Additional Requirements to Return Absentee Ballots

No updates required since April 11, 2024

Background

In most states, when a voter casts their absentee ballot, they can simply return the ballot through the mail or in person at a drop box or election office. However, some steps impose additional required steps that can create barriers to voters casting their ballot. These additional steps usually consist of requiring a notary or witness signature or requiring a photocopy of acceptable identification.

Scoring

- State requires photocopy of ID or notary signature to return mail ballot, -1/2 point
- State requires witness signature(s) to return mail ballot, -1/4 point
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary or witness signature to return mail ballot, 0 points

Summary Table

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<th>Category</th>
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| **State requires photocopy of ID or notary signature to return mail ballot** | 7 states | Alabama  
Alaska  
Arkansas  
Mississippi  
Missouri  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma |
| **State requires witness signature(s) to return mail ballot** | 4 states | Louisiana  
Minnesota  
South Carolina  
Wisconsin |
| **State does not impose additional requirements to return mail ballot** | 39 states & D.C. | Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Delaware  
D.C.  
Florida  
Georgia  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa |
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State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (-1/2)
- State requires a notary signature or signature of two witnesses to return mail ballot (Ala. Code § 17-11-9).

Alaska (-1/2)
- State requires the signature of a notary or other official authorized to administer oaths to return mail ballot, unless one is not reasonably accessible, then a witness signature is required (Alaska Stat. § 15.20.081).

Arizona (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Arkansas (-1/2)
- State requires photocopy of acceptable ID to return mail ballot (Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 13).

California (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Colorado (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Connecticut (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Delaware (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

D.C. (0)
- Does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Florida (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Georgia (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Hawaii (0)
- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.
Idaho (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Illinois (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Indiana (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Iowa (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Kansas (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Kentucky (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Louisiana (-1/4)
    • State requires a witness signature to return mail ballot (La. Rev. Stat. § 18:1306).

Maine (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Maryland (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Massachusetts (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Michigan (0)
    • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Minnesota (-1/4)
    • State requires a witness signature to return mail ballot (Minn. Stat. § 203B.121).

Mississippi (-1/2)
    • State requires a notary signature to return mail ballot (Miss. Code § 23-15-631).
Missouri (-1/2)

- State requires a notary signature to return mail ballot (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.291).

Montana (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Nebraska (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Nevada (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

New Hampshire (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

New Jersey (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

New Mexico (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

New York (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

North Carolina (-1/2)

- State requires a photocopy of ID in addition to the signature of two witnesses or a notary to return mail ballot (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-231).

North Dakota (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Ohio (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Oklahoma (-1/2)

- State requires a notary signature to return mail ballot (26 OS §14-107; §14-108).

Oregon (0)

- State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.
Pennsylvania (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Rhode Island (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

South Carolina (-1/4)
  • State requires a witness signature to return mail ballot (S.C. Code § 7-15-385).

South Dakota (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Tennessee (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Texas (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Utah (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Vermont (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Virginia (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Washington (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

West Virginia (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.

Wisconsin (-1/4)
  • State requires a witness signature to return mail ballot (Wis. Stat. § 6.87).

Wyoming (0)
  • State does not require photocopy of ID, notary, or witness signature to return mail ballot.