



# Absentee Ballot Instructions

R.C. 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.08, 3505.181

Please Read Carefully

## 1 Complete Your Ballot

- Fill in the entire box or oval for your selection.
- Do not make any other markings on your ballot.
- Follow the specific instructions on the ballot.



## 2 Prepare Your Ballot and Envelope

**On the *outside* of the Identification Envelope, you *must* do the following:**

- Print your name and address on the Identification Envelope (if not already pre-printed by your board of elections)
- Provide **ONE** of the following:
  - A. The last four digits of your Social Security number  
**→OR←**
  - B. Your Ohio driver's license number (2 letters followed by 6 numbers)  
**→OR←**
  - C. A **COPY** of a current and valid photo ID, a military ID, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections), that shows your name and address.



If you choose option C above, place the **copy of your ID** in the Return Envelope **separate** from the Identification Envelope. Election officials must be able to see you have provided ID in order to open and count your ballot.

- Sign your name. **Important!** Your ballot cannot be counted without your signature.
- Seal your voted ballot into the Identification Envelope. Do not remove the numbered stub attached to your ballot.
  - Place the sealed, completed, and signed Identification Envelope into the Return Envelope.
  - Seal the Return Envelope containing your completed and sealed Identification Envelope and, if applicable, your separate ID copy or document.



# 3 Return Your Ballot

**Return Your Ballot In Person By: 7:30 p.m. on Election Day**  
**Mail Your Ballot Postmarked By: The day before Election Day**



## By Mail

If you are returning your absentee ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by the day before Election Day. If you are mailing your ballot during the week before Election Day, take your ballot to a post office and ensure a postmark as follows:

- If you use a postage label purchased at a USPS customer service window or vending machine, the date on the label is the postmark. This is the USPS recommended way to postmark your ballot.
- If you use postage stamps, ask that it be postmarked.

**Your voted  
absentee ballot  
postage will cost:**

**\$0.60 Cents  
or one  
Forever Stamp**

## In Person

If you are returning your absentee ballot in person to your board of elections, you must do so by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Secure drop boxes are available at all boards of elections. Only you, your spouse, child, or a near relative\* may deliver your ballot to the board of elections for you. For county boards of elections locations and hours, please visit: [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov).



You may NOT return your absentee ballot to your polling place.

# 4 Track Your Ballot

- Go to [VoteOhio.gov/track](http://VoteOhio.gov/track).
- Select your county.
- Enter your first and last name to see where your ballot is or if it has been processed.

## What happens if I make an error when I mark my ballot?

If you make a mistake when marking your ballot, please contact your county board of elections for a replacement ballot. You may request a replacement ballot only two times.

### NOTICE:

**If you change your mind about voting absentee and decide to vote at your precinct polling location on Election Day, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot.**