

**September 4, 2020**

In this report, I will focus on deceptions about voting and how we can avoid being deceived, why Americans should vote, and how Chattanooga citizens can vote in the state of Tennessee.

First, I will get into ways citizens have been deceived and methods of deception. According to factcheck.org, Trump insinuated that there is voter fraud in the United States. This is also a Russian disinformation tactic. He has said that there are dead people voting and some people are registered to vote in 2 states and are being allowed to vote twice. There is no evidence to back up his claims. In an article on thehill.com, it says that in 2016, Special Counsel Robert Mueller indicted a foreign actor to persuade people to stay home during elections. Deceptors also use social media a lot to persuade people not to vote. This could include postings that insinuate location changes and obnoxious videos. For example, last year in Jefferson County, Alabama, which is predominantly African American, citizens received messages telling them that their voting site locations had been changed, sending people to the wrong place. Since then, Democrats in the House of Representatives and Senate have introduced the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act in order to protect voters from deception.

In an article on newslit.org, it gives a few tips on how voters can avoid being deceived. First, we should keep our emotions under control. Our emotions are targeted in order to change our mind and this could be a cause for deception. Secondly, do not like or share articles/information that you have not read for yourself. Next, we must learn to spot misinformation patterns. This could include posts of celebrities endorsing a candidate, posts that discourage voting or showing up to the polls and statements that suggest alternative ways to vote. Then, we must not fall for artificially constructed photos or videos that have been edited. It is important that we verify our information before we share it. Lastly, be skeptical not cynical. Do not give up on finding the right information. In order for a democracy to work, the people must be informed. If you see falsified information that has been published, be sure to report it and let others know that it is false.

Why should we vote? We should do it because it is our civic duty and right as Americans in the United States. Commoncause.org explains it as it being your voice and your opportunity to make the necessary changes in order to better the future of the country. We should not take this right for granted because not all people are allowed and as minorities, we haven't always had access to it. History tells us that only land owning white men were allowed to vote. Once black men were allowed to vote, poll taxes were put into place in order to keep many of them from voting. Even then, women in general were not allowed to vote until the 1920's. One vote could make all the difference, especially when it comes to close elections and electoral votes.

Here is how citizens in Tennessee can be a part of the upcoming election. First, Election Day is November 3, 2020. Early voting is October 14, 2020 through October 29, 2020. You will need your Tennessee ID. For first time voters that registered by mail, you will need proof of

address. If you do not have a Tennessee ID, you will vote with a provisional ballot. You have 2 business days to return the ballot to the local election commission office with a valid Tennessee ID. The local election office is located at 700 River Terminal Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37406. Their email address is [vote@hamiltontn.gov](mailto:vote@hamiltontn.gov). To find out where to vote and to make sure all of your information is correct, visit [www.tn.map.tn.gov/voterlookup/](http://www.tn.map.tn.gov/voterlookup/). To register online, visit [www.sos.tn.gov/products/elections/register-vote](http://www.sos.tn.gov/products/elections/register-vote). The deadline to register online and by mail is October 5, 2020. For local information, you can visit [www.timesfreepress/vote2020](http://www.timesfreepress/vote2020). Also, if you visit [www.govotetn.com](http://www.govotetn.com), you can find resources about working the polls, registration, locations, etc. Find FAQs on absentee ballots, the 2020 election calendar and qualifying candidate petitions on [www.elect.hamiltontn.gov](http://www.elect.hamiltontn.gov).

#### References:

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