



Absentee and Mail Voting Options

No updates required since March 27, 2024

Background

Absentee voting allows voters to cast their ballot without going to a traditional polling place, in most cases by voting through the mail. States differ in the requirements to qualify to vote absentee, with some states allowing any voter to do so and others requiring an excuse, such as a medical emergency. States that conduct all-mail elections, where every eligible voter is mailed a ballot, are categorized here as no-excuse absentee states.

Scoring

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee, 1 point
- State requires an excuse to vote absentee, 0 points

Summary Table

| Category | Number | List |
|---|-----------|--|
| State does not require an excuse to vote absentee | 28 states | Alaska Arizona Florida Georgia Idaho Illinois Iowa Kansas Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Montana Nebraska New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Virginia |



| | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| | | Wisconsin Wyoming |
| State requires an excuse to vote absentee | 14 states | Alabama Arkansas Connecticut Delaware Indiana Kentucky Louisiana Mississippi Missouri New Hampshire South Carolina Tennessee Texas West Virginia |
| State has vote by mail elections | 8 states & D.C. | California Colorado D.C. Hawaii Nevada Oregon Utah* Vermont Washington |

State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Ala. Code § 17-11-3](#)).

Alaska (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Alaska Stat. § 15.20.010](#)).

Arizona (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 16-541](#)).

Arkansas (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-404](#)).



California (1)

- State conducts vote by mail elections ([Cal. Elec. Code § 3003](#)).

Colorado (1)

- State conducts vote by mail elections ([Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 1-13.5-1001](#)).

Connecticut (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-135](#)).

Delaware (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([DE SB 320](#) (2022)).

D.C. (1)

- Conducts vote by mail elections ([D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 3, § 720](#)).

Florida (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Fla. Stat. §101.62](#)).

Georgia (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-380](#)).

Hawaii (1)

- State conducts vote by mail elections ([Haw. Rev. Stat. § 15-2](#)).

Idaho (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Idaho Code § 34-1001](#)).

Illinois (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/19-1](#)).

Indiana (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Ind. Code § 3-11-10-24](#)).

Iowa (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Iowa Code §§ 53.1 et. seq.](#)).

Kansas (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Kan. Stat. Ann. § 25-1119](#)).



Kentucky (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 117.085](#)).

Louisiana (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([La. Stat. Ann. § 18:1303](#)).

Maine (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, §751](#)).

Maryland (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Md. Code Ann. Elec. Law §9-304](#)).

Massachusetts (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 54, § 86](#) (2022)).

Michigan (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.759](#)).

Minnesota (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Minn. Stat. § 203B.02](#)).

Mississippi (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-673](#)).

Missouri (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.277](#)).

Montana (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Mont. Code Ann. § 13-13-201](#)).

Nebraska (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-938](#)).

Nevada (1)

- State conducts vote by mail elections ([Nev. Rev. Stat. § 293.313](#)).

New Hampshire (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 659:50](#)).



New Jersey (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3](#)).

New Mexico (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([N.M. Stat. Ann. § 1-6-3](#)).

New York (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-400](#)).

North Carolina (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-226](#)).

North Dakota (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([N.D. Cent. Code § 16.1-07](#)).

Ohio (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3509.02](#)).

Oklahoma (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-105](#)).

Oregon (1)

- State conducts all-mail elections ([Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 254.465, 254.470](#)).

Pennsylvania (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([25 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3150.11](#)).

Rhode Island (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([17 R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-2](#)).

South Carolina (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([S.C. Code Ann. § 7-15-320](#)).

South Dakota (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([S.D. Codified Laws § 12-19-1](#)).

Tennessee (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-201](#)).



Texas (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([Texas Elec. Code Ann. §§ 82.001](#) et. seq.).

Utah (1)

- State conducts vote by mail elections ([Utah Code Ann. §20A-3a-202](#)).
- Note: Utah enacted legislation in 2025 that will phase out vote by mail elections beginning in 2029.

Vermont (1)

- State conducts vote by mail elections ([Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 17, § 2531](#)).

Virginia (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Va. Code Ann. § 24.2-700](#)).

Washington (1)

- State conducts vote by mail elections ([Wash. Rev. Code § 29A.40.010](#)).

West Virginia (0)

- State requires an excuse to vote absentee ([W. Va. Code, § 3-3-1](#)).

Wisconsin (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Wis. Stat. §§ 6.85, 6.86](#)).

Wyoming (1)

- State does not require an excuse to vote absentee ([Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 22-9-102](#)).