



Permanent Absentee Lists

No updates required since April 15, 2024

Background

In addition to policies governing which voters qualify for absentee ballots, some states have implemented options for voters to sign up to be placed on a list to permanently receive absentee ballots each election. States differ on whether all voters or only certain voters are eligible for this option, and other states allow annual or bi-annual sign ups. In addition, certain states will send applications rather than actual ballots. Following the 2020 election, a small number of Republican states have implemented bans on the unsolicited distribution of absentee ballots or applications. Note: States that conduct all-mail elections have been scored as having a permanent absentee list.

Scoring

- State allows some or all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list to receive ballots, 1/2 point
- State allows some or all voters to sign up for an annual or bi-annual absentee list to receive ballots OR permanent list to receive applications, ¼ point
- State has no applicable law, 0 points
- State bans unsolicited distribution of absentee ballots or applications, -½ point

Summary Table

Category	Number	List
State allows some or all voters to sign up for permanent absentee list	24 states & D.C.	Alabama California Colorado Connecticut Delaware D.C. Hawaii Illinois Kansas Louisiana Maryland Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Montana Nevada New Jersey New Mexico New York Oregon Utah Vermont Washington



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		West Virginia Wisconsin
State allows some or all voters to sign up for an annual or bi-annual absentee list to receive ballots OR permanent list to receive applications	10 states	Alaska Florida Massachusetts Missouri North Dakota Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Tennessee
State has no applicable law	12 states	Arizona Idaho Indiana Kentucky Maine Nebraska New Hampshire North Carolina Ohio South Carolina Virginia Wyoming
State bans unsolicited distribution of absentee ballots or applications,	4 states	Arkansas Georgia Iowa Texas



State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (1/2)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Ala. Code § 17-11-3.1](#)).

Alaska (1/4)

- State allows certain categories of voters to sign up for permanent list to receive absentee applications ([Alaska Admin. Code tit. 6, § 25.650](#)).

Arizona (0)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-544 \(A\)](#)).
- State bans unsolicited distribution of absentee ballots to voters not on the permanent absentee list ([Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-542](#)).

Arkansas (-1/2)

- State bans unsolicited distribution of absentee ballots or applications ([Arkansas Code § 7-5-409](#)).

California (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Cal. Elec. Code § 3201](#)).

Colorado (1/2)

- State conducts all-mail elections ([Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-5-401](#)).

Connecticut (1/2)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-140e](#)).

Delaware (1/2)

- State allows disabled, UOCAVA, and other defined categories of voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([De. Code tit. 15, § 5503\(k\)](#)).

D.C. (1/2)

- Allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([D.C. Board of Elections](#)).

Florida (1/4)

- State allows applications for absentee ballots to be effective for a calendar year ([Fla. Stat. §101.62](#)).

Georgia (-1/2)

- State prohibits election officials from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications ([Ga. Code § 21-2-381](#)).



Hawaii (1/2)

- State conducts all-mail elections ([Haw. Rev. Stat. § 11-102](#)).

Idaho (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Illinois (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Ill. Pub. Act. 15 \(2021\)](#)).

Indiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Iowa (-1/2)

- State prohibits election officials from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications ([Iowa Code § 53.2](#)).

Kansas (1/2)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Kan. Stat. § 25-1122\(h\)](#)).

Kentucky (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Louisiana (1/2)

- State allows disabled, senior, and other defined categories of voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Louisiana Secretary of State](#)).

Maine (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maryland (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Md. Code, Elec. Law § 9-311.1](#)).

Massachusetts (1/4)

- State allows permanently disabled voters to sign up for permanent list to receive absentee applications ([Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 54, §86](#)).

Michigan (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Michigan Proposal 2 \(2022\)](#)).



Minnesota (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Minn. Stat. § 203B.04](#)).

Mississippi (1/2)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Miss. Code § 23-15-629\(2\)](#)).

Missouri (1/4)

- State allows permanently disabled voters to sign up for permanent list to receive absentee applications ([Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.284](#)).

Montana (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Mont. Code § 13-13-212\(3\)](#)).

Nebraska (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Nevada (1/2)

- State conducts all-mail elections ([AB 321 \(2021\)](#)).

New Hampshire (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Jersey (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([N.J. Stat. § 19:63-3\(a\)\(1\)](#)).

New Mexico (1/2)

- State allows all voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([NM HB 4 \(2023\)](#)).

New York (1/2)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([N.Y. Elec. Code 8-400\(4\)](#)).

North Carolina (0)

- State has no applicable law.

North Dakota (1/4)

- State allows applications for absentee ballots to be effective for a calendar year ([N.D.. Cent. Code §16.1-07-05\(1\)](#)).

Ohio (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Oklahoma (1/4)

- State allows applications for absentee ballots to be effective for a calendar year ([Oklahoma AC 230:30-5-13](#)).

Oregon (1/2)

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

Pennsylvania (1/4)

- State allows all voters to sign up for permanent list to receive absentee applications ([25 P.S. § 3150.12](#)).

Rhode Island (1/4)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for permanent list to receive absentee applications ([R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-9](#)).

South Carolina (0)

- State has no applicable law.

South Dakota (1/4)

- State allows applications for absentee ballots to be effective for a calendar year ([S.D.. Codified Laws Ann. §12-19-2](#)).

Tennessee (1/4)

- State allows certain categories of voters to sign up for a permanent list to receive absentee applications ([T. C. A. § 2-6-201](#)).

Texas (-1/2)

- State prohibits election officials from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications ([TX SB 1 \(2021\)](#)).

Utah (1/2)

- State conducts all-mail elections ([Utah Code Ann. § 20A-3a-202](#)).

Vermont (1/2)

- State conducts all-mail elections ([Vermont Secretary of State](#))

Virginia (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Washington (1/2)

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



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West Virginia (1/2)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([W. Va. Code §3-3-2b](#)).

Wisconsin (1/2)

- State allows disabled voters to sign up for a permanent absentee list ([Wis. Stat. § 6.86\(2\)\(a\)](#)).

Wyoming (0)

- State has no applicable law.