



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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Mail Ballot Deadlines, 2012-2022

Table 1 tracks the mail ballot deadlines across six election cycles from 2012 to 2022. The sources for the data were NASS (2012-2016) and the EAVS Policy Survey (2018-2022). The EAVS did not ask states for mail ballot return deadlines before 2018. Thirty-seven states and territories (66%) saw no change in their mail ballot return/received by deadlines between 2012-2022. The remaining 19 states, territories, and the District of Columbia (34%) saw at least one change in their deadlines across the same period.

Table 2 highlights the 19 states, territories, and federal district, that saw changes over time. Ten states (53%) changed their dates for the first time in 2020, and three states (16%) changed their dates for the first time in 2016 and 2022, respectively. Two states changed their dates for the first time in 2014 (11%) and one state in 2018 (5%). Overall, the 19 states changed their dates an average of two times between 2012-2022.

Table 1: Mail Ballot Return Deadlines, 2012-2022

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|----------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Alabama | Postmarked by Nov 5 th ; Received by Noon on Election Day | Postmarked by Nov 3; Received by Nov 4 | Ballot must be delivered in person by 11/7 or postmarked by 11/7 and received by 11/8. | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received by Election Day | Postmarked by 1 day before Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Alaska | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Nov 16th | Postmarked by Nov 4; Received by Nov 14 | Deadline to return an electronic transmission ballot is 11/8. Mail absentee ballots must be postmarked | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 calendar days after Election Day |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | no later than 11/8 and received by 11/18. | | | |
| Arizona | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Arkansas | 7:30 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day, Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| California | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/8. Mail absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than 11/8 and received by 11/11. | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 17 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 7 calendar days after Election Day |
| Colorado | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Connecticut | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received by Election Day |
| Delaware | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| District of Columbia | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Nov 16th | Postmarked by Nov 4; Received by Nov 14 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 7 days after Election Day |
| Florida | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Georgia | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Hawaii | 6:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Idaho | 8:00 PM Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Illinois | Postmarked by Nov 5 th ; Received by Nov 20 th | Postmarked by Nov 3; Received by Nov 18 | Ballot must be postmarked by 11/8 or have certification date prior to 11/8 and be received by 11/22. | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 14 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 14 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 14 calendar days after Election Day |
| Indiana | 6:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Iowa | Postmarked by Nov 5 th ; Received by Noon on Nov 13 th | Postmarked by Nov 3; Received by Nov 10 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/7. Mail absentee ballots must | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received 7 days after Election Day | Postmarked by 1 day before Election Day; Received 6 days after Election Day | Received by Election Day |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | | | be postmarked before 11/8 and received by 11/4. | | | |
| Kansas | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 business days after Election Day |
| Kentucky | 6:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Louisiana | 4:30 PM on November 5 th | Nov 3 | 11/7 | Received 1 day before Election Day | Received by 1 day before Election Day | Received 1 day before Election Day |
| Maine | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Maryland | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by 10:00am on Nov 16th | Postmarked by Nov 4; Received Nov 14 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/8. Mail absentee ballots must be postmarked by 11/8 and received no later than 11/18. | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 calendar days after Election Day |
| Massachusetts | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; | Postmarked by Election Day; |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|----------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | Received 3 days after Election Day | Received 3 calendar days after Election Day |
| Michigan | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Minnesota | 3:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Mississippi | 5:00 PM on Nov 5 th | Nov 3 | Deadline to receive absentee ballots is 11/7. Mail absentee ballots received on 11/8 will be counted for Presidential race only. | Postmarked 30 days before Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 5 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 5 business days after Election Day |
| Missouri | 7:00 PM Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Montana | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Nebraska | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Nevada | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 7 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 4 calendar days after Election Day |
| New Hampshire | 5:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| New Jersey | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 7 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 6 calendar days after Election Day |
| New Mexico | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| New York | Postmarked by Nov 5 th ; Received by Nov 13 th | Postmarked by Nov 3; Received by Nov 11 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/8. Mail absentee ballot must be postmarked by 11/7 and received no later than 11/15. | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received 7 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 7 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 7 calendar days after Election Day |
| North Carolina | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by 5:00 PM on Nov 9 th | Postmarked by Nov 4; Received by Nov 7 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/8. Mail absentee ballot must be postmarked by 11/8 and received no later than 11/11. | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 9 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 business days after Election Day |
| North Dakota | Postmarked by Nov 5 th ; Received by county | Postmarked by Nov 3; Received by county canvass | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; | Postmarked by 1 day before Election Day; | Postmarked by 1 day before Election Day; |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|---------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| | canvassing meeting | | received by 11/7. Mail absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than 11/7 and received by county canvass (11/14). | Received 6 days after Election Day | Received by 6 days after Election Day | Received 13 calendar days after Election Day |
| Ohio | Postmarked by Nov 5 th ; Received by Nov 16th | Postmarked by Nov 3; Received by Nov 14 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/8. Mail absentee ballots must be postmarked by 11/7. and received by 11/18. | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by 1 day before Election Day; Received by 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received 10 calendar days after Election Day |
| Oklahoma | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Oregon | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | N/A (all mail) | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 7 calendar days after Election Day |
| Pennsylvania | Received by November 2 nd | Received by Oct 31 | 11/4 | Received 4 days before Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Rhode Island | 9:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by 7 calendar days after |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | Election Day |
| South Carolina | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| South Dakota | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Tennessee | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Texas | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 1 day after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 1 day after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 1 business day after Election Day |
| Utah | Postmarked by Nov 5 th ; Received by Noon on the date of canvass | Postmarked by Nov 3; Received by canvass | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/8. Mail absentee ballot must be postmarked by 11/7 and received by canvass (11/22). | Postmarked 1 day before Election Day; Received 14 days after Election Day | Postmarked by 1 day before Election Day; Received 13 days after Election Day | Postmarked by 1 day before Election Day; Received 13 calendar days after Election Day |
| Vermont | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Virginia | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 calendar days after Election Day |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Washington | Postmarked by Election Day | Postmarked by Nov 4 | N/A (all mail) | Postmarked by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 20 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 20 calendar days after Election Day |
| West Virginia | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Nov 13 th | Postmarked by Nov 4; Received by Nov 10 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/7. Mail absentee ballot must be postmarked by 11/8 and received by canvass (11/14). | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 3 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 5 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 6 calendar days after Election Day |
| Wisconsin | 8:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | Absentee ballot delivered in person must be received by 11/8 Mail absentee ballots must be postmarked by 11/8 and received by 11/11. | Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Wyoming | 7:00 PM on Election Day | Nov 4 | 11/8 | Postmarked by Election Day; Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| American Samoa | - | - | - | Postmarked by Election Day; | Postmarked by Election Day; | Postmarked by Election Day; |

| State | 2012: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2014: (Election Day Nov 4) | 2016: (Election Day Nov 8) | 2018: (Election Day Nov 6) | 2020: (Election Day Nov 3) | 2022: (Election Day Nov 8) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day | Received by Election Day |
| Guam | - | - | - | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 business days after Election Day |
| Puerto Rico | - | - | - | Postmarked 30 days before Election Day; Received by Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 14 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day |
| Virgin Islands | - | - | - | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 10 days after Election Day | Received 10 calendars after Election Day |
| Northern Mariana Islands | - | - | - | - | Postmarked by Election Day; Received 14 days after Election Day | Received by Election Day |

Table 2

| State | Years when Mail Ballot Received by Date Changed |
|---------------------------------|---|
| California | Received by date changed in 2016, 2020, and 2022 |
| District of Columbia | Received by date changed in 2016, 2020, and 2022 |
| Iowa | Received by date changed 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 |
| Massachusetts | Received by date changed in 2020 |
| Mississippi | Received by date changed in 2020 |
| Nevada | Received by date changed in 2020 and 2022 |
| New Jersey | Received by date changed in 2020 and 2022 |
| North Carolina | Received by date changed in 2020 but went back to the previous deadline in 2022 |
| North Dakota | Received by date changed in 2022 |
| Oregon | Received by date changed in 2022 |
| Pennsylvania | Received by date changed in 2020 |
| Rhode Island | Received by date changed in 2022 |
| Texas | Received by date changed in 2018 |
| Utah | Received by date changed in 2020 |
| Virginia | Received by date changed in 2020 |
| West Virginia | Received by date changed in 2014, 2018, 2020, and 2022 |
| Wisconsin | Received by date changed in 2016 and 2018 |
| Puerto Rico | Received by date changed in 2020 |
| Northern Mariana Islands | Received by date changed in 2020 and 2022 |