



## Additional Requirements to Return Absentee Ballots

No updates required since June 5, 2025

### 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 notary signature to return mail ballot, -1 point
- State requires photocopy of ID to return mail ballot, -3/4 point
- State requires witness signature(s) to return mail ballot, -1/2 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 | 5 states         | Alabama<br>Alaska<br>Mississippi<br>Missouri<br>Oklahoma   |
| State requires photocopy of ID to return mail ballot                     | 2 states         | Arkansas<br>North Carolina   |
| State requires witness signature(s) to return mail ballot                | 4 states         | Louisiana<br>Minnesota<br>South Carolina<br>Wisconsin  |
| State does not impose additional requirements to return mail ballot      | 39 states & D.C. | Arizona<br>California<br>Colorado<br>Connecticut<br>Delaware<br>D.C.<br>Florida<br>Georgia<br>Hawaii |



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|--|--|---|
|  |  | Idaho<br>Illinois<br>Indiana<br>Iowa<br>Kansas<br>Kentucky<br>Maine<br>Maryland<br>Massachusetts<br>Michigan<br>Montana<br>Nebraska<br>Nevada<br>New Hampshire<br>New Jersey<br>New Mexico<br>New York<br>North Dakota<br>Ohio<br>Oregon<br>Pennsylvania<br>Rhode Island<br>South Dakota<br>Tennessee<br>Texas<br>Utah<br>Vermont<br>Virginia<br>Washington<br>West Virginia<br>Wyoming |
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## State-by-State Sources and More Detail

### Alabama (-1)

- State requires a notary signature or signature of two witnesses to return mail ballot ([Ala. Code § 17-11-9](#)).

### Alaska (-1)

- 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 (-3/4)

- State requires photocopy of acceptable ID and a witness signature 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 (-1/2)

- 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 (-1/2)

- State requires a witness signature to return mail ballot ([Minn. Stat. § 203B.121](#)).



Mississippi (-1)

- State requires a notary signature to return mail ballot ([Miss. Code § 23-15-631](#)).

Missouri (-1)

- 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 (-3/4)

- 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)

- 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 (-1/2)

- 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 (-1/2)

- State requires a witness signature to return mail ballot ([Wis. Stat. § 6.87](#)).



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#### Wyoming (0)

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