Determining Residence in Tennessee for Voter Registration

If a potential voter has questions about where they should register, the following summarizes some legal and practical things to consider.

- A person may be a resident of a place regardless of the type of the person's residence, whether house or apartment, mobile home or public institution, owned or rented.
- Simply intending to make a location one's residence is not sufficient. There must be appropriate action to carry out that intention.
- A person may not register using a business location as the registration address when the sole basis for the person's presence at such location is based on a business or commercial use.

If there is a definite intention to return, a person does not lose residence when the person leaves home for temporary purposes, such as relocating:

- for health reasons
- due to one's employment
- to transact business
- to participate in a training program
- for educational purposes
- during seasonal changes

A person may have two or more houses or addresses where they habitually stay, but the law dictates that only one can be the person's legal residence. The following factors can help determine where the person should register:

- Factors Outlined in State Law (Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-122):
  - Person's possession, acquisition or surrender of inhabitable property
  - Location of the person's occupation
  - Place of licensing or registration of the person's personal property
  - Place of payment of taxes which are governed by residence
  - Purpose of the person's presence in a particular place
  - Place of the person's licensing for activities such as driving
- Other Factors:
  - Where one lives, i.e., eats, sleeps, and spends time with family
  - Where the individual's family is located—spouses are legally presumed to live together, but this presumption can be rebutted
  - Where the individual's personal belongings are located
  - Where someone attends church
  - Where an individual's social organizations are located
  - Service on a jury