



Ohio Revised Code

Section 3509.04 Delivery of absent voter's ballot.

Effective: April 7, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 458

(A) If a board of elections receives an application for absent voter's ballots that does not contain all of the required information or is not submitted on an appropriate form, the board promptly shall notify the applicant of the additional information required to be provided by the applicant to complete that application, direct the applicant to use an appropriate form, or both, as applicable.

(B) Upon receipt by the board of elections of an application for absent voter's ballots that contains all of the required information and is submitted on an appropriate form, as provided by section 3509.03 and division (G) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code, the board, if the board finds that the applicant is a qualified elector, shall deliver to the applicant in person or mail directly to the applicant by special delivery mail, air mail, or regular mail, postage prepaid, proper absent voter's ballots. The board shall deliver or mail with the ballots an unsealed identification envelope upon the face of which shall be printed a form substantially as follows:

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter

I, _____ (Name of voter), declare under penalty of election falsification that the within ballot or ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received them, and I caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed in the identification envelope, and sealed in that envelope.

My voting residence in Ohio is

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number)

of _____ (City, Village, or Township) Ohio, which is in Ward
_____ Precinct _____ in that city, village, or township.



If I have a confidential voter registration record, I am providing my program participant identification number instead of my residence address: _____

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope are primary election ballots of the _____ Party.

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at the _____ (general, special, or primary) election to be held on the _____ day of _____, _____.

My date of birth is _____ (Month and Day), _____ (Year).

(Voter must provide one of the following:)

My Ohio driver's license or state identification card number is _____ (Driver's license or state identification card number).

The last four digits of my Social Security Number are _____ (Last four digits of Social Security Number).

_____ In lieu of providing a driver's license or state identification card number or the last four digits of my Social Security Number, I am enclosing a copy of my photo identification in the return envelope in which this identification envelope will be mailed.

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, that the statements above are true, as I verily believe.

(Signature of Voter)

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE



FIFTH DEGREE."

The board shall mail with the ballots and the unsealed identification envelope an unsealed return envelope upon the face of which shall be printed the post-office address of the board. In the upper left corner on the face of the return envelope, several blank lines shall be printed upon which the voter may write the voter's name and return address. The return envelope shall be of such size that the identification envelope can be conveniently placed within it for returning the identification envelope to the board.

No public office, and no public official or employee who is acting in an official capacity, shall prepay the return postage for any absent voter's ballots.

Except as otherwise provided in this section and in sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election official shall not fill out any portion of an identification envelope statement of voter or an absent voter's ballot on behalf of an elector. A board of elections may preprint only an elector's name and address on an identification envelope statement of voter before mailing absent voter's ballots to the elector, except that if the elector has a confidential voter registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the Revised Code, the board of elections shall not preprint the elector's address on the identification envelope statement of voter.