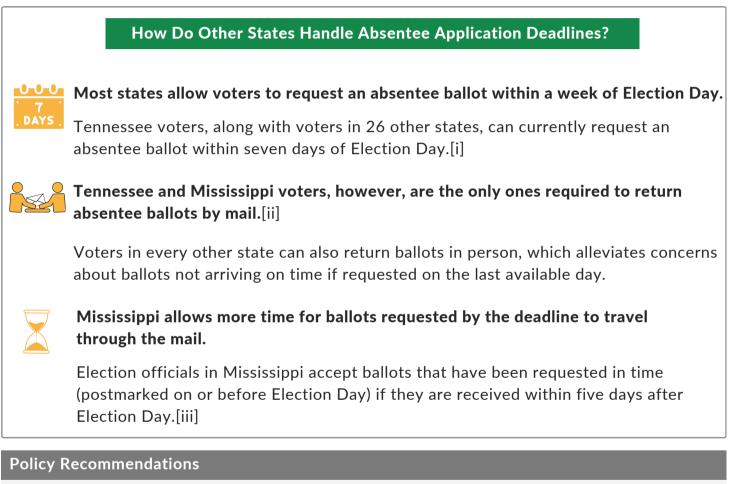


## TENNESSEE IS THE ONLY STATE TO REQUIRE ABSENTEE BALLOTS BE RECEIVED BY MAIL BY THE CLOSE OF POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

Tennesseans voting absentee must return their ballots **by mail**, and the ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day. However, voters may request an absentee ballot up to **seven days before Election Day**, meaning a properly requested absentee ballot may not be counted because it does not arrive in time.

Lawmakers could consider policies to address this situation so that all eligible Tennesseans are able to have their vote count.



Enhancing, rather than removing, opportunities for voters to participate supports increased civic engagement.

## Keep the current application deadline of seven days before Election Day.

Maintaining the current window keeps Tennessee aligned with the majority of states.

## Allow voters to return absentee ballots directly to election officials.

Ballots returned in person could be stored in the same way as those received currently. This would simply allow not just mail carriers but individual voters (or their designee) to give them to election officials.

## NOTES

North Dakota	In a Timely Manner to Allow Time to Vote	Nebraska	
Mississippi	On or Before Election Day	Alaska	
Connecticut	Day Before Election Day	Florida	
Minnesota	Day Before Election Day	New York	
Montana	Day Before Election Day	Arizona	
Wyoming	Day Before Election Day	Georgia	
Vermont	Day Before Election Day	South Carolina	
New Hampshire	Day Before Election Day	Idaho	
South Dakota	Day Before Election Day	Texas	
Michigan	Friday Before Election Day	Virginia	
Maine	3rd Business Day Before Election Day	Indiana	
Delaware	4 Days Before Election Day	Missouri	
Louisiana	4 Days Before Election Day	Kentucky	
Illinois	5 Days Before Election Day	New Mexico	
Massachusetts	5 Days Before Election Day	lowa	
Wisconsin	By Mail: 5 Days Before Election Day	Rhode Island	
	In Person: Sunday Before Election Day	Oklahoma	
West Virginia	6 Days Before Election Day	Nevada	
Kansas	Tuesday Before Election Day	Colorado	
Maryland	By Mail: 7 Days Before Election Day	Hawaii	
	In Person: Election Day	DC	
Alabama	By Mail: 7 Days Before Election Day	Oregon	
	In Person: 5 Days Before Election Day	Washington	
Arkansas	By Mail: 7 Days Before Election Day	Utah	
	In Person: Friday Before Election Day		
California	7 Days Before Election Day		
Tennessee	7 Days Before Election Day		
New Jersey	7 Days Before Election Day		
Ohio	7 Days Before Election Day		
North Carolina	7 Days Before Election Day		
Pennsylvania	7 Days Before Election Day		

[i] Deadlines for requesting absentee applications:

Nebraska	2nd Fri. Before Election Day	
Alaska	10 Days Before Election Day	
Florida	10 Days Before Election Day	
New York	10 Days Before Election Day	
Arizona	11 Days Before Election Day	
Georgia	11 Days Before Election Day	
South Carolina	11 Days Before Election Day	
Idaho	11 Days Before Election Day	
Texas	11 Days Before Election Day	
Virginia	11 Days Before Election Day	
Indiana	12 Days Before Election Day	
Missouri	2nd Wed. Before Election Day	
Kentucky	14 Days Before Election Day	
New Mexico	14 Days Before Election Day	
lowa	15 Days Before Election Day	
Rhode Island	21 Days Before Election Day	
Oklahoma	3rd Mon. Before Election Day	
Nevada	Vote By Mail State	
Colorado	Vote By Mail State	
Hawaii	Vote By Mail State	
DC	Vote By Mail State	
Oregon	Vote By Mail State	
Washington	Vote By Mail State	
Utah	Vote By Mail State	

North Dakota's deadline is "in a timely manner to allow time to vote."N.D.C.C § 16.1-07-05(3). Mississippi Code says absentee applications and ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day. Mississippi Code Title 23. Elections § 23-15-637(1)(a).

[ii] All states except Tennessee and Mississippi allow voters to return absentee ballots either to local election offices, polling places, or in secured drop boxes.

[iii] Mississippi Code Title 23. Elections § 23-15-721(3).

Think*Tennessee* is a nonpartisan, results-oriented think tank that uses research and advocacy to build a state where all Tennesseans are civically engaged and economically secure.

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