

EARLY VOTING IN MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Voting Rights Coalition strongly urges our State Legislature to adopt no-excuse early voting for all Mississippians. **The majority of Mississippians and Americans across the political spectrum support and actually participate early voting.** In the 2024 General Election, an estimated 39% of early ballots were cast by Republican voters, and 29% of early ballots were cast by unaffiliated voters, and 32% of all early ballots cast by Democratic voters.¹

Mississippi is one of only three states in the U.S. that does not allow no-excuse early voting.

Mississippi is an outlier among southern states, as Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida all offer early voting. In the November election, nearly half of all voters in Louisiana and Florida opted for early voting. Over 70% of voters in Georgia and North Carolina were early voters.

The lack of early voting is a barrier to voting for many Mississippians, especially those with disabilities, those who work long hours, and those who lack reliable transportation. Early voting would go a long way to level the playing field for Mississippians from all walks of life.

Why Early Voting Matters

- Provides flexibility for people working on election day
- Helps to remind general population about the election
- Makes Election Day lines shorter and more efficient
- Correction of Errors
- Less stress about voting on Election Day
- Increases voter access
- Gives access to the poll for people with disabilities, caretakers, young voters, and travelers

By implementing no-excuse early voting, Mississippi would make voting more accessible to all voters, increasing voter participation. All other Southern states except Mississippi and Alabama have early voting and it has been a great success. It is working all over the nation, and it is past due for Mississippi to join other states in making voting more accessible for all people.²

This 2025 state legislative session, we urge the Legislature to:

- Establish a no-excuse early voting program.
- Create an equitable statewide early voting program that allows for early voting on at least two Saturdays prior to a primary or general election.

¹ Secure Democracy Foundation, Arc Insights Statewide Survey, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/618a6b5942c27629201019e3/t/656f2da351985474ce4344bb/1701784995295/SDF+MS+Election+Poll+Memo+%28Dec+2023%29.pdf> (2023); Early Voting Totals and Shares by Party for Selected States Survey (2024). The Early Voting Totals survey collected information among states with party registration where information by party was available, including AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, ID, IA, KS, KY, ME, MD, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NC, OK, OR, PA, RI, SD, UT, WV, WY.

² Mississippi has also historically placed barriers to voting on people of color. Even today, our minority communities suffer disproportionately from voter roll purges, poll location changes, and more scrutiny while attempting to vote. Early voting ensures all communities can access the ballot.

