



# UNDERSTANDING ABSENTEE VOTING

What Every Missouri Voter Needs To Know

Missouri voters have the option of voting **ABSENTEE** before Election Day under certain circumstances, either **in person** or **by mail**.

## REASONS FOR VOTING ABSENTEE

You can vote absentee by mail or in person for six weeks before Election Day if you expect to be (**choose ONE reason**):

- Outside your election jurisdiction on Election Day
- Confined due to illness or disability or a caretaker for someone who lives at the same address (NO NOTARY REQUIRED)
- Poll worker, first responder, health care worker, or law enforcement
- Have a religious conflict
- Incarcerated but still eligible (NO NOTARY REQUIRED)
- In state-administered Safe at Home address confidentiality program.

**Voters do not need a reason to vote absentee in person starting 2 weeks before Election Day but must show a current government photo ID.**

**Voters with disabilities can request PERMANENT ABSENTEE STATUS** with their local election authority and automatically receive an absentee ballot **APPLICATION** before each election (No Notary Required).

## HOW DO I VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON?

You can vote absentee in person with an excuse at your local election office (or satellite location) starting **6 weeks before Election Day through 5pm on the Monday before Election Day**. You do not have to apply beforehand but you do need to bring ID.

**Starting 2 weeks before Election Day, no excuse is necessary to vote absentee in person.** Check with your local election authority or call 1-866-OUR-VOTE to find out all your options for voting absentee in person.

To vote absentee in person, **voters must show a valid Missouri or Federal photo ID.** (find a list of qualifying IDs at SHOWIT2VOTE.com). The no-ID provisional ballot option is not available for in-person absentee voting.

Questions or problems? Call or text

**1-866-OUR-VOTE** ELECTION PROTECTION   
(1-866-687-8683)

Online Chat: [866OURVOTE.org](https://866OURVOTE.org)

Language-Specific Hotlines: **Español 888-VE-Y-VOTA • Asian Languages 888-API-VOTE • Arabic 844-YALLA-US**

## HOW DO I VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL?

**APPLY** online or by sending an application to your local election authority by email, mail, in person, or via fax. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is 2nd Wednesday before Election Day, but earlier is better. First time voters: provide a copy of ID with application.

**CAST** the ballot and place in postage paid envelope provided.

**COMPLETE** the form on ballot envelope.

**SIGN** the ballot envelope (in front of a notary if required). Don't obscure or mark out any information on the return envelope, because this information is needed to verify your ballot.

## ▶ MAKE YOUR BALLOT COUNT! ◀

Absentee by mail ballots can be **rejected** if the ballot return envelope is not filled out correctly or if it arrives after Election Day. Election authorities are **not required to notify voters** when their ballot has been rejected, and many don't. **Make sure your ballot envelope is filled out correctly and sign the envelope in front of a notary if required.** Track your ballot or call your election office to ensure your ballot arrived & was accepted.

## NEED HELP CASTING YOUR BALLOT?

Voters have the **right to assistance** in casting an absentee ballot. Assistors **must sign the assistance statement** provided on the outside of the ballot return envelope.

## HOW SHOULD I RETURN MY BALLOT?

Absentee by Mail ballots may be returned to your election authority **by mail** (try to mail it at least 7-10 days before Election Day) or **in person** by the voter or a close relative. Your ballot must be **RECEIVED** by the election authority **BY 7pm ON ELECTION DAY** in order to count - **no exceptions.**

## WHAT IF I HAVE A PROBLEM?

**If your ballot never arrives, is lost or destroyed, gets damaged, or hasn't been received at the election office by Election Day, you can still vote at the polls on Election Day!**

**Don't have the ballot?** Complete a Lost Ballot Affidavit and vote absentee in person or regular (not provisional) ballot on Election Day.

**Have the ballot?** Surrender your ballot at your polling place and vote in person. **You cannot submit completed absentee ballots at a poll;** you must return it to the election office or surrender the ballot at the poll & vote in person.

**Still not sure what to do? Call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE for advice!**

**Questions or problems? Call or text**



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