



Voting by Mail FAQ

Voting by mail is an option available to every Kansas voter! You don't need a special reason to vote by mail, you just need to submit an application, and we think you should. Voting by mail is a convenient, reliable way to make sure your voice is heard.

This is a list of the frequently asked questions The Voter Network has been getting about voting by mail in Kansas. We've done our best to answer them accurately and clearly, but if you have more questions, please email us at contact@thevoternetwork.org.

Can I vote by mail in the November 08 General Election?

YES! Every registered voter should and can vote in the upcoming November 08 election. This is a big election with the Governor's race, US Senate, Kansas House Reps, and more on the ballot. There are even two constitutional amendments to vote on. You can request a mail-in ballot for this election. It might even be preferable, giving you time to fully read and understand everything on your ballot.

Will I automatically receive a mail-in ballot?

No! You must [fill out an application to request a mail-in-ballot](#) in Kansas. And, you have to fill out an application for every election. So, if you voted by mail in the August 2 primary, you will have to submit another request to vote by mail in November. You can request a mail-in ballot online at KSVotes.org. It only takes a few minutes!

The exception is if you've previously signed up to receive a [permanent advance ballot](#). This is an option for voters who have a disability that prevents them from easily getting to and from a polling place. If you think you might be eligible, go ahead and sign up at KSVotes.org.

How do I apply for a mail-in ballot, and when will it get here already?!

You can request a mail-in ballot any time from today until one week before the election. But don't wait that long! Election offices get busy this time of year, so the sooner the better. Use KSVotes.org to fill out the application. It's all online and only takes a few minutes! Even if you do that tomorrow the actual ballots won't be mailed until a few weeks before the election.

Can I check to see if I've requested a mail-in ballot?

Yes, sort of. That information is provided by the Office of the Kansas Secretary of State, but the data isn't updated frequently until closer to the election. Have patience when checking the status of your ballot on [Kansas VoterView](#) or on your [Voter to Voter](#) dashboard. (Don't know about Voter to Voter? Learn more at votertovoter.org)



Do I need to have an ID to request a ballot?

When you fill out an application to vote by mail you'll be asked for your Kansas driver's license number, which can be cross checked against DMV records for validity. If you're choosing to vote by mail and you don't have a Kansas driver's license, you'll need to scan or take a picture of [another form of photo ID](#) and include it with your application or email it to your county election official (or Reply All to the confirmation you get from KSVotes.org, and attach a photo).

What if I requested a ballot, but didn't get it?

First, make sure you have requested a mail-in ballot for *this* election. You can check the status here or request an application here. If you've requested a ballot, and you have not received your ballot but your friends and family have, you can call your county election office to replace your mail-in ballot (as long as it is at least a week before the election.)

If it's less than a week out from the election and you still have not received your ballot, go vote early or on election day! You might have to vote on [a provisional ballot](#), but that is totally okay!

How many stamps do I need?!

That's a good question! The amount of postage required is a county-level decision so the number of stamps you'll need will depend on where you live in Kansas. Some counties, like Shawnee County, don't require a stamp at all! It's likely that the amount will be listed on the envelope where you would normally put a stamp, so check there.

If you haven't bought a stamp since 1998, don't worry, it's really easy to do at [stamps.com](#) (where you can print out postage) or your post office. Or, just drop it off!

Woah! I can drop my ballot off somewhere?

Yup! There are plenty of options if you'd prefer not to mail in your ballot. You can drop off your mail-in ballot at any polling site in your county on Election Day. You could also drop off your ballot at any early voting location in your county, which includes your county election or clerk's office. You can drop your ballot in a designated drop box. Find all of these locations at [KSBallot.org](#)



Any other tricky steps?

You need to sign your envelope! (See the picture) There's a spot on the back, labeled 1, to sign and a lot of people miss it. Also if someone else is helping you fill out your ballot, or delivering it on your behalf, they also need to sign the back in section 2.

If I requested a mail-in ballot, can I still vote in person?

If you really, really want to go to your polling place or an early vote site, you should TAKE YOUR ADVANCE BALLOT WITH YOU! The poll workers have a list of everyone who requested a ballot so they will be looking for you to bring your ballot with you.

The image shows a sample of an 'Official Advance Ballot' form. At the top left, it says 'Official Advance Ballot' and provides instructions: 'Your advance voting ballot will be separated from this signed advance voting ballot envelope in order to guarantee the confidentiality of your vote. KSA 25-1720'. A red box on the left contains the instruction: 'Voter! Please remember to: sign this envelope return this ballot by 7:00 PM on Election Day'. Section 1 is titled 'Statement of Advance Voter' and includes a warning: 'Failure to sign will invalidate ballot.' It contains a declaration: 'I hereby declare that I marked the enclosed ballot and that such ballot was enclosed and sealed in this envelope by me.' Below this are lines for 'Name of Advance Voter' and 'Date'. An 'Optional' section allows for authorizing another person to deliver the ballot. Section 2 is titled 'Statement of Person Assisting Voter' and includes the instruction 'Check the statements that apply.' It contains two checkboxes: one for being designated by the voter to mail or deliver the ballot, and another for assisting a voter with a fitness, disability, or lack of proficiency in the English language. Both sections have lines for 'Name of Authorized Person' and 'Date'.

Can I still vote if I've lost my ballot?

Yes! If it is too late to request a new ballot (less than a week until Election Day) you can vote in person. Go to your early voting site or your polling place to vote. You will have to vote a provisional ballot, but when the election office confirms that you didn't return your original mail ballot they will count your provisional ballot.

If I have to vote a provisional ballot, will it get counted?

Yes! The provisional ballot system is there to make sure your vote gets counted if something unusual happens. It protects your right to vote, while also protecting the integrity of our elections. Those are both good things! If you're nervous about having to vote a provisional ballot, make sure you get your mail-in ballot sent back as soon as possible, or drop it off somewhere! Your early voting sites and dropbox locations will be listed in KSBallot.org by July.

Do I need a Photo ID to Vote?

Yes - every time you vote (except in local all-mail elections) you need an [acceptable government issued photo ID](#). If you have a Kansas driver's license, your driver's license number on the mail ballot application will fulfill this requirement.

Who are these candidates, and which ones do I vote for?!

We can't tell you who to vote for, but we are trying to make it easier for you to find information about who and what is on your ballot. Put in your address at KSBallot.org to see the races on your ballot and to research your candidates. Your early voting locations are also in there, and you can sign up for reminders.