

Changes to the Absentee Ballot Application

In 2023 the state legislature passed legislation that made changes to the application for a mail-in absentee ballot.

1. The absentee ballot application requires **one** of the following:
 - last 4 digits of the social security number;
 - valid driver's license number;
 - Indiana ID card number;
 - Voter Registration ID number*.
2. OR, a second choice, rather than recording one of the ID numbers from above, attach a photocopy of a government-issued photo ID (driver's license, state-issued ID, U.S. Passport, etc.).

**The Voter Registration ID number is a unique number assigned at the time of registration. However, most registered voters are identified by their driver's license number or state-issued ID number. To obtain the Voter Registration number, a person must contact the county's election office and request the number that is on file.*

It should also be noted that county election/voter registration offices can no longer send out absentee ballot applications in mass to retirement communities and nursing homes, etc. The law prohibits "agencies of the state or political subdivision" from providing an individual with an absentee ballot application unless it is requested by the individual or by an individual's family member.

However, this rule does not apply to organizations like the League of Women Voters and does not bar individuals like the retirement community director from downloading the application from the state's website (**indianavoters.com**), copying it, and distributing it to individuals who want to apply for an absentee ballot.

Voters can also complete the application for an absentee ballot online.

The deadline for completing and submitting the application for an absentee ballot is Oct. 26. It is highly recommended you submit your request as early as possible so that you receive your ballot in plenty of time for you to complete it and mail it back.

Scenarios: You are helping voters in a retirement community fill out their absentee ballot applications

No assistance is provided to person completing the application: You intend to turn the paper application into the County election office for the voter. You must complete form ABS-17 *Affidavit of Individual Delivering Absentee Ballot Application to County*. Applications and ABS-17 must be filed at the county election office within 10 days. Only one copy of the ABS-17 is required even if filing multiple absentee ballot applications at once. ABS-17 is signed under penalty of perjury – standard language

Some assistance is provided: You are helping voters in a retirement community fill out their ABS applications. You do assist the voter to fill out the paper absentee ballot application. You intend to turn the paper application into the County election office for the voter. You must complete form ABS-17 *Affidavit of Individual Delivering Absentee Ballot Application to County*. You must, also, fill out Section 7 (at the bottom) of the absentee ballot application for each application you assisted.