

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECURITY OF REMOTE VOTE BY MAIL TASK FORCE

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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General Assembly Security Of Remote Vote By Mail Task Force

FULL REPORT

Co-Chairs: Rep. Katie Stuart (112th District) & Sen. Sally Turner (44th District)

Meeting Frequency: Biweekly

Function of the Task Force

The Security of Remote Vote by Mail Task Force was established to examine the feasibility of implementing a remote vote-by-mail system in Illinois. This system would enable election authorities to electronically transmit vote-by-mail ballots to voters and allow those voters to electronically mark, verify, and return their completed ballots.

In conducting its study, the Task Force was charged with evaluating:

- The safety and security of remote vote-by-mail systems;
- Existing remote voting methods utilized across the United States;
- Potential safeguards to mitigate security concerns related to such systems;
- Necessary statutory changes required to authorize and implement remote vote-by-mail in Illinois.

Task Force Membership

Denise Avant, Jason Bowen, Don Gray, Juan Lopez, Patrick O’Brian, Noah Praetz, Jennifer Langley, Anthony Stauder, Representative Katie Stuart (Co-Chair), Representative Michelle Mussman, Representative Ryan Spain, Senator Sally Turner (Co-Chair)

Statutory Authority

Citation: 10 ILCS 5/1-25

Effective Date: August 4, 2023

Scheduled Repeal: July 1, 2026

Enabling Language:

Pursuant to Section 1-25 of the Illinois Election Code, the Security of Remote Vote by Mail Task Force was created to assess the viability and implications of establishing a secure, remote vote-by-mail system. The statute mandates that the Task Force deliver its findings to the Governor and General Assembly no later than June 30, 2025. The State Board of Elections shall provide staff and administrative support to facilitate the work of the Task Force. Members serve without compensation.

Meetings and Documentation

All meeting agendas and minutes are appended to this report.

Evidence and Materials Presented

The following documents and resources were reviewed by the Task Force:

- *Accessible Vote by Mail Packet for Election Authorities* (Illinois State Board of Elections)
- *Accessible Ballot Transmission by State* (Presentation by Denise Avant)
- *NCSL Table: Electronic Return of Marked Vote-by-Mail Ballots* (State Board of Elections)
- *UOCAVA Data Request for the 2024 General Election* (State Board of Elections)
- *Cybersecurity Analysis of OmniBallot* (Letter from Synack, provided by Democracy Live)
- *Accessible Vote by Mail Advocacy Letter* (Democracy Live, submitted to the State of Illinois)

Conclusion

- The Security of Remote Vote by Mail Task Force concluded that the associated cybersecurity risks were significant and ultimately prevented the task force from identifying a viable implementation solution.

General Assembly Security Of Remote Vote By Mail Task Force

Meeting Date: February 24th, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Members Present:

Denise Avant, Jason Bowen, Don Gray, Juan Lopez, Patrick O’Brian, Noah Praetz, Jennifer Langley, Anthony Stauder, Representative Katie Stuart (Co-Chair), Representative Michelle Mussman, Representative Ryan Spain, Senator Sally Turner (Co-Chair)

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Presentation

- Scott Wiedmann (FVAP) presented on the history and role of FVAP in facilitating military and overseas voting.
- Under the MOVE Act, blank ballots must be sent electronically; return methods vary by state (mail, email, fax, secure portal).
- Some states offer signature alternatives using digital tools (e.g., stylus, tablet).
- States can use federal grants to improve ballot delivery and tracking systems.
- Final decision on electronic ballot return methods lies with individual states.

Clerk Overview: Processing UOCAVA & Visually Impaired VBM Ballots

- Clerks Gray and O’Brian explained that returned ballots (fax, email, mail) are remade for tabulation using secure procedures.
- Signature verification is done manually by election judges using barcodes.
- The process is labor-intensive but secure.

- Emerging technologies, such as QR-coded portals and ballot stock printers, may streamline the return process.
- Chicago uses ballot stock printers for accessible/UOCAVA ballots.

Public Comment

- Ray Campbell (Illinois Council for the Blind) commended Sangamon County's efforts and emphasized the importance of a paper trail.
- Suggested jurisdictions add a website checkbox to request accessible ballots.
- Denise Avant noted similar features were implemented in Chicago through advocacy.

General Assembly Security Of Remote Vote By Mail Task Force

Meeting Date: February 10th, 2025 | 1:00 PM

Members Present:

Jason Bowen, Don Gray, Juan Lopez, Noah Praetz, Jennifer Langley, Anthony Stauder, Representative Katie Stuart (Co-Chair), Representative Michelle Mussman, Representative Ryan Spain, Senator Sally Turner (Co-Chair)

Absent: Denise Avant, Patrick O'Brian

Overview of Electronic Ballot Return in Other States

- SBE's Jordan Andrew reviewed NCSL data: 31 states + DC and USVI allow electronic return via email, fax, or online portal.
- Security, verification, and return methods vary by jurisdiction.

Illinois Demonstration: Accessible Vote by Mail (AVBM)

- The video demo showed Illinois' process for blind/low vision voters using assistive tech.
- System tested by National Federation of the Blind and supports translation.

Vendor Demo – Democracy Live

- Bryan Finney (President) presented a secure, cloud-based electronic ballot return system.
- Would require legislative change in Illinois to permit use for UOCAVA voters.

Colorado Presentation – Hilary Rudy, Deputy Election Director

- Colorado has used Democracy Live since 2012 for military, overseas, and qualifying disabled voters.
- Secure return methods include email, fax, or portal.
- Encrypted file transfer and ID verification used to protect voter data.
- The state manages top-down voter databases and security standards.

Security & Privacy Concerns

- Electronic return classified as *high risk* by federal agencies (CISA, DOJ, NIST, etc.).
- Discussion on system certification, procurement rules, and oversight.
- UOCAVA ballot data by jurisdiction reviewed.

Other Business

- Dept. of Defense rep to present at next meeting.

General Assembly Security Of Remote Vote By Mail Task Force

Meeting Date: January 27th, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Members Present:

Denise Avant, Don Gray, Juan Lopez, Patrick O’Brian, Noah Praetz, Jennifer Langley, Anthony Stauder, Representative Katie Stuart (Co-Chair), Representative Michelle Mussman, Senator Sally Turner (Co-Chair)

Members Absent: Jason Bowen, Representative Ryan Spain

SBE Presentation – Accessible Vote by Mail (AVBM)

Jordan Andrew (SBE) presented on AVBM for voters with print disabilities.

- AVBM allows voters to receive, mark, and print ballots using assistive technology.
- Ballots are transmitted electronically but returned by mail—this is *not* online voting.
- SBE contracts with Democracy Live; only Chicago uses its own system.
- AVBM process includes ballot preparation, access link delivery, voter printing, and physical return.
- Security protocols include direct ballot data transfer and secure vendor environment.
- AVBM authorized by Public Act 102-819; SBE prepared for potential future allowance of electronic returns.

County Clerk Presentations

Don Gray (Sangamon) and Patrick O’Brian (Fulton) outlined procedures for military and overseas ballots.

- MOVE and FVAP platforms allow remote ballot requests and tracking.
- Ballots sent electronically but must be printed and returned by mail.
- Ballots verified by election judges; non-matching signatures flagged and voters notified.
- Emphasis on ballot integrity, voter privacy, and signature validation.

Other Business

- The task force requested data on military/overseas ballot return rates and alternative signature verification methods.
- Continued coordination with NCSL for future state presentations.
- Future agenda items: AVBM security, out-of-state practices, vendor (Democracy Live) capabilities.

General Assembly Security Of Remote Vote By Mail Task Force

Meeting Date: January 15th, 2025 | 1:00 PM

Members Present:

Denise Avant, Jason Bowen, Don Gray, Juan Lopez, Patrick O'Brian, Noah Praetz, Jennifer Langley, Anthony Stauder, Representative Katie Stuart (Co-Chair), Representative Michelle Mussman, Representative Ryan Spain, Senator Sally Turner (Co-Chair)

Election of Co-Chairs:

Rep. Stuart and Sen. Turner were elected as Co-Chairs by unanimous vote (12-0).

Meeting Schedule:

Meetings scheduled biweekly starting Jan. 27 (also: Feb. 10, Feb. 24, Mar. 10).

- Jan. 27: Presentations from the State Board of Elections (SBE) and a local election official on accessible vote by mail.
- Feb. 10: Invite election officials from other states with remote vote by mail systems.
- Mar. 10: Focus on cybersecurity. Mr. Bowen to provide background research.

Other Business:

- Rep. Stuart to contact NCSL about state presentations.
- SBE to confirm presentations and distribute prior legislation from the 103rd General Assembly.
- Mr. Gray to coordinate with SBE for Jan. 27.

ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL PACKET

FOR ELECTION AUTHORITIES



2025 Consolidated
Primary

Instructions for Election Authorities on ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL



2025 Consolidated Primary
10 ILCS 5/19-2.6

01 To start

Send an electronic version of your certification/ballot privacy envelope to abeaty@elections.il.gov if you have updated this as of the 2024 General Election. If you have not made any updates, you are already good to go in the program.

02 Accepting AVBM Applications

Voters with a print disability can apply for an accessible vote by mail ballot. You can use the SBE's *AVBM Processing* template for assistance on processing AVBM applications and determining if a voter qualifies for an AVBM ballot. This is for inner office use and does not need to be shared with the SBE, but is recommended to use. *Note: a print disability is a temporary or permanent physical or mental impairment such as blindness, low vision, physical dexterity limitation, learning or cognitive disability, which prevents a person from the effective reading, writing, or use of printed material.*

You can use the SBE's *AVBM Application* template (similar to our VBM application template) to have voters complete to request a ballot. If you have created your own application or would prefer to you use a different application, you can do so. The SBE has created an AVBM application for regular accessible vote by mail and permanent accessible vote by mail. **The SBE recommends you do not place restrictions on the manner which a voter makes their AVBM request, but rather take the requests in the form in which they are made.**

An applicant must provide their email address on their application as that is where their ballot access link will be sent. Please advise the voter to check their spam or other filters to ensure communication from your office will be promptly delivered.

03 Receiving & Processing AVBM Applications

Within receipt of a proper AVBM application, you should:

- 1) prepare a PDF of that voter's ballot style
- 2) title it the name of your jurisdiction and the ballot style (i.e. Sangamon - Layden 1)
- 3) attach the PDF to an email to Felicia Erlich at felicia@democracylive.com
- 4) mail a certification envelope directly to the voter (who will print their ballot & return it this way)

Upon receipt, Felicia will convert the PDF and reply to you with an email that contains a link. This is the access link that you should forward to the voter, who will then be able to vote their ballot using that link.

04 Processing AVBM Ballots

Once received by your office, AVBM ballots should be processed/remade in the same manner as UOCAVA ballots. The SBE recommends to exercise consideration and discretion in evaluating the locations of the signatures on these ballots, while staying within the requirements of Articles 2B and 19 of the Election Code. AVBM may be returned in the same manner as a regular VBM ballot. We recommend maintaining a master list of AVBM voters separate from VBM voters. If you have mailed a VBM ballot and packet to an AVBM voter before the AVBM request has been made, treat the paper VBM ballot as a spoiled ballot.

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Accessible Vote by Mail Application Processing Form

To be completed by the election authority or their designated agent.

Voter Name: _____
(Last, First, MI)

Voter Date of Birth: _____ Voter SUID: _____

Voter Email Address: _____
(The address the AVBM ballot will be sent to)

Voter Precinct Number: _____ Voter Ballot Style: _____

Is the person registered to vote? YES NO:

Has this person applied to vote by mail? YES NO:

Does the person have a print disability*? YES NO:

If all boxes are checked Yes, then they are qualified to receive an accessible vote by mail ballot.

**A print disability is a temporary or permanent physical or mental impairment such as blindness, low vision, physical dexterity limitation, learning or cognitive disability, which prevents a person from the effective reading, writing, or use of printed material.*

APPLICATION FOR ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Applicant's Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
County	
Date of Birth*	
Phone Number*	
Email*	
To be voted at the	Election
Date of Election	
Precinct	

For Election Authority's Use Only	
Ballot Style:	
Voter ID:	

For Election Judge's Use Only	
Initials:	
Voter's Consecutive Number:	

(Primary Only) I request a ballot for the:
_____ Party.

Check here if you would like a nonpartisan ballot (referenda only)

*Optional information; even though this is not required, providing it may aid in the processing of your ballot

I certify that I reside at the address specified above, in the stated precinct and county, that I have lived at such address for 30 days or more preceding this election, that I am lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at said election to be held therein, and that I wish to vote by vote by mail ballot.

I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots to be voted by me at such election, and I agree that I shall return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election or, if returned by mail, postmarked no later than election day, for counting no later than during the period for counting provisional ballots, the last day of which is the 14th day following election day.

I understand that this application is made for an official vote by mail ballot or ballots to be voted by me at the election specified in this application and that I must submit a separate application for an official vote by mail ballot or ballots to be voted by me at any subsequent election. I swear or affirm that I am a voter with a print disability, and as a result of this disability, I am making a request to receive a vote by mail ballot electronically so that I may privately and independently mark, verify, and print my vote by mail ballot.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/29-10, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this application are true and correct.

Signature of Applicant

Today's Date

Address to which ballot should be mailed:
(if different from above)

IMPORTANT:

You must return the completed and signed application to the election authority with jurisdiction over your registration.

Mail To:

APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL STATUS

Applicant's Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
County	
Date of Birth*	
Phone Number*	
Email*	
Precinct	

For Election Authority's Use Only	
Ballot Style:	
Voter ID:	

For Election Judge's Use Only	
Initials:	
Voter's Consecutive Number:	

*Optional information; even though this is not required, providing it may aid in the processing of your ballot

I am currently a registered voter and wish to apply for permanent vote by mail status.

I state that I reside at the address specified above, in the stated precinct and county, that I have lived at such address for 30 days or more preceding this election, that I am lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at the next regularly scheduled election, and that:

I wish to vote by mail in all subsequent elections that do not require a party designation.

- or -

I wish to vote by mail in all subsequent elections and wish to receive the party ballot indicated below in all elections that require a party designation.

Democratic

Republican

Other* _____

I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots to be voted by me at such election, and I agree that I shall return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election or, if returned by mail, postmarked no later than election day, for counting no later than during the period for counting provisional ballots, the last day of which is the 14th day following election day.

I swear or affirm that I am a voter with a non-temporary print disability, and as a result of this disability, I am making a request to receive vote by mail ballots electronically so that I may privately and independently mark, verify, and print my vote by mail ballots.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/29-10, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this application are true and correct.

Signature of Applicant

Today's Date

Address to which ballot
should be mailed:
(if different from above)

IMPORTANT:

You must return the completed and signed application to the election authority with jurisdiction over your registration.

Mail To:

*Voter will only receive a primary ballot if the party listed is an established party in a race in which the voter is entitled to vote.

Voters with Disabilities?

STATE	Delivery	Return	E-Return UOCAVA	E-Return Method	Action Needed
AL			X	Portal	Legislation
AK	X	X	X	Fax	Legislation
AZ	X		X	Portal	Litigation
AR					
CA	X		X	Fax	Legislation
CO	X	X	X	Portal	
CT	X				
DE	X	X	X	Email	
DC	X	X	X	Portal	
FL	*		X	Fax	
GA					
HI	X	X	X	Portal	
ID					Legislation
IL	X				Legislation
IN	X	X	X	Portal	Won in litigation
IA			X	Email	Litigation
KS			X	Email	Litigation
KY	X				Legislation
LA	X	X	X	Fax	Legislation
ME	X	X	X	Email	
MD	X				Legislation
MA	X	X	X	Portal	Litigation
MI	X		X		Legislation
MN					Legislation
MS			X	Email	Litigation
MO			X	Email	
MT	X		X	Email	Litigation
NE			X	Email	Litigation
NV	X	X	X	Email	
NH	X				
NJ	X		X	Email	
NM	X		X	Email	Legislation
NY	X				
NC	X	X	X	Portal	
ND	X	X	X	Portal	
OH	X				
OK	X		X	Fax	
OR	X		X	Email	Litigation
PA	X				Legislation
RI	X	X	X	Portal	Legislation
SC			X	Email	Litigation

Voters with Disabilities?

STATE	Delivery	Return	E-Return UOCAVA	E-Return Method	Action Needed
SD					
TN	X				
TX	X		X	Fax	
UT	X	X	X	Email	
VT	X			Portal	Legislation
VA	X				Legislation
WA	X		X	Email	Litigation
WV	X	X	X	Portal	
WI					
WY					
		36	15	33	
DC	X	X	X	Email	Legislation
USVI			X	Email	

STATE	Notes
	NFB reports SOS interested; two ACB Board members are from AL
	Lawsuit filed https://www.splcenter.org/news/2022/06/08/alabama-suit-defends-absentee-voting-for-blind
AL	
AK	Anyone may vote by fax? https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/votingbyfax.php
AZ	New ACB president; SB1638 passed in 2022 - Remote Accessible by U.S. mail option
AR	
CA	S. 1480 failed
CO	
CT	
DE	
DC	
FL	
GA	
HI	
ID	
IL	Bill failed in 2023 to add EBR. Legislature passed bill for task forces instead.
IN	https://dralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-01-05-Settlement-Agreement.pdf
IA	Sen. Nate Boulten (D) is a champion and may carry a bill.
KS	
KY	SOS) and a media firm with good relationships to GOP leaders, including the
LA	To update from fax return
ME	
MD	NFB is stronger
MA	Bill passed in 2022
MI	Military voters passed in 2022; Lou Ann and Clark are discussing possible litigation.
MN	Delivery only seems doable now
MS	ACB is active; NFB also; S2593 - internet voting for students abroad; A Butler sponsor
MO	Clark is following up with his affiliate to start the conversation
MT	
	NFB has strong hold in NE; ACB and NFB have good working relationship with
NE	the legislature; could use to lobby before litigation
NV	
NH	
NJ	Group currently working on legislation there; DLive is the vendor
	NFB is very strong in NM; Tusk has ties to the Tribal communities; SOS seems
NM	interested in our tech build. If legislation doesn't work, could do through litigation
NY	
NC	
ND	NCSL hasn't updated from HB 1253 passed in 2021; See 16.1-07-08 (3)
OH	
OK	
OR	
PA	
RI	
SC	Talk to Isaac

STATE Notes

SD

TN

Only UOCAVA serving in "hostile fire zone"; HB3159 passed in 2023 expanding electronic delivery to voters with disabilities.

TX

UT

VT

Strong coalition in place; Disability Law Center, NFB and ACB, Washington Lawyers Committee; Blinded Veterans Association is headquartered in Alexandria; SJR37 introduced in 2022 (Republican DeSteph)

VA

WA

Bill failed in 2023 to add EBR for voters with disabilities; discussions with SOS for working group? plus qualified first responders

WV

WI

Clark has a coalition in Wisconsin exploring possible legislation. No bill sponsor yet.

WY

DC

USVI

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



From: Jordan Andrew, Deputy General Counsel & ADA Coordinator
To: Brian Pryor, Senior Policy Advisor
Re: Survey of Electronic Return of Marked Vote By Mail Ballots
Date: February 6, 2025

The following is drafted at the request of Members of the General Assembly Security of Remote Vote By Mail Task Force. Specifically, this memo discusses the contents of the National Conference of State Legislatures' ("NCSL") brief detailing the status of Electronic Ballot Return throughout the US. The NCSL's full brief may be accessed at the link provided below¹. This memo is intended to provide an exposition of the table contained within the brief and the table that follows. Of note, the NCSL's brief was last accessed on February 5, 2025, and indicates that it was last updated on May 9, 2024.

States Offering Electronic Returns

The NCSL's table details that 31 states as well as DC and the US Virgin Islands permit the electronic return of marked vote by mail ballots. Electronic return can be contemplated via three distinct methods: email, fax, or through an online portal. All three of these methods, as applied to submitting marked ballots, are an expansion of the minimum processes required under federal law.

Method of Electronic Returns

UOCAVA requires that the "Presidential designee"² establish the procedures for "collecting marked absentee ballots...and for delivering such marked absentee ballots to the appropriate election officials." (52 USC 20304(a)) UOCAVA only expressly contemplates delivery of marked ballots by the US Postal Service. (See 52 USC 20304(a)-(e)) Yet, UOCAVA does provide the following:

In general [e]ach State shall ... in addition to any other method of transmitting blank absentee ballots in the State, establish procedures for transmitting by mail and electronically blank absentee ballots to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters with respect to general, special, primary, and runoff elections for Federal office....

(52 USC 20302(a)(7)) Neither Federal statute nor regulation further defines electronic transmission³. Presumably, this is why the options for both electronic transmission of ballots (as required for every jurisdiction under Federal law) and electronic return of ballots within those 31 states, DC, and the US Virgin Islands are varied. Generally, the process for delivery of these three methods is as follows.

- (1) Email. An eligible voter prints the PDF of their ballot style (or utilizes the paper ballot they received), they mark their ballot, scan the paper ballot onto their computer/device, and emails it (likely as an attachment) to the proper entity at the processing authority. Upon receipt, the election official prints the PDF and then remakes the ballot on a tabulatable ballot consistent with statutory, regulatory, or office procedures.

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/electronic-ballot-return-internet-voting>

² Executive Order 12642 names the US Secretary of Defense as the Presidential Designee.

³ Article 20 of the Illinois Election Code contemplates electronic transmission via fax, email, or "the Internet." (See, e.g. 10 ILCS 5/20-1(9) which provides "Electronic transmission includes, but is not limited to, transmission by electronic mail or the Internet." See also e.g. 10 ILCS 5/20-2.1, which provides "...Ballots under this Section shall be delivered by the election authority ... in person, by mail, or, if requested by the applicant and the election authority has the capability, by facsimile transmission or by electronic transmission.")

- (2) Fax. An eligible voter marks their ballot and faxes the ballot to the proper entity at the processing authority. Upon receipt, the election official remakes the ballot on a tabulatable ballot consistent with statutory, regulatory, or office procedures.
- (3) Online Portal. This varies depending on the portal that is in use by each jurisdiction; though the essence is that an eligible voter accesses the portal utilizing some combination of an access link, user ID, password, and/or PIN. Once in the portal, the voter can access their ballot, mark and verify their selections. Once verified, the marked ballot is stored in the portal. The election official(s) then log into the portal with their own, unique credentials and print the ballot (either with a regular printer to be remade according to procedures or directly onto ballots utilizing ballot-on-demand printers).

Eligible Voting Populations

Of the 33 jurisdictions offering electronic returns, 20 of those jurisdictions limit the option to only UOCAVA voters. UOCAVA voters may be only those as defined in Federal statute or as further defined by State law. For example, Federally, UOCAVA voters include:

- Active members of uniformed service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard as well as commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration⁴) and their dependents and spouses
- Members of the Merchant Marine and their dependents and spouses
- Persons who reside outside of the US and are qualified, or would be but for their residence, to vote in the last place in which they were domiciled before leaving the US.

(52 USC 20310) In Illinois, this list is expanded to also include:

- US government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the US,
- US citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the US, and
- Non-resident civilian citizens.

(10 ILCS 5/20-1 *et seq*) Notably, the NCSL table advises that of those 20 jurisdictions that afford UOCAVA voters with the ability to return marked ballots electronically, six jurisdictions impose certain limitations/qualifications to do so. For example, California UOCAVA voters are only allowed to return their marked ballots electronically if overseas or activated within six days of the election; in Iowa, electronic returns are allowed only if the UOCAVA voter is located in a hostile fire area or overseas as a uniformed service member; and in New Jersey, UOCAVA voters who submit their ballots electronically must also send a hard copy of the ballot via postal mail.

Of the 33 jurisdictions allowing electronic returns, 13 allow UOCAVA voters and voters with disabilities the option for electronic return.

No listed jurisdiction offers electronic returns to voters with disabilities and not UOCAVA voters.

⁴ Please note that while not included in UOCAVA, the US Election Assistance Commission includes active members of the Space Force in its consideration of uniformed service.

Table: Electronic Return of Voted Absentee Ballots

State	Email	Fax (over phone or internet)	Online Portal	Who Can Use Electronic Return
Alabama Ala. Code 1975 § 17-11-45			●	UOCAVA voters
Alaska AS § 15.20.066		●		UOCAVA voters
Arizona A.R.S. § 16-543	●	●	●	UOCAVA voters
California West's Ann. Cal. Elec. Code § 3106		●		UOCAVA voters , only if overseas or activated within six days of the election
Colorado C.R.S.A. § 1-5-706, § 1-7.5-115, § 1-8.3-113, 8 CCR 1505-1:16	●	●	●	UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities Note: In some instances, Colorado allows voters experiencing a personal emergency or natural disaster to use electronic ballot return.
Delaware 15 Del.C. § 5525, § 5503	●	●		UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities

Table: Electronic Return of Voted Absentee Ballots

State	Email	Fax (over phone or internet)	Online Portal	Who Can Use Electronic Return
District of Columbia	●	●		UOCAVA voters
Florida West's F.S.A. § 101.697	●	●		UOCAVA voters , if living outside the U.S.
Hawaii HRS § 15-5	●	●		UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities Note: In some instances, voters who request an absentee/mail ballot and do not receive it within five days of an election may return a ballot electronically.
Indiana IC 3-11-4-6	●	●		UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities
Iowa N/A	●	●		UOCAVA voters , only if located in a hostile fire area or overseas as a uniformed service member
Kansas K.S.A. 25-1216	●	●		UOCAVA voters-
Louisiana LSA-R.S. 18:1308(A)(h)(i)	● UOCAVA voters only, and only	●		UOCAVA voters

Table: Electronic Return of Voted Absentee Ballots

State	Email	Fax (over phone or internet)	Online Portal	Who Can Use Electronic Return
	in specific circumstances during a declared emergency			<u>Absentee voters, including voters with disabilities, only if the request is made at the time of application</u>
Maine 21-A M.R.S.A. § 783, § 809-A	●	● UOCAVA voters only		<u>UOCAVA voters</u> <u>Voters with disabilities</u>
Massachusetts M.G.L.A. 54 § 95	● UOCAVA voters only	● UOCAVA voters only	● Voters with disabilities only	<u>UOCAVA voters</u> <u>Voters with disabilities</u>
Mississippi Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-699	●	●		<u>UOCAVA voters</u>
Missouri V.A.M.S. 115.916	●	●	●	<u>UOCAVA voters, only if serving or living in a hostile fire area</u>
Montana	●	●		<u>UOCAVA voters</u>

Table: Electronic Return of Voted Absentee Ballots

State	Email	Fax (over phone or internet)	Online Portal	Who Can Use Electronic Return
MCA 13-21-106				
Nebraska N/A	●	●		UOCAVA voters , only with prior approval
Nevada N.R.S. 293D.200, 293.269951	●	●		UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities Tribal voters who live on a colony or reservation
New Jersey N.J.S.A. 19:59-10	●	●		UOCAVA voters , who must also send a hard copy of the ballot via postal mail
New Mexico N. M. S. A. 1978, § 1-6B-8	●	●		UOCAVA voters
North Carolina N.C.G.S.A. § 163-258.10	● UOCAVA voters only	● UOCAVA voters only	●	UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities
North Dakota NDCC, 16.1-07-24 NDCC, 16.1-07-08 (3)"	●	●	●	UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities

Table: Electronic Return of Voted Absentee Ballots

State	Email	Fax (over phone or internet)	Online Portal	Who Can Use Electronic Return
Oklahoma 26 Ok.St.Ann. § 14-145		●		UOCAVA voters
Oregon O.R.S. § 253.690	●	●	● (in two counties only)	UOCAVA voters
Rhode Island Gen.Laws1956, § 17-20-6.1, 17-20-9	●	● Only if the ballot was requested via fax		UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities
South Carolina Code 1976 § 7-15-690	●	●	●	UOCAVA voters
Texas Election Advisory No. 2022-03		●		UOCAVA voters , only if serving or living in a hostile fire area
Utah	●	●	●	UOCAVA voters

Table: Electronic Return of Voted Absentee Ballots

State	Email	Fax (over phone or internet)	Online Portal	Who Can Use Electronic Return
U.C.A. 1953 § 20A-16-404, § 20A-3a-201, § 20A-6-103		UOCAVA voters only	(in two counties only)	Voters with disabilities
Virgin Islands 18 V.I.C. § 665	●	●		UOCAVA voters
Washington West's RCWA 29A.40.091	●	●		UOCAVA voters
West Virginia W. Va. Code, § 3-3-1(c), § 3-3-5	● UOCAVA voters only	● UOCAVA voters only	●	UOCAVA voters Voters with disabilities Qualified first responders

Table: Electronic Return of Voted Absentee Ballots

Jurisdiction Name	Total UOCAVA Requested	Total UOCAVA Returned	Total UOCAVA Counted
ADAMS COUNTY	90	74	74
ALEXANDER COUNTY	0	0	0
BOND COUNTY	26	21	21
BOONE COUNTY	43	33	33
BROWN COUNTY	3	3	3
BUREAU COUNTY	31	20	20
CALHOUN COUNTY	0	0	0
CARROLL COUNTY	28	23	23
CASS COUNTY	6	4	4
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY	709	709	582
CHRISTIAN COUNTY	32	29	29
CLARK COUNTY	16	15	15
CLAY COUNTY	7	4	4
CLINTON COUNTY	56	42	42
COLES COUNTY	48	30	30
COOK COUNTY	5,862	3,631	3,579
CRAWFORD COUNTY	9	5	5
CUMBERLAND COUNTY	6	3	3
DEKALB COUNTY	169	123	120
DEWITT COUNTY	9	8	8
DOUGLAS COUNTY	21	18	18
DUPAGE COUNTY	2,417	1,757	1,739
EDGAR COUNTY	19	16	16
EDWARDS COUNTY	7	6	6
EFFINGHAM COUNTY	45	39	38
FAYETTE COUNTY	12	12	12
FORD COUNTY	7	6	6
FRANKLIN COUNTY	18	18	18
FULTON COUNTY	23	20	20
GALLATIN COUNTY	2	2	2
GREENE COUNTY	15	15	15
GRUNDY COUNTY	39	28	28
HAMILTON COUNTY	4	3	3
HANCOCK COUNTY	18	17	17
HARDIN COUNTY	3	2	2
HENDERSON COUNTY	3	3	3
HENRY COUNTY	61	54	54
IROQUOIS COUNTY	30	24	24
JACKSON COUNTY	93	70	70
JASPER COUNTY	7	5	5
JEFFERSON COUNTY	30	25	25
JERSEY COUNTY	19	15	14

Jurisdiction Name	Total UOCAVA Requested	Total UOCAVA Returned	Total UOCAVA Counted
JO DAVIESS COUNTY	32	25	25
JOHNSON COUNTY	6	5	15
KANE COUNTY	824	639	639
KANKAKEE COUNTY	85	65	65
KENDALL COUNTY	142	100	97
KNOX COUNTY	16	9	9
LAKE COUNTY	1,996	1,527	1,495
LA SALLE COUNTY	117	87	83
LAWRENCE COUNTY	7	7	7
LEE COUNTY	44	34	34
LIVINGSTON COUNTY	34	28	28
LOGAN COUNTY	25	18	18
MACON COUNTY	94	70	69
MACOUPIN COUNTY	50	41	37
MADISON COUNTY	328	263	263
MARION COUNTY	39	30	29
MARSHALL COUNTY	8	8	8
MASON COUNTY	8	6	6
MASSAC COUNTY	12	12	12
MCDONOUGH COUNTY	38	38	19
MCHENRY COUNTY	541	443	436
MCLEAN COUNTY	142	114	114
MENARD COUNTY	12	6	6
MERCER COUNTY	13	8	8
MONROE COUNTY	53	43	42
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	23	20	20
MORGAN COUNTY	32	21	21
MOULTRIE COUNTY	18	15	15
OGLE COUNTY	67	50	50
PEORIA COUNTY	242	202	200
PERRY COUNTY	8	5	8
PIATT COUNTY	21	17	16
PIKE COUNTY	15	9	9
POPE COUNTY	6	6	6
PULASKI COUNTY	0	0	0
PUTNAM COUNTY	2	1	1
RANDOLPH COUNTY	54	45	44
RICHLAND COUNTY	6	5	5
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY	169	147	147
SALINE COUNTY	15	14	14
SANGAMON COUNTY	301	233	232
SCHUYLER COUNTY	14	14	14

Jurisdiction Name	Total UOCAVA Requested	Total UOCAVA Returned	Total UOCAVA Counted
SCOTT COUNTY	3	2	2
SHELBY COUNTY	21	19	19
STARK COUNTY	3	1	1
ST. CLAIR COUNTY	679	556	546
STEPHENSON COUNTY	64	57	56
TAZEWELL COUNTY	166	130	130
UNION COUNTY	15	15	15
VERMILION COUNTY	21	15	15
WABASH COUNTY	11	9	9
WARREN COUNTY	5	5	5
WASHINGTON COUNTY	13	10	10
WAYNE COUNTY	6	5	5
WHITE COUNTY	5	3	3
WHITESIDE COUNTY	48	40	38
WILL COUNTY	905	617	605
WILLIAMSON COUNTY	66	48	48
WINNEBAGO COUNTY	190	162	156
WOODFORD COUNTY	73	54	54
BLOOMINGTON CITY	117	123	78
CHICAGO CITY	8,145	6,287	6,120
DANVILLE CITY	14	11	11
EAST ST. LOUIS CITY	9	7	6
GALESBURG CITY	19	19	17
ROCKFORD CITY	170	140	140
TOTAL	26,470	19,697	19,185



08.05.2024

To whom it may concern:

Synack is the nation's premier Penetration Testing as a Service company, harnessing a vetted community of the world's most talented cybersecurity researchers to deliver comprehensive security testing and vulnerability management for our customers.

Since 2020, Democracy Live has engaged Synack to conduct continuous, independent testing of the OmniBallot balloting portal. Synack researchers continuously put the OmniBallot portal through ongoing rigorous security testing. In 2024 alone, Synack researchers conducted 365 tests on OmniBallot and its networks, searching for potential vulnerabilities. Our testing process draws on a pool of over 1,500 trusted cybersecurity researchers who are incentivized to find vulnerabilities.

Findings from a recent Synack security report showed nearly 400 independent researchers tested OmniBallot for vulnerabilities over 980 hours. The security report, available through Democracy Live, found zero vulnerabilities in OmniBallot.

At Synack, we are working with partners like Democracy Live by making it harder for attackers to compromise any part of our election infrastructure. Synack researchers will continue to independently test the OmniBallot portal through the 2024 Presidential election and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jay Kaplan · CEO & Co-Founder
SYNACK · The Premier Security Testing Platform

February 9, 2025

Dear Members of the Illinois Accessibility Vote By Mail Task Force:

Please allow me to introduce myself and to offer a few pertinent thoughts concerning accessible voting for persons with disabilities in Illinois. I am totally blind, and I was a resident and voter in Illinois for thirteen years where I had the privilege to vote in both presidential and midterm elections in the various jurisdictions throughout the state where I resided. I am also a certified professional instructor, providing skills training to individuals who have low vision or who are blind and who require instruction in nonvisual ways of doing life tasks.

I want to start by commending the steps Illinois has started to take in recent years to make accessible voting for disabled people a reality in the state. I am glad that the State Board of Elections, and specially your task force, recognizes the needs of voters with various disabilities who, due to mobility and other limitations, need to vote from home. I am also glad that the state recognizes that some of these voters, blind and Deafblind voters among others, cannot mark a paper absentee ballot without another person's help, and you are trying to rectify this with a start to electronic ballot marking. All of this is excellent, but I would like to share one suggestion for further improving the accessible voting process based on my experiences after leaving Illinois.

I want to draw your attention, if I may, to the final component in the ballot submission process. Currently in Illinois, once I mark my ballot using my screen reader, I am obliged to print it out and get it back to the election authority on paper. One problem we face today is that many printers are inaccessible. They have become highly complex devices that do far more than print out documents; they are often driven by menus and manipulated by touch screens. Most of my clients do not have a home printer, and when I recommend technology for a client who cannot

see, I rarely recommend a printer, because they have become so difficult to use. Long gone are the days of simple Ink Jet laser printers with button controls and easy to use interfaces.

I want to commend to your attention the process of Electronic Ballot Return (EBR) as used, for example, in the state of North Carolina where I next lived and worked. In that state, I was not only able to mark my ballot using a screen reader, but I was able to return it via secure portal to the state board of elections using a process they devised to assure ballot integrity on the one hand, and independent ballot marking for the disabled on the other.

There are companies out there who can provide you with EBR solutions that will meet Illinois budgetary and election security requirements. I would encourage you to consider North Carolina as a possible role model and to reach out to them to see whether their measures may also be feasible for the state of Illinois. Lastly, thank you for both your time today and your willingness to take concrete steps to address this challenge on behalf of disabled Illinois voters.

Sincerely,

Brad Blair
Long Time Illinois Voter
Accessible Mobility Instructor

Steps for returning your accessible vote by mail ballot

#1



After marking your ballot on your device, print the “ballot.”

#2



Locate your vote by mail packet sent to you by your jurisdiction.

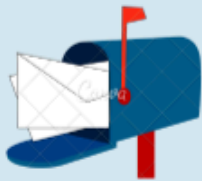
#3

The smaller envelope inside the larger envelope is your certification/ballot privacy envelope. Place the ballot inside this envelope. *You must sign this envelope* and include your name, address, and the date. There should be something just to the left of where you should sign.

#4



Place the certification envelope into the larger envelope. You can return your ballot in-person, by mail, or via collection site drop box.



If returning by mail, a delivery company licensed as a “motor carrier of property” by the Illinois Commerce Commission can make the delivery.



An authorization form on the certification envelope needs filled out if an authorized person (aside from mail) is returning your ballot.

If returning by mail, the ballot must be postmarked and returned by Election Day, February 25, 2025.

If returning in person or to a collection site drop box, ballot must be returned by 7:00 PM, February 25, 2025.

Illinois Accessible Vote by Mail Program



What is Accessible Vote by Mail?

Accessible vote by mail (AVBM) is a required accommodation for Illinois voters with print disabilities. This lets voters receive their ballot electronically from their election authority and vote privately and independently at home using their own devices.

Things to note:

- Ballots are not returned electronically.
- The "ballot" is printed out by the voter and returned via the certification envelope to the election authority, who then processes the voter's ballot similar to a military voter.

What steps are required for the VOTER?

1. Make sure you are a registered voter in the jurisdiction you will be requesting a ballot, with a disability that prohibits you from independently reading, marking, and verifying a regular vote by mail ballot.
2. Apply for an accessible vote by mail ballot by October 31st with the election authority (for most of you that is your county clerk, for a few of you that is your city's election director's office).
 - a. Please note: an email will be required for this application process as that is how you will receive the link for your ballot.
3. Fill out the ballot on your electronic device and then print when completed.
4. In the certification envelope received by the election authority, return the printed "ballot" back to the election authority as instructed.