required to wear a mask, and voters can not be turned away or denied the right to vote if not wearing a mask.)
- Single use pens and/or styluses so voters can cast a ballot without touching a previously used marking device. Voters may take the pen or stylus as they leave the polling place or place the item in a box to be sanitized for future use.
- Disinfectant supplies for sanitizing the polling place.
- House Bill 1789 allows for at least one additional poll manager in each polling place to be hired specifically for sanitizing the polling place and assisting with social distancing for COVID-19.

Individual counties may purchase additional supplies and sanitizing equipment to protect both election officials and voters, such as sneeze guards/protective barriers, and other items deemed essential by the county.

- All voters are strongly encouraged to wear a mask to the polling place, abide by social distancing recommendations, and practice good COVID-19 hygiene.
- Candidates or certified poll watchers are asked to wear masks when observing. Failure to wear a mask, if the county/state is under a mask mandate, may result in being asked to leave the polling place.
- If the physical structure of the polling place allows, the polling place should have a separate entrance and a separate exit for voters.
- Any voter exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 on Election Day, which include but are not limited to coughing, vomiting, headaches, fever, sore throat, congestion, or loss of taste and/or smell, is encouraged to vote curbside and not enter the polling place. For questions or concerns regarding curbside voting, please contact your local Circuit Clerk or Election Commissioners.
- Polling places will be arranged, if possible, to allow for six (6) feet between voters. Polling places will have visible markings to clearly indicate where voters are to stand. Any poll manager may enforce the social distancing recommendations currently in place.
- When evaluating a voter's photo ID, poll managers may ask the voter to step back six (6) feet and briefly lower his/her face covering so the poll manager can identify the voter in accordance with the Mississippi Voter ID Laws and Administrative Rules.



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE