

2008

WASHINGTON ABSENTEE VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

1. ***You have the right to request an absentee ballot for a single election at any time ninety days prior to the election, up until the day before the election.*** You may make the request orally in person, by telephone, electronically or in writing to your county auditor. When requesting an absentee ballot, you should provide the address to which the ballot should be sent and the address at which you are currently registered to vote. RCW 29A.40.020. A member of your immediate family may also request an absentee ballot on your behalf by identifying your date of birth. RCW 29A.40.030.
2. ***You have the right to obtain a replacement ballot if your absentee ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or never received.*** You may request a replacement ballot by telephone, mail, electronically, or in person to your county auditor at any time before 8:00 p.m. on election day. RCW 29A.40.061(2).
3. ***You have the right to return your ballot by mail or in person.*** If mailed, your ballot must be postmarked no later than the date of the election. If deposited in person, the ballot must be deposited at the office of your county auditor during normal business hours before the election or from 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. WAC 434-250-100.
4. ***You have the right to vote by provisional ballot at a polling location even if you requested an absentee ballot.*** If you return both a provisional ballot and an absentee ballot, your absentee ballot (not your provisional ballot) will be counted. RCW 29A.08.040; WAC 434-253-047(6).
5. ***If you forget to sign the outside envelope of your ballot, you have the right to sign your ballot after submission and have your ballot counted.*** If you forget to sign the outside envelope, your county auditor should notify you by first class mail or by telephone. For the vote to be counted, you must either appear in person and sign the envelope or submit a signed copy of the envelope provided by the auditor. RCW 29A.60.165(1).
6. ***If the signature on the outside envelope of your ballot does not match the signature in your voter registration file, you have the right to update your signature and have your ballot counted.*** If your county's canvassing board determines that the signature on the outside envelope of your ballot does not match the signature in your voter registration file, your county auditor should notify you by first class mail or by telephone. For the vote to be counted, you must either appear in person and sign a new registration form or submit a signed copy of the envelope affidavit provided by the auditor, along with a photocopy of a valid government document that includes your current signature. RCW 29A.60.165(2).



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WASHINGTON MAIL BALLOT VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

1. **If you are an active voter in a county that is conducting an election entirely by mail, you have the right to automatically receive a mail ballot before the election.** RCW 29A.48.010(3).
2. **If you are an inactive voter in a county that is conducting an election entirely by mail, you have the right to receive either a mail ballot or an application to receive a ballot before the election.** If you receive and return a voted mail ballot, your status will be returned to active. If you receive and return an application to receive a ballot, you have the right to receive a mail ballot and your status will be returned to active. RCW 29A.48.010(3).
3. **You have the right to obtain a replacement ballot if your mail ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or never received.** You or a member of your immediate family may request a replacement ballot by telephone, mail, electronically, or in person to your county auditor at any time before 8:00 p.m. on election day. RCW 29A.48.040(2); WAC 434-250-080.
4. **You have the right to return your ballot by mail or in person.** If mailed, your ballot must be postmarked no later than the date of the election. If deposited in person, the ballot must be deposited at the office of your county auditor during normal business hours before the election or from 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. RCW 29A.48.050; WAC 434-250-100.
5. **You should sign the outside envelope of your ballot. If you forget to sign the outside envelope, you have the right to sign your ballot after submission and have your ballot counted.** If you forget to sign the outside envelope, your county auditor should notify you by first class mail or by telephone. For the vote to be counted, you must either appear in person and sign the envelope or submit a signed copy of the envelope provided by the auditor. RCW 29A.48.060; RCW 29A.60.165(1).
6. **If the signature on the outside envelope of your ballot does not match the signature in your voter registration file, you have the right to update your signature and have your ballot counted.** If your county's canvassing board determines that the signature on the outside envelope of your ballot does not match the signature in your voter registration file, your county auditor should notify you by first class mail or by telephone. For the vote to be counted, you must either appear in person and sign a new registration form or submit a signed copy of the envelope affidavit provided by the auditor, along with a photocopy of a valid government document that includes your current signature. RCW 29A.48.060; RCW 29A.60.165(2).

