

# MISSISSIPPI 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key provisions found within Titles 23 and 97 of the Mississippi Code, and other relevant sections.

- Using threats, intimidation, or force to prevent, interfere with or influence a voter's vote is a misdemeanor.
- Creating an unlawful disturbance at a polling place or other locations where election activity occurs is a misdemeanor.
- Tampering with, damaging, or attempting to prevent operation of a voting machine or election device is a felony.

## VOTING HOURS

**Election Day**  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## 2024 ELECTION DATES

**General Election:** November 5

**For more election dates:**

[sos.ms.gov/content/documents/  
Elections/2024 Website Calendar.pdf](https://sos.ms.gov/content/documents/Elections/2024%20Website%20Calendar.pdf)

## REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

**Your local election official:**

[sos.ms.gov/elections-voting/county-  
election-information](https://sos.ms.gov/elections-voting/county-election-information)

**MS Secretary of State:**

1-800-829-6786  
[sos.ms.gov/yall-vote](https://sos.ms.gov/yall-vote)



## **Intimidating elector to prevent voting.** Miss. Code Ann. § 97-13-39

(1) If any person shall, by illegal force, or threats of force, prevent, or endeavor to prevent, any elector from giving his vote, he shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in the county jail not more than one (1) year, or be fined not more than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), or both.

(2) If any person shall, utilize the requirements to provide voter identification to intimidate a voter, or to prevent a person from voting who is otherwise qualified to vote shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in the State Penitentiary not more than five (5) years, or fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both.

## **Unlawful to interfere with or influence vote of elector.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 23-17-59

It is unlawful for a person to interfere with or influence the vote of an elector on a measure by means of violence, threats, intimidation, enforcing the payment of a debt, bringing a suit or criminal prosecution, any threat or action affecting a person's conditions of employment or other corrupt means.

## **Disturbing election.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-13-21

If any person shall unlawfully disturb any election at a polling place, the office of the circuit clerk, or where ballots are located, such person shall be liable to indictment, and, on conviction, be imprisoned in the county jail not more than one (1) year, or be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.

## **Willfully tampering with, damaging, or preventing operation of voting machine or other election device.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-13-43

Any person who willfully tampers with or damages any voting machine or tabulating computer or device to be used or being used at or in connection with any election or who prevents or attempts to prevent the correct operation of any voting machine or tabulating computer or device shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment for not more than ten (10) years, or be fined Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both.

## **Conspiracy to prevent holding a public office or discharging its duties, etc.; by use of force, etc.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-7-17

If two (2) or more persons conspire to prevent, by force, intimidation, or threat, any person from accepting or holding any office, trust, or place of confidence under the State of Mississippi, or any subdivision thereof, or from discharging any duties thereof, or to induce by like means any officer of the State of Mississippi or subdivision thereof, to leave the place where his duties as an officer are required to be performed, or to injure him in his person or property on account of his lawful discharge of the duties of his office, or while engaged in the lawful discharge thereof, or to injure his property so as to molest, interrupt, hinder, or impede him in the discharge of his official duties, each of such persons shall be fined upon conviction not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than five (5) years, or both.

## **Intimidating, boycotting, etc., elector to procure vote.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-13-37

Whoever shall procure, or endeavor to procure, the vote of any elector, or the influence of any person over other electors, at any election, for himself or any candidate, by means of violence, threats of violence, or threats of withdrawing custom, or dealing in business or trade, or of enforcing the payment of a debt, or of bringing a suit or criminal prosecution, or by any other threat or injury to be inflicted by him, or by his means, or shall violate any provision of Section 23-15-871 or 23-15-874, shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in the county jail not more than one (1) year, or be fined not more than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), or both.

## **Election bailiff to keep peace.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-241

The poll manager designated an election bailiff shall, in addition to his or her other duties, be present during the election to keep the peace and to protect the voting place, and to prevent improper intrusion upon the voting place or interference with the election, and to arrest all persons creating any disturbance about the voting place, and to enable all qualified electors who have not voted, and who desire to vote, to have unobstructed access to the polls for the purpose of voting when others are not voting.

## **Prohibition against distribution of campaign material within 150 feet of polling place; and against appearance of certain persons at polling place.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-895

No candidate for an elective office, or any representative of such candidate, and no proponent or opponent of any constitutional amendment, local issue or other measure printed on the ballot may post or distribute cards, posters or other campaign literature within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any entrance of the building wherein any election is being held. No candidate or a representative named by him or her in writing may appear at any polling place while armed or uniformed, or display any badge or credentials except as may be issued by the manager of the polling place. As used in this section, the term "local issue" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Section 23-15-375. This section shall be enforced by election officials and law enforcement officials.

## **Troops of armed men not to be brought near election place.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-13-29

It shall not be lawful for any military officer or other persons to order, bring, or keep any troops of armed men at any place within a mile of the place where any election is held, unless it be for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection, in the manner provided by law, or for the purpose of defense in time of war; and whoever shall violate the provisions of this section shall, on conviction, be imprisoned in the county jail not more than one (1) year, or be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.

## **Weapons in polling places; government meetings; exemptions.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 45-9-101

(13) No license issued pursuant to this section shall authorize any person, except a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 45-6-3 with a distinct license authorized by the Department of Public Safety, to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver into ... any polling place; any meeting place of the governing body of any governmental entity; ... or any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law. In addition to the places enumerated in this subsection, the carrying of a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver may be disallowed in any place in the discretion of the person or entity exercising control over the physical location of such place by the placing of a written notice clearly readable at a distance of not less than ten (10) feet that the "carrying of a pistol or revolver is prohibited."

(Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-7 (2), certain licensed individuals who comply with all provisions of Mississippi's enhanced carry law are exempt from this prohibition.)

## **Electors' privilege from arrest.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-901

Electors shall in all cases other than those of treason, felony or breach of the peace be privileged from arrest during their attendance on elections and going to and returning from the same.

## **Corrupt conduct, etc., by election official.**

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-13-19

If any manager, clerk, or any other officer whatever, assisting or engaged in conducting any election, or charged with any duty in reference to any election, shall designedly omit to do any official act required by law, or designedly do any illegal act in relation to any election, by which act or omission the votes taken at any such election in any district shall be lost, or the electors thereof shall be deprived of their suffrage at such election, or shall designedly do any act which shall render such election void, or shall be guilty of any corrupt conduct or partiality in his official capacity at such election, he shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned, in the county jail not more than one (1) year, or be fined not more than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), or both.



Committee for

**SAFE AND SECURE  
ELECTIONS**

