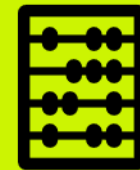## The Election Starts
(6 weeks before Election Day)

- Absentee voting begins in person and by mail. Local Election Authorities need to have ballots ready, absentee applications processed, and a staffed office to assist voters that vote in-person

- Applications are checked against voter registration roll and "attached" to the voter record so the Local Election Authority knows who has requested, been sent, and returned every mailed absentee ballot. Absentee status is also noted on the poll book so voters cannot show up at the polling place and vote twice

- Local Election Authorities recruit, hire, and train election judges.

- Two weeks before Election Day, voters can vote in person by no-excuse absentee ballot

- Voter education is continuous. New laws now require voters to show specific photo IDs like a Missouri driver's license, non-driver's license, U.S. passport, or military ID. Polling places are open from 6am to 7pm on Election Day

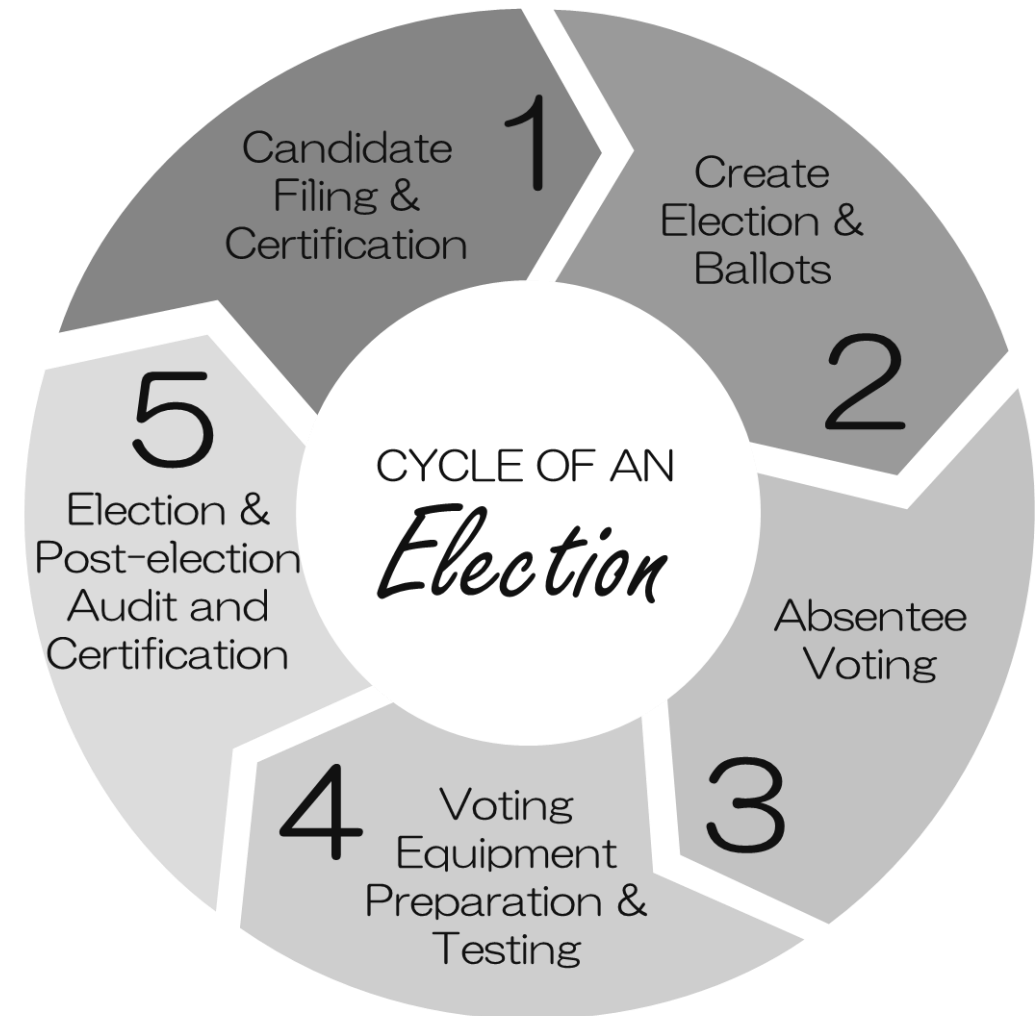## Election and Post-election Audit

- Bipartisan election judge teams account for all voting equipment, supplies, and ballots before returning results to the local election authority when polls close

- Results are UNOFFICIAL on Election Day. The post-election audit and certification process must take place to make the results official

- A bipartisan election judge team adjudicates provisional ballots, any military or overseas ballots received by 12pm on the Friday after the election and any write-in votes.

- The bipartisan team also <u>hand counts</u> the ballots cast from a randomly-selected 5% of precincts before the election is considered certified

For more information contact your Local Election Authority.

Missouri Election Overview

CYCLE OF AN *Election*

1. Candidate Filing & Certification
2. Create Election & Ballots
3. Absentee Voting
4. Voting Equipment Preparation & Testing
5. Election & Post-election Audit and Certification

Voter Registration

- Basis of eligibility to participate in the election

- Deadline is 4 weeks before the election for new Missouri residents

- Every voter registration is checked against DHSS, DOC, SSA, and DMV to verify accuracy

- Most registration information is public under the law, including name, address, and each election the voter has voted in

- Voter registration is stored in a statewide database maintained by the Secretary of State called MCVR (Missouri Centralized Voter Registration)

Filing Candidates
(17-20 weeks before Election Day)

- Notify the public of offices available for filing, qualifications of office, and requirements to file
- State and federal candidates (including circuit judges) file with the Secretary of State's Office
- County candidates file with their Local Election Authority (County Clerk or Election Board)
- School boards, cities, fire districts, and other local candidates file with that district

Certification to the Ballot
(10 weeks before Election Day)

- All State, County and Local districts certify their ballot issues to Local Election Authority 10 weeks prior to the election, providing a full list of candidates and issues for the ballot

Creating the Election
(9-10 weeks before Election Day)

- Local election authorities enter all candidate and election information into MCVR to assign a ballot to every voter based on the districts that they live in

  For example, if you live in County Commission District A and State Representative District 1, your ballot would be a different ballot style than someone living in County Commission District B and State Representative District 1

- Ballots and voting equipment media are created using election specific software. Ballot tabulation equipment is air-gapped, not connected to the internet and kept physically secure

Ordering the Ballots
(6-8 weeks before Election Day)

- Local election authorities decide the number of ballots to be ordered, accounting for the number of registered voters in the county and expected turnout
- Ballots are proofed by the local election authority before they are printed
- All ballots are inventoried and kept securely before Election Day and chain of custody forms follow them through Election Day
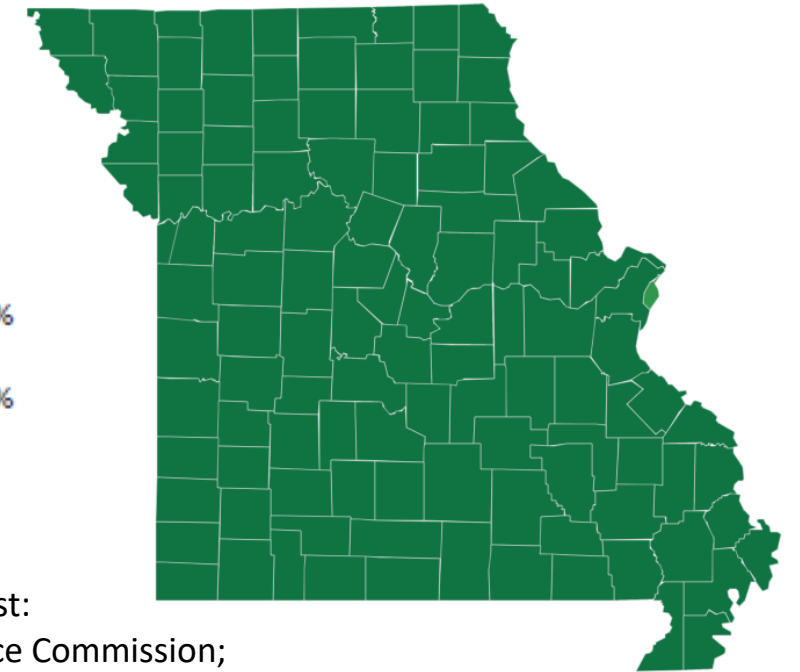
Missouri

REGISTERED VOTERS (10/2022)	PRECINCTS (10/2022)
👥 4,286,342	🏠 4,373

- 🟩 Hand marked paper ballots and BMDs — 95.1%
- 🟩 Hand marked paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT — 4.9%

To be used in Missouri, voting equipment must:
- ✔ Be certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission;
- ✔ Be approved by the Missouri Secretary of State's Office;
- ✔ Allow the voter to cast a ballot in absolute secrecy;
- ✔ Create a paper audit trail; and,
- ✔ Include accessibility features.

115 out of 116 counties use a combination of hand marked paper ballots and accessible ballot marking devices. After 2024, direct recording electronic devices (DREs) will be phased out completely under the law.

Voting Equipment Preparation and Testing

- Voting machines are used to efficiently and accurately tabulate ballots that are cast by voters
- All voting machines are thoroughly tested for each election ("Logic and Accuracy Testing")
- All voting machines are air-gapped and not connected to the Internet
- The testing is public and conducted by a bipartisan team of election judges. The team creates a test deck of ballots that they run through each machine to ensure it is counting accurately
- Election authorities maintain a chain of custody for all voting equipment, ballots, and supplies
  - ✔ Inventory tag numbers of machines are recorded and verified before and after an election
  - ✔ Voting equipment, ballots, and supplies are sealed with a tamper-evident numbered tag
  - ✔ All seals and tags are verified against chain of custody forms by election judges