



To: Interested Parties

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Date: 04/17/2024

Document #: 2024-M-0001

RE: Voting Method Laws in the U.S.

This memorandum outlines U.S. states that permit no-excuse absentee voting, all-mail elections, permanent absentee voting, early in-person voting, and early in-person absentee voting. In addition, this memorandum reviews the research provided by NCSL and makes a comparative analysis of these laws.

Definitions

- **Absentee Voting:** allows voters to cast their votes on or before election day without having to physically go to a polling place by request for specific reasons.
- **No-Excuse Absentee Voting:** allows voters to cast their votes on or before election day without having to physically go to a polling place by request. However, voters do not need to give any reason for their request to vote absentee.
- **All-Mail Elections:** all-mail elections are essentially the same as no-excuse absentee voting except voters do not have to request an absentee or mail-in ballot and instead, automatically receive one.
- **Permanent Absentee Voting:** voters become permanent absentee voters and do not have to request to vote by absentee ballot for each election.
- **Early In-Person Voting:** allows voters to vote prior to election day in-person.

Findings

NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING (28 States)		ALL-MAIL ELECTIONS (8 States)	PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTING LISTS (20 States)	EARLY IN-PERSON (All Voters) (20 States)	EARLY IN-PERSON ABSENTEE (17 States)
<u>Alaska</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>California</u>	Any Voter	<u>Alaska</u>	<u>Idaho</u>
<u>Arizona</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Arizona</u>	<u>Arizona</u>	<u>Indiana</u>
<u>Florida</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>D.C.</u>	<u>D.C.</u>	<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>Iowa</u>
<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Rhode Island</u>	<u>Hawaii</u>	<u>Maine</u>	<u>Connecticut</u>	<u>Kansas</u>
<u>Idaho</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Nevada</u>	<u>Maryland</u>	<u>Florida</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>
<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Dakota</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Michigan</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Maine</u>
<u>Iowa</u>	<u>Virginia</u>	<u>Utah</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>Washington</u>	<u>Montana</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>Missouri</u>
<u>Maine</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>		<u>New Jersey</u>	<u>Massachusetts</u>	<u>Montana</u>
<u>Maryland</u>		Only for	<u>New Mexico</u>	<u>Michigan</u>	<u>Ohio</u>
<u>Massachusetts</u>		General	<u>Virginia</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>
<u>Michigan</u>		Elections		<u>New Jersey</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>		<u>Vermont</u>	Voters with	<u>New Mexico</u>	<u>Rhode Island</u>
<u>Montana</u>			Permanent	<u>New York</u>	<u>South</u>
<u>Nebraska</u>			Disabilities	<u>North</u>	<u>Dakota</u>
<u>New Jersey</u>			<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Carolina</u>	<u>Virginia</u>
<u>New Mexico</u>			<u>Connecticut</u>	<u>North Dakota</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>
<u>New York</u>			<u>Delaware</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>
<u>North</u>			<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Carolina</u>	
<u>Carolina</u>			<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>	
<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>Louisiana</u> ¹	<u>Texas</u>	
			<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>West Virginia</u>	
			<u>New York</u>		
			<u>Tennessee</u>		
			<u>West</u>		
			<u>Virginia</u>		
			<u>Wisconsin</u>		

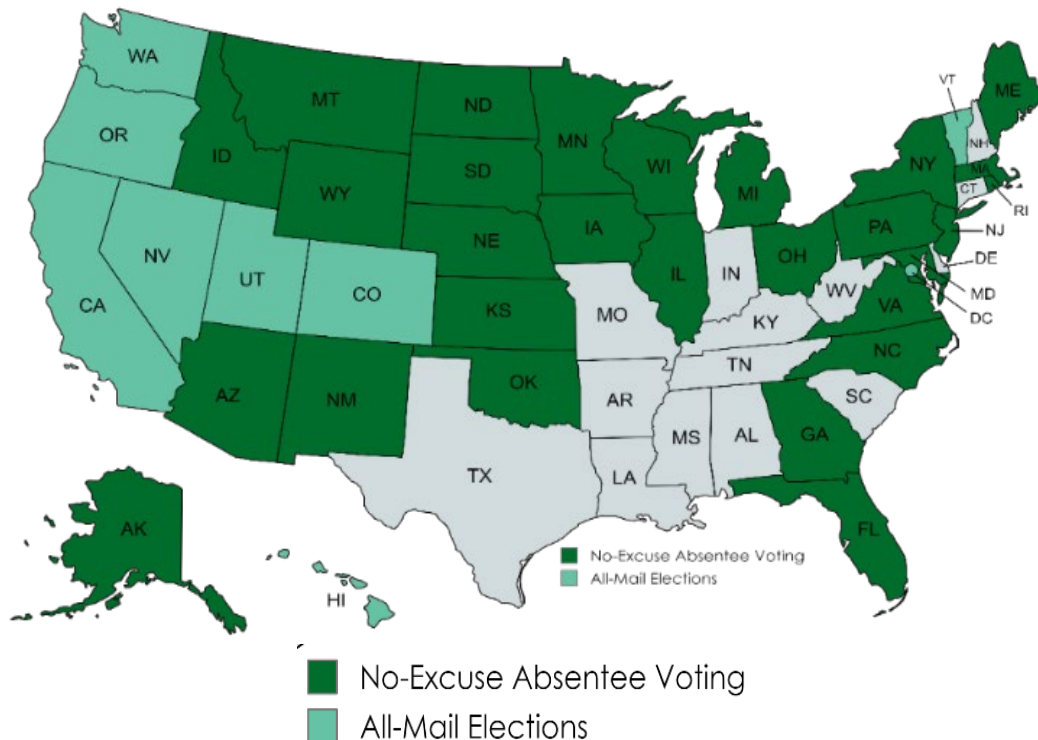
¹ Louisiana and Wisconsin also allow voters over the age of 65 to join a permanent absentee list.

No-Excuse Absentee Voting and All-Mail Elections

There are **28** states that permit no-excuse absentee voting (see **table on Page 1**). No-excuse absentee voting allows voters to request and cast absentee or mail-in ballots without requiring a reason or excuse for voting by absentee ballot.

There are **8** states and Washington, D.C. that permit all-mail elections (see **table on Page 1**). In all-mail elections, every voter receives a ballot in the mail by default and may mail or drop off their completed ballot at a designated drop site or polling location. Voters are still able to vote in person if they choose to do so on election day.

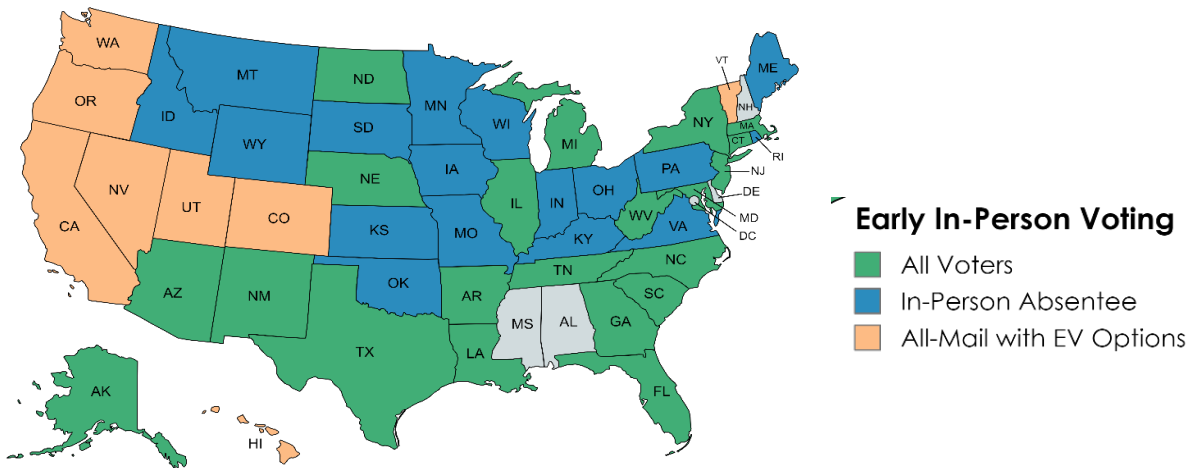
The most significant difference between no-excuse absentee voting and all-mail elections is that with no-excuse absentee voting, voters must request an absentee ballot, even though they do not have to give a reason. With all-mail elections, voters automatically receive an absentee/mail-in ballot.



Early In-Person Voting

Early voting falls into three similar and slightly distinct categories: early in-person for all voters, in-person absentee, all-mail with early voting options. In all three categories, voters can vote prior to election day, with the exception of some states that offer all-mail voting.

- **20 states allow early in-person voting to all voters.**
- **17 states allow early in-person absentee voting.** Voters here are required to request and fill an application for an absentee ballot.
- **8 states have all-mail elections,** where all voters automatically receive a ballot with some offering early voting options.
- **4 states do not offer early voting (Delaware, New Hampshire, Alabama, Mississippi)**



Early in-person voting period: The length for early in-person voting period range from 3 days to 46 days with the average being 20 days.

Maryland	Pennsylvania	New York	New Jersey
Early voting begins on the second Thursday before an election.	Early in-person absentee voting begins 50 days before election day.	Early voting begins on the 10 th day before election day.	Early in-person voting begins 10 days before election; in-person absentee voting begins 45 days before election day.

Weekends Included: **18 states allow** for early voting on the weekends (not including states that offer all-mail elections), of those, **6 states allow for early in-person voting on both weekend days²**, and **3 states offer for in-person absentee voting on both weekend days³**. **Five states offer early in-person voting on Saturday⁴**, and **5 states offer in-person absentee voting on Saturday.⁵**

² [Alaska](#), [Connecticut](#), [Illinois](#), [Michigan](#), [New York](#), [Tennessee](#)

³ [New Jersey](#), [Ohio](#), [Virginia](#)

⁴ [Arkansas](#), [Louisiana](#), [New Mexico](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#)

⁵ [Indiana](#), [Kentucky](#), [Minnesota](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Virginia](#)

Locations: For general elections, 34 states designate a specific location to be held for voting, such as election offices, county election commission offices, or government offices. Of those states, 21 states also give election administrators/officials discretion on where to hold early voting. In 6 states and DC a certain number of locations are required to be opened based on the number of registered voters in a county (Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma).

Location for early voting takes place...

STATE	...at election offices or government offices	...up to the discretion of election administrator	...in multiple locations depending on voter population
Maryland MD Election Law §10-301.1 (b)		State Board of Elections in collaboration with local boards	One to five locations per county depending on registered voter population
New Jersey NJ ST 19:15A-1 (b)			Each county must have at least three, but not more than five locations. Counties with a registered voter population more than, or at least, 150,000, at least five locations must be opened, but not more than seven. Counties with a registered voter population > 300,000, must have at least seven, but not more than ten.
New York NY ELEC § 8-600 (2)		Counties and city of New York	1 early voting location per full increment of 50,000 registered voters in each county, not more than seven are required. Counties with registered voter populations < 50,000 must have at least one early voting location
Pennsylvania 25 P.S. § 3146.2a	Local board of elections		
New Mexico N. M. S. A. 1978, § 1-6-5.7 (A) & (B)(1)	Clerk's Office		Registered voter population > 150,000 must have at least 15 additional locations Registered voter population <150,000 must establish four additional locations. Registered voter population <50,000 must establish at least one alternate location

Oklahoma
[\(OK ST T. 26 §
14-
115.4 \(1\)\(3\)\)](#)

County Election
Board

Registered voter population >25,000 or area >
1,500 square miles, more than one location must
be designated.