



Mail Ballot Receipt Deadline

No updates required since May 21, 2026

Background

Most states require voters returning absentee or mail ballots to ensure their ballots are received by the appropriate authority by Election Day. A number of states allow ballots to be received a certain number of days after Election Day if the ballot envelope is postmarked on or before Election Day. Finally, some states require absentee ballots to be received prior to Election Day.

Scoring

- Mail ballot receipt deadline on Election Day, 1/2 point
- Mail ballot receipt deadline after Election Day, 1/2 point
- Mail ballot receipt deadline before Election Day, 0 points

Summary Table

Category	Number	List
Mail ballot receipt deadline on Election Day	31 states	Arizona Colorado Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Maine Michigan Minnesota Missouri Montana Nebraska New Hampshire New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina



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		South Dakota Tennessee Utah Vermont Wisconsin Wyoming
Mail ballot receipt deadline after Election Day	14 states and D.C.	Alaska California D.C. Illinois Maryland Massachusetts Mississippi* Nevada New Jersey New York Oregon Texas Virginia Washington West Virginia
Mail ballot receipt deadline before Election Day	5 states	Alabama Arkansas Connecticut Louisiana Oklahoma



State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- Ballots must be postmarked by the day before the election and must be received by noon on the day of the election. Ballots dropped off in person must be returned the day before Election Day. ([Ala. Code § 17-11-18](#)).

Alaska (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received by 10 days after election day ([Alaska Admin. Code tit. 6, § 25.145](#)).

Arizona (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on the day of the election ([Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-547](#)).

Arkansas (0)

- Ballots must be received by 7:30 pm on the day of the election if sent by mail or by the Friday before the election for hand-delivered ballots ([Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-411](#)).

California (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 7 days after the election ([Cal. Elec. Code § 3020](#)).

Colorado (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on the day of the election ([Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-13.5-1006](#)).

Connecticut (0)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on the day of the election. Ballots delivered in person must be received the day before Election Day. ([Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-140b](#)).

Delaware (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on the day of the election ([Del. Code tit. 15, § 5508](#)).

D.C. (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 10 days after the election ([D.C. Mun. Regs. § 3-702](#)).

Florida (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on the day of the election ([Fla. Stat. §101.65](#)).



Georgia (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on the day of the election ([Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-385](#)).

Hawaii (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on the day of the election ([Haw. Rev. Stat. § 11-104](#)).

Idaho (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on the day of the election ([Idaho Code § 34-1005](#)).

Illinois (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 14 days after the election ([10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/19-8](#)).

Indiana (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 6:00 pm on the day of the election ([Ind. Code § 3-11-10-11](#)).

Iowa (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on the day of the election ([Iowa Code § 53.17](#)).

Kansas (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time polls close on the day of the election ([Kan. Stat. Ann. § 25-1132](#)).

Kentucky (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on the day of the election ([Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 117.086](#)).

Louisiana (0)

- Ballots must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the day before the election ([La. Stat. Ann. § 18:1308\(C\)](#)).

Maine (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on the day of the election ([Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, §755](#)).



Maryland (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 10:00 am on the second Friday after the election ([Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-505](#)).

Massachusetts (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received no later than 5pm on the third day after Election Day ([Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 54, § 95](#)).

Michigan (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.765](#)).

Minnesota (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on election day for mailed ballots and by 3:00 pm on election day for hand-delivered ballot ([Minn. Stat. § 203B.08](#)).

Mississippi (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received by up to five days after Election Day ([Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-637](#)).
- Note: Federal litigation is ongoing regarding a challenge to Mississippi's policy allowing postmarked ballots to be received after Election Day.

Missouri (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.293](#)).

Montana (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([Mont. Code Ann. § 13-13-232](#)).

Nebraska (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-950](#)).

Nevada (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 5:00 pm on the fourth day following an election ([AB 321 \(2021\)](#)).

New Hampshire (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 5:00 pm on election day ([N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 657:22](#)).



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New Jersey (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 144 hours after the polls close ([N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-22](#)).

New Mexico (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on election day ([N.M. Stat. Ann. § 1-6-10\(B\)](#)).

New York (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 7 days after the election ([N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-412](#)).

North Carolina (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the close of polls on election day ([SB747](#), 2023)
- Previously, ballots were required to be postmarked by election day and received no later than 5:00 pm 3 days after the election (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-231). This was changed by [SB747](#) (2023).

North Dakota (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day. ([N.D. Cent. Code § 16.1-07-09](#)).

Ohio (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day ([OH SB 293](#) (2025)).

Oklahoma (0)

- Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on election day. Ballots returned in person must be received the day before Election Day ([Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 14-104](#)).

Oregon (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received no later than 7 days after Election Day ([Or. Rev. Stat. §253.070](#)).

Pennsylvania (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on election day ([25 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3146.8](#)).

Rhode Island (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on election day ([17 R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-16](#)).

South Carolina (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([S.C. Code Ann. § 7-15-230](#)).



South Dakota (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([S.D. Codified Laws § 12-19-12](#)).

Tennessee (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-304](#)).

Texas (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 5:00 pm the day after the election ([Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 86.007](#)).

Utah (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 8pm on the day of the election ([Utah Code Ann. § 20A-3a-204](#)).

Vermont (1/2)

- Ballots must be returned to the town clerk's office before the close of the office on the day before the election or to the polling place before 7 p.m. on the day of the election ([Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 17, § 2543](#)).

Virginia (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than noon 3 days after the election ([Va. Code Ann. § 24.2-709](#)).

Washington (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than 5 days after the election ([Wash. Rev. Code § 29A.40.091](#)).

West Virginia (1/2)

- Ballots must be postmarked by election day and received no later than the hour at which the board of canvassers convenes to begin the canvass. Ballots returned in person must be received the day before Election Day. ([W. Va. Code § 3-3-5](#)).

Wisconsin (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on election day ([Wis. Stat. § 6.87](#)).

Wyoming (1/2)

- Ballots must be received by the time the polls close on election day ([Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 22-9-119](#)).