

ELECTIONS

**Table 6.6a
VOTER INFORMATION**

State or other jurisdiction	Vote by mail or Online (a)	Early voting allowed (b)	Voter ID required (c)	Photo ID required	Absentee voting			Provisions for felons	
					Persons eligible for absentee voting (d)	Permanent absentee status available (e)	Absentee votes signed by witness or notary (f)	Voting rights revoked	Method/process or provision for restoration (g)
Alabama.....		No	Yes	Yes (h)	Excuse required	...	N or 2W	★	B
Alaska.....	★(i)	Yes	Yes (j)	No	No excuse required	...	N or 1W	★	C
Arizona.....		Yes	Yes	No	No excuse required	★	...	★	B
Arkansas.....		Yes	Yes	No (k)	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
California.....		Yes	No	No	No excuse required	★	...	★	C
Colorado.....	★(l)	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	...	★	C
Connecticut.....		No	No	No	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Delaware.....		No	Yes	No	Excuse required	...	...	★	B
Florida.....		Yes	Yes	Yes	No excuse required	...	...	★	A
Georgia.....		Yes	Yes	Yes	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Hawaii.....		Yes	Yes	No	No excuse required	★	...	★	C
Idaho.....		Yes (m)	Yes	Yes (n)	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Illinois.....		Yes	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Indiana.....		Yes (m)	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Iowa.....		Yes (m)	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	★	A
Kansas.....		Yes	Yes	Yes	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Kentucky.....		No	Yes	No	Excuse required	...	...	★	A
Louisiana.....		Yes	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	N or W	★	C
Maine.....		Yes (m)	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	...	N/A
Maryland.....		Yes	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Massachusetts.....		Yes (o)	No	No	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Michigan.....		No	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Minnesota.....		Yes (m)	No	No	No excuse required	...	N or W (p)	★	C
Mississippi.....		No	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	N (q)	★	B
Missouri.....		No	Yes	No	Excuse required	...	N (r)	★	C
Montana.....		Yes (m)	Yes	No	No excuse required	★	...	★	C
Nebraska.....		Yes	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Nevada.....		Yes	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	★	B
New Hampshire.....		No	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
New Jersey.....		Yes (m)	No	No	No excuse required	★	...	★	C
New Mexico.....		Yes	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
New York.....		No	No	No	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
North Carolina.....		Yes	Yes	No (s)	No excuse required	...	N or 2W	★	C
North Dakota.....		Yes	Yes	Yes	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Ohio.....		Yes (m)	Yes	No	No excuse required	...	...	★	C
Oklahoma.....		Yes (m)	Yes	No (t)	No excuse required	...	N (u)	★	C
Oregon.....	★(v)	N/A	No	No	N/A	N/A	...	★	C
Pennsylvania.....		No	No (w)	No (w)	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Rhode Island.....		No	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	N or 2W (x)	★	C
South Carolina.....		No	Yes	No (y)	Excuse required	...	W (z)	★	C
South Dakota.....		Yes (m)	Yes	Yes	No excuse required	...	(aa)	★	C
Tennessee.....		Yes	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	...	★	B
Texas.....		Yes	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Utah.....		Yes	Yes	No	No excuse required	★	...	...	C
Vermont.....		Yes (m)	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	...	N/A
Virginia.....		No	Yes	Yes	Excuse required	...	W	★	C (bb)
Washington.....	★(cc)	N/A	No	No	N/A	N/A	...	★	C
West Virginia.....		Yes	No (dd)	No (dd)	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Wisconsin.....		Yes (m)	Yes	Yes	No excuse required	...	W	★	C
Wyoming.....		Yes (m)	No	No	No excuse required	...	...	...	B
Dist. of Columbia.....		Yes	No	No	No excuse required	★	...	★	C
American Samoa.....		No	No	No	Excuse required	...	...	★	C
Guam.....		No	No	No	Excuse required	...	N	★	C
No. Mariana Islands.....		No	No	No	Excuse required	...	N	★	C
Puerto Rico.....		Yes	Yes	No	Excuse required	...	(ec)	...	N/A
U.S. Virgin Islands.....		No	Yes	No	Excuse required	...	Affidavit	★	C

See footnotes at end of table.

VOTER INFORMATION—Continued

Sources: The Council of State Governments survey of state websites, May 2016.

Key:

★ — Provision exists.

... — No state provision.

N/A — Not Applicable.

(a) Three states—Colorado, Oregon, and Washington—conduct elections by mail. All registered voters are automatically mailed a ballot in advance of Election Day. Alaska is the first state to allow all voters—not just those covered by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)—to submit an absentee ballot electronically. Civilian voters must apply for an electronic ballot beginning 15 days before the election.

(b) Early voting is usually done in person on the same equipment as that used on Election Day. An excuse is not required.

(c) Voter identification laws include both photo or non-photo identification requirements.

(d) Typical excuses include some or all of the following: absent on business; senior citizen; disabled persons; not absent, but prevented by employment from voting; out of state on Election Day; out of precinct on Election Day; absent for religious reasons; students; temporarily out of jurisdiction.

(e) State allows voters to be added to the permanent absentee voter list, in which an absentee ballot will be automatically sent for each election. No excuse is required. This does not include states that allow certain voters to be added to the list, including permanently disabled or ill voters, the elderly, uniformed service members and their families, or people who live outside the United States.

(f) Absentee votes must be signed by, N—Notary or W—Witness. Numbers indicated the number of signatures required.

(g) A—permanent disenfranchisement for all offenders; states that permanently disenfranchise all or some felons may allow felons to apply, on an individual basis, to the state for an exemption that will restore their voting rights.

B—permanent disenfranchisement for some offenders; in these states, felons who commit certain felonies are permanently disenfranchised.

C—voting rights restored after completion of some or all of sentence; 20 states (Alaska, Ark., Ga., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Mo., Nebr., N.J., N.M., N.C., Okla., S.C., S.D., Texas, Va., Wash., W.Va., Wis.) restore rights after completion of entire sentence, including parole and probation; 14 states (Hawaii, Ill., Ind., Md., Mass., Mich., Mont., N.H., N.D., Ohio, Ore., Pa., R.I., Utah) plus the District of Columbia restore rights after completion of prison sentence, allowing parolees and probationers to vote; 4 states (Calif., Colo., Conn., N.Y.) restore rights after completion of prison time and parole, allowing probationers to vote.

(h) Photo identification is not required if two election officials can sign sworn statements saying they know the voter.

(i) Alaska is the first state to allow all voters—not just those covered by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)—to submit an absentee ballot electronically. Civilian voters must apply for an electronic ballot beginning 15 days before the election.

(j) An election officer may waive the identification requirement if the election officials know the identity of the voter.

(k) In October 2014, the Arkansas Supreme Court struck down a state law that requires voters to show photo identification before casting a ballot, ruling the requirement unconstitutional.

(l) While all registered voters are automatically mailed a ballot prior to the election, the state also operates in-person voting sites.

(m) Functional early voting, as the state permits in-person absentee voting, in which voters, within a certain period of time before the election, can apply in person for an absentee ballot (no excuse required) and cast a ballot in the election office.

(n) A registered voter must either present a photo ID or sign a Personal Identification Affidavit. After signing the Affidavit, the voter will be issued a ballot to be tabulated with all other ballots.

(o) Beginning in 2016, Massachusetts will have early voting only during even-year November elections. There are no early voting periods for primaries or municipal elections.

(p) Unless the witness is a notary, the witness must also be a registered Minnesota voter.

(q) Disabled voters do not need to have an absentee ballot notarized, but it must be witnessed.

(r) All absentee ballots must be notarized with the exception of the following: Missouri residents outside the U.S., including military on active duty and their immediate family members; permanently disabled voters and those voting absentee due to illness or physical disability; and caregivers.

(s) Photo identification will be required starting in 2016. However, voters who are unable to obtain an acceptable photo ID due to a reasonable impediment may still vote a provisional ballot at the polls. Examples of a reasonable impediment include but are not limited to the lack of proper documents, family obligations, transportation problems, work schedule, illness or disability, among other reasonable impediments faced by the voter. Voters must also sign a declaration describing their impediment; and provide their date of birth and last four digits of their Social Security number, or present their current voter registration card or a copy of an acceptable document bearing their name and address. (Acceptable documents include a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government-issued document.) The provisional ballot will be counted when the information on the declaration is verified and all other eligibility requirements are met.

(t) A Voter Identification Card issued by the County Election Board is the only valid proof of identity that does not include a photograph.

(u) All absentee ballots must be notarized with the following exceptions: Physically incapacitated voters and voters who care for physically incapacitated persons (ballot affidavit must be witnessed by two people); voters in a nursing home; overseas voters.

(v) State conducts election by mail. All registered voters are automatically mailed a ballot in advance of Election Day.

(w) In 2012, the legislature enacted a law requiring voters to show photo identification. However, in 2014 a state judge struck down the law.

(x) All absentee ballots must be notarized or signed by two witnesses with the following exceptions: military and overseas voters.

(y) If a voter has a reasonable impediment to obtaining photo identification, he or she may vote a provisional ballot after showing a non-photo voter registration card. State law defines a reasonable impediment as any valid reason, beyond a person's control, that creates an obstacle to obtaining Photo ID. Some examples include: religious objection to being photographed; disability or illness; work schedule; lack of transportation; lack of birth certificate; family responsibilities; election within short time frame of implementation of photo ID law (January 1, 2013); and any other obstacle a person finds reasonable.

(z) All absentee ballots must be notarized or signed by one witness, with the exception of qualified voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voters Act.

(aa) Absentee ballot applications (not absentee ballots) are required to be notarized unless a copy of the voter's photo identification is also submitted.

(bb) On Apr. 22, 2016, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed an order restoring the vote to all felons in Virginia, regardless of their charge, who had completed their term of incarceration and their term of probation or parole. The governor's action will not apply to felons released in the future, but aides say the governor plans to issue similar orders on a monthly basis to cover people as they are released.

(cc) State conducts election by mail. All registered voters are automatically mailed a ballot in advance of Election Day. Only Pierce County offers in-person voting.

(dd) In 2016, the West Virginia Legislature approved a bill that will require voters to show some form of identification before casting a ballot. Approved forms of identification include any government-issued ID or permit, with or without a photo, including a voter registration card; any college or high school issued ID; a health insurance card; a utility bill; a bank card or bank statement; or verification of identification by another adult who has known the voter for at least 6 months, including a poll worker. It is effective January 1, 2018.

(ee) Absentee ballot applications (not absentee ballots) are required to be certified by various officials, depending on the reason for voting absentee, such as a college registrar, employer, or medical official.