

Instructions for Voting a Paper Ballot by Mail

Marking your Ballot:

- Mark your ballot with a pen. You may mark your choices clearly with an "X" or fill in the oval with blue or black ink.
- The instructions below the title of each office on the ballot will tell you how many people you may choose for that office.
- **Voting a Write-In Candidate:** To vote for an official write-in candidate, print the name of the candidate in the space provided (the blank line above the phrase "Write-In, If Any). You may request the list of write-in candidates from your county clerk.

When you finish marking your ballot:

1. Fold your ballot, place it in the envelope marked No. 1, and seal the envelope. Note: Do not remove the stub from your ballot.
2. Place the sealed envelope No. 1 (containing your ballot) inside of envelope marked No. 2 and seal envelope No. 2.
3. Complete and sign the top section of the form on envelope No. 2, titled "Voter: Complete and Sign the Following."
4. On the other side of envelope No. 2, next to the county clerk's address, sign your name across the seal of the envelope - this protects the security of your absentee ballot.
5. Return your ballot to your county clerk's office as soon as possible.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

- If you make a mistake in your selection, cross out both the mark and the candidate or issue, and mark your choice.
- If your ballot is destroyed or you cannot correct your mistakes, you should immediately contact your county clerk for instructions on receiving a replacement ballot.

Deadlines for returning your ballot (must be received in the county clerk's office by these deadlines):

- By mail: by the close of polls on election day
- By mail without postmark: the day after the election
- By mail postmarked by the US Postal Service by Election Day: the start of canvass (five days after the election, excluding Sundays)
- Ballots from military and overseas voters: the start of canvass (five days after the election, excluding Sundays)
- Hand-delivered (a person may deliver no more than two absentee ballots): the day before the election