

HB 1449 -- Early Voting

SPONSOR: Neth

This bill allows early voting at a central voting location for all elections starting the sixth Tuesday prior to an election or within 14 days of certification of the candidate's names under Section 115.125, RSMo. The regular staff of an election authority may conduct early voting in place of election judges, but all other rules for election procedures must remain the same. The ballots will be cast on the election authority's electronic voting system and will be counted on or after election day. All costs will be reimbursed from general revenue or the Secretary of State's funds, and if no reimbursement occurs, the early voting provisions of the bill will be void.

For all November presidential elections or other elections designated by an election authority, satellite voting sites for early voting may be used in addition to a central voting location. One satellite voting site is required for an election authority with more than 175,000 registered voters in their jurisdiction but is discretionary for a jurisdiction with fewer than 175,000 registered voters. Satellite sites must be open at least four hours per day and eight continuous hours on weekends for at least 14 consecutive or nonconsecutive days prior to the election. Satellite sites will close at the close of regular business hours the Wednesday prior to an election. If satellite sites are used, the election authority must notify voters of the dates, location, and hours of operation of the central voting location and any satellite site in the office of the authority, on its website, or by other methods.

Intrastate new residents and former residents must use early voting instead of voting by absentee ballot. The process for verifying information and the affidavit required in order to vote will remain the same for new voters.