Absentee Voting Requirements

No updates required since January 5, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State does not require an excuse to vote absentee</td>
<td>36 states &amp; D.C.</td>
<td>Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State requires an excuse to vote absentee | 14 states
---|---
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin
Wyoming

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)

Arkansas (0)
California (1)
- State conducts all-mail elections (Cal. Elec. Code § 3003).

Colorado (1)

Connecticut (0)

Delaware (0)
- State requires an excuse to vote absentee (DE SB 320 (2022)).

D.C. (1)
- Does not require an excuse to vote absentee (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 all-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)
Kentucky (0)
Louisiana (0)
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)
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 all-mail elections (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 293.313).
New Hampshire (0)
New Jersey (1)

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)

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)

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)

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 all-mail elections (Utah Code Ann. §20A-3a-202).
Vermont (1)
Virginia (1)
  • State does not require an excuse to vote absentee (Va. Code Ann. § 24.2-700).
Washington (1)
  • State conducts all-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)

Democracy Map & Additional Resources

• See our Democracy Map, Availability of Absentee Voting, which is updated in real time