



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

Category	Number	List
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



movement advancement project ▶

		<p>Kansas Kentucky Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Dakota Ohio Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wyoming</p>
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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.