

ABSENTEE VOTING OPTIONS IN 2020

Missouri voters who wish to vote by mail must apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot using one of the options below. Voters who are voting for the first time in their county may be required to submit a copy of an approved ID along with their absentee ballot application. Close relatives can submit an absentee ballot application on behalf of a voter.



Your local election authority will process your application and mail you a ballot. You can find contact info for your local election office at:

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localelectionauthority>

Since mail has been taking up to 10 business days, the League recommends voters request a mail-in or absentee ballot by Oct. 7, which is also the deadline to register to vote.

Applications are available online at sos.mo.gov/elections, lwvstl.org, or at your election authority web site or office. List the reason you would like to vote by mail, but do not indicate more than one excuse. Your election authority must receive your application by 5 pm on Oct. 21.

What Kind of Absentee Ballot Do I Need?

1. Are you over 65 years old? If so, you can vote absentee under a new excuse for 2020: The voter is in an at-risk category for contracting coronavirus. No notary seal is required on the ballot envelope for voters using this excuse.

2. Do you have COVID-19 or are you in one of the following categories that the CDC says puts you at risk for contracting or spreading COVID-19?

If so, you can use the new excuse that's listed seventh on the form and won't need the ballot notarized.

- 65 years or older
- In a long-term care facility
- Chronic lung disease or moderate/severe asthma
- Serious heart condition
- Immunocompromised
- Diabetes
- Liver Disease
- Chronic kidney disease/dialysis

3. Are you confined due to illness or physical disability? If so, or if you are caring for a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability, you can check the second excuse that doesn't require a notary.

4. Do you suffer from a permanent disability? If you have health or mobility issues, the League encourages you to apply for permanent absentee status due to disability. Each election office has its own application for this category. You should automatically receive an absentee ballot application before each election and will not need to have your signature notarized on the ballot envelope. Check the second excuse that you are confined due to illness or disability.

5. Do you fall into one of the other categories for casting an absentee ballot?

- Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such voter is registered to vote;
- Religious belief or practice;
- Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than such voter's polling place;
- Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained;
- Certified participation in the address confidentiality program (abuse victims).

If you use one of these excuse categories and not the illness or disability excuse, your ballot will indicate that the envelope needs to be signed in the presence of a notary public. A notary cannot charge a fee for notarizing an absentee ballot.

6. Other Missouri voters can request a new MAIL-IN BALLOT. Under the special rules the legislature approved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, any Missouri voter may vote by mail in the Nov. 3 general election, but the ballot envelope will need to be signed in the presence of a notary public. While notaries cannot charge a fee for notarizing absentee ballots, current law allows them to charge up to \$2 to notarize a MAIL-IN BALLOT. A notary is available in the League office at 8706 Manchester Road in St. Louis from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday-Friday. Find a list of other notaries not charging for this service at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/MailinNotary>.

NOTE: Unlike an absentee ballot that can be submitted in person, **the new MAIL-IN BALLOT must be returned by mail.** The League encourages voters who receive a MAIL-IN BALLOT fewer than 10 days before the election to take it to their polling place and ask to have it spoiled so they can vote in person.

Submit Your Ballot Early. After you receive your ballot, use VOTE411.org to learn about the candidates and ballot issues. After filling out your ballot, **you need to sign the ballot envelope** (in the presence of a notary public if required) and **verify your address where indicated.** Do not check more than one reason you are voting by mail. No postage is necessary but you can add a First Class stamp. **All ballots must be received at your local election authority by 7 pm on Election Day.**

Questions or problems? Go to lwvstl.org or call the League of Women Voters office at 314-961-6869. **You can also call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683).**

