

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1449

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE NETH.

5395L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.229, 115.233, 115.275, 115.277, 115.279, 115.283, 115.289, 115.291, 115.294, 115.297, 115.300, 115.417, 115.430, 115.447, 115.481, and 115.507, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof sixteen new sections relating to elections, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 115.229, 115.233, 115.275, 115.277, 115.279, 115.283, 115.289, 115.291, 115.294, 115.297, 115.300, 115.417, 115.430, 115.447, 115.481, and 115.507, RSMo, are repealed and sixteen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.229, 115.233, 115.275, 115.276, 115.277, 115.279, 115.283, 115.289, 115.291, 115.297, 115.300, 115.417, 115.430, 115.447, 115.481, and 115.507, to read as follows:

115.229. 1. An electronic voting system may be used at any primary election if it has been approved by the secretary of state, complies with the provisions of section 115.225, and if the automatic tabulating equipment will reject each vote on which a voter has voted for candidates of more than one party.

2. An electronic voting system may be used at any other election if it has been approved by the secretary of state and complies with the provisions of section 115.225.

3. An electronic voting system may be used at the election authority's central voting location, as defined in section 115.275, and satellite locations during the early voting period as set forth in section 115.276 if it has been approved by the secretary of state and complies with the provisions of section 115.225.

115.233. Within fourteen days prior to [an election at which] **the early ballot voting period** an electronic voting system is to be used, the election authority shall have the automatic

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

3 tabulating equipment tested to ascertain that the equipment is in compliance with the law and
4 that it will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all questions. At least forty-eight
5 hours prior to the test, notice of the time and place of the test shall be mailed to each independent
6 and new party candidate and the chairman of the county committee of each established political
7 party named on the ballot. The test shall be observed by at least two persons designated by the
8 election authority, one from each major political party, and shall be open to representatives of
9 the political parties, candidates, the news media and the public. The test shall be conducted by
10 processing a preaudited group of ballots. If any error is detected, the cause shall be ascertained
11 and corrected, and an errorless count shall be made before the tabulating equipment is approved.

115.275. As used in sections 115.275 to 115.304, unless the context clearly indicates
2 otherwise, the following terms shall mean:

3 (1) "Absentee ballot", [any of the ballots] **a mail-in ballot** a person is authorized to cast
4 away from a polling place pursuant to the provisions of sections 115.275 to 115.304;

5 (2) **"Central voting location", a voting location centrally located within the**
6 **jurisdiction of the election authority, including the office of the election authority;**

7 (3) **"Early ballot", a ballot a person is authorized to cast in person at a central**
8 **voting location or satellite voting location under the provisions of section 115.276;**

9 (4) "Interstate former resident", a former resident and registered voter in this state who
10 moves from Missouri to another state after the deadline to register to vote in any presidential
11 election in the new state and who otherwise possesses the qualifications to register and vote in
12 such state;

13 [(3)] (5) "Intrastate new resident", a registered voter of this state who moves from one
14 election authority's jurisdiction in the state to another election authority's jurisdiction in the state
15 after the last day authorized in this chapter to register to vote in an election and otherwise
16 possesses the qualifications to vote;

17 [(4)] (6) "New resident", a person who moves to this state after the last date authorized
18 in this chapter to register to vote in any presidential election;

19 [(5)] (7) "Persons in federal service" includes:

20 (a) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States, while in active service, and their
21 spouses and dependents;

22 (b) Active members of the Merchant Marine of the United States and their spouses and
23 dependents;

24 (c) Civilian employees of the United States government working outside the boundaries
25 of the United States, and their spouses and dependents;

26 (d) Active members of religious or welfare organizations assisting servicemen, and their
27 spouses and dependents;

28 (e) Persons who have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces or who have
29 terminated their service or employment in any group mentioned in this section within sixty days
30 of an election, and their spouses and dependents.

**115.276. 1. Any registered voter of this state may vote by early ballot at a central
2 voting location in the jurisdiction in which the voter is registered. The early voting period
3 shall begin the sixth Tuesday before an election or within fourteen days after candidates'
4 names or questions are certified under section 115.125.**

**5 2. All election authorities shall conduct early voting at a central voting location
6 until close of regular business hours on the Monday immediately before the election at 5:00
7 p.m.**

**8 3. The procedures for casting an early ballot shall be the same as the procedures
9 contained in sections 115.407 to 115.445; except that, the regular staff of the election
10 authority may take the place of election judges at the central voting location and satellite
11 voting locations.**

**12 4. For all November presidential elections and for all other elections as the election
13 authority shall designate, an election authority with more than one hundred seventy-five
14 thousand registered voters in its jurisdiction shall establish at least one satellite voting
15 location other than the central voting location as an additional site in which to vote by early
16 ballot as follows:**

**17 (1) For purposes of this section, the number of registered voters shall be determined
18 by the number of registered voters in each jurisdiction in the previous November
19 presidential election;**

**20 (2) In determining the location of the satellite sites, the election authority shall
21 consider factors, including but not limited to, the geographic location and demographics
22 of registered voters in the previous general election and current United States census data
23 to ensure nondiscrimination in the representation of the community served to the greatest
24 extent possible;**

**25 (3) The election authority shall provide adequate public notice of the designated
26 central voting location and the satellite sites, including but not limited to, posting the dates,
27 locations, and hours of when the voting locations are open at the election authority's office,
28 on the website of the election authority, and by such other methods as the election
29 authority may select. The location of a satellite site may be changed to a different location
30 during the advance voting period. The election authority shall provide adequate public
31 notice of any change, including but not limited to, posting such information at the election
32 authority's office, at the original location of the satellite site, on the website of the election
33 authority, and by such other methods as the election authority may select;**

34 (4) The election authority may employ its staff to serve at each satellite voting
35 location or may appoint at least one judge from each major political party to serve at each
36 satellite site. No major political party shall have a majority of the judges at any satellite
37 site. No established party shall have a greater number of judges at any satellite than any
38 major political party;

39 (5) Satellite voting locations shall be open for at least four hours per day, including
40 eight consecutive weekend hours, and for at least fourteen consecutive or nonconsecutive
41 days before the election and ending at the close of regular business hours on the
42 Wednesday before the election;

43 (6) At the close of each day of operating the satellite voting location, two members
44 of staff or one election judge from each major political party serving the location shall
45 remove and secure the memory card of each electronic voting machine, as well as any
46 paper ballots, and transport them to the central office of the election authority to be stored
47 securely until reopening of the satellite voting location. The memory card shall then be
48 returned to the electronic voting machine until the close of that next day of operation.

49 5. Early ballots cast at the central voting location shall be cast on the election
50 authority's electronic voting system, but shall not be tabulated until the day of the election.

51 6. This section shall not affect the election authority's ability to appoint bipartisan
52 teams to deliver absentee ballots under section 115.287.

53 7. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an election authority with one hundred
54 seventy-five thousand or fewer registered voters in its jurisdiction from establishing a
55 satellite voting location to be operated under this section.

56 8. All ongoing election authority costs associated with the implementation of early
57 ballot voting shall be reimbursed from the general revenue fund of this state or the
58 secretary of state's office. If there is no appropriation and distribution of state funds or
59 if no funding is made available by the secretary of state's office, election authorities shall
60 not enforce the early ballot requirements of this section.

115.277. 1. Except as provided in subsections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this section, any
2 registered voter of this state may vote by absentee ballot **or early ballot** for all candidates and
3 issues for which such voter would be eligible to vote at the polling place [if such voter expects
4 to be prevented from going to the polls to vote on election day due to:

5 (1) Absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such
6 voter is registered to vote;

7 (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including a person
8 who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined
9 due to illness or disability;

- 10 (3) Religious belief or practice;
- 11 (4) Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an
12 election authority at a location other than such voter's polling place;
- 13 (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained].
- 14 2. Any person in federal service, as defined in section 115.275, who is eligible to register
15 and vote in this state but is not registered may vote only in the election of presidential and vice
16 presidential electors, United States senator and representative in Congress even though the
17 person is not registered. Each person in federal service may vote by absentee ballot **or early**
18 **ballot** or, upon submitting an affidavit that the person is qualified to vote in the election, may
19 vote at the person's polling place.
- 20 3. Any interstate former resident, as defined in section 115.275, may vote by [absentee]
21 **early** ballot for presidential and vice presidential electors.
- 22 4. Any intrastate new resident, as defined in section 115.275, may vote by [absentee]
23 **early** ballot at the election for presidential and vice presidential electors, United States senator,
24 representative in Congress, statewide elected officials and statewide questions, propositions and
25 amendments from such resident's new jurisdiction of residence after registering to vote in such
26 resident's new jurisdiction of residence.
- 27 5. Any new resident, as defined in section 115.275, may vote by [absentee] **early** ballot
28 for presidential and vice presidential electors after registering to vote in such resident's new
29 jurisdiction of residence.

115.279. 1. Application for an absentee ballot may be made by the applicant in person,
2 or by mail, or for the applicant, in person, by his or her guardian or a relative within the second
3 degree by consanguinity or affinity. The election authority shall accept applications by facsimile
4 transmission within the limits of its telecommunications capacity.

5 2. Each application shall be made to the election authority of the jurisdiction in which
6 the person is or would be registered. Each application shall be in writing and shall state the
7 applicant's name, address at which he or she is or would be registered, [his or her reason for
8 voting an absentee ballot,] the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, [if mailing is
9 requested,] and for absent uniformed services and overseas applicants, the applicant's email
10 address if electronic transmission is requested. Each application to vote in a primary election
11 shall also state which ballot the applicant wishes to receive. If any application fails to designate
12 a ballot, the election authority shall, within three working days after receiving the application,
13 notify the applicant by mail that it will be unable to deliver an absentee ballot until the applicant
14 designates which political party ballot he or she wishes to receive. If the applicant does not
15 respond to the request for political party designation, the election authority is authorized to
16 provide the voter with that part of the ballot for which no political party designation is required.

17 3. Except as provided in subsection 3 of section 115.281, all applications for absentee
18 ballots received prior to the sixth Tuesday before an election shall be stored at the office of the
19 election authority until such time as the applications are processed in accordance with section
20 115.281. No application for an absentee ballot received in the office of the election authority by
21 mail, by facsimile transmission or by a guardian or relative after 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday
22 immediately prior to the election shall be accepted by any election authority. No application for
23 an absentee ballot submitted by the applicant in person after 5:00 p.m. on the day before the
24 election shall be accepted by any election authority, except as provided in subsections 6, 8 and
25 9 of this section.

26 4. Each application for an absentee ballot shall be signed by the applicant or, if the
27 application is made by a guardian or relative pursuant to this section, the application shall be
28 signed by the guardian or relative, who shall note on the application his or her relationship to the
29 applicant. If an applicant, guardian or relative is blind, unable to read or write the English
30 language or physically incapable of signing the application, he or she shall sign by mark,
31 witnessed by the signature of an election official or person of his or her own choosing. Any
32 person who knowingly makes, delivers or mails a fraudulent absentee ballot application shall be
33 guilty of a class one election offense.

34 5. (1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any resident of the state of Missouri who
35 resides outside the boundaries of the United States or who is on active duty with the Armed
36 Forces of the United States or members of their immediate family living with them may request
37 an absentee ballot for both the primary and subsequent general election with one application.

38 (2) The election authority shall provide each absent uniformed services voter and each
39 overseas voter who submits a voter registration application or an absentee ballot request, if the
40 election authority rejects the application or request, with the reasons for the rejection.

41 (3) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if a standard oath regarding material
42 misstatements of fact is adopted for uniformed and overseas voters pursuant to the Help America
43 Vote Act of 2002, the election authority shall accept such oath for voter registration, absentee
44 ballot, or other election-related materials.

45 (4) Not later than sixty days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election
46 for federal office, each election authority which administered the election shall submit to the
47 secretary of state in a format prescribed by the secretary a report on the combined number of
48 absentee ballots transmitted to, and returned by, absent uniformed services voters and overseas
49 voters for the election. The secretary shall submit to the Election Assistance Commission a
50 combined report of such information not later than ninety days after the date of each regularly
51 scheduled general election for federal office and in a standardized format developed by the

52 commission pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002. The secretary shall make the report
53 available to the general public.

54 (5) As used in this section, the terms "absent uniformed services voter" and "overseas
55 voter" shall have the meaning prescribed in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6.

56 6. [An application for an absentee ballot by a new resident, as defined in section 115.275,
57 shall be submitted in person by the applicant] **A new resident, as defined in section 115.275,**
58 **shall vote an early ballot** in the office of the election authority in the election jurisdiction in
59 which such applicant resides[. The application shall be received by the election authority] no
60 later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. [Such application shall be in the form of] **Before**
61 **casting an early ballot, a new resident shall apply by signing** an affidavit, executed in
62 duplicate in the presence of the election authority or any authorized officer of the election
63 authority, and in substantially the following form:

64

65 "STATE OF.....

66 COUNTY OF....., ss.

67 I,....., do solemnly swear that:

68 (1) Before becoming a resident of this state, I resided at
69 (residence address) in (town, township,
70 village or city) of County in the state of

71 (2) I moved to this state after the last day to register to vote in such general presidential
72 election and I am now residing in the county of, state of Missouri;

73 (3) I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in the presidential
74 election to be held November, (year);

75 (4) I hereby make application for a presidential and vice presidential ballot. I have not
76 voted and shall not vote other than by this ballot at such election.

77 Signed

78 (Applicant)

79

80 (Residence Address)

81 Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,

82 Signed

83 (Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"

84 7. The election authority in whose office an [application] **affidavit** is filed pursuant to
85 subsection 6 of this section shall immediately send a duplicate of such [application] **affidavit**
86 to the appropriate official of the state in which the new resident applicant last resided and shall
87 file the original of such application in its office.

88 8. [An application for an absentee ballot by an intrastate new resident, as defined in
89 section 115.275, shall be made in person by the applicant] **An intrastate new resident, as**
90 **defined in section 115.275, shall vote an early ballot** in the office of the election authority in
91 the election jurisdiction in which such applicant resides[. The application shall be received by
92 the election authority] no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. [Such application shall
93 be in the form of] **Before casting an early ballot, an intrastate new resident shall apply by**
94 **signing** an affidavit, executed in duplicate in the presence of the election authority or an
95 authorized officer of the election authority, and in substantially the following form:

96

97 "STATE OF

98 COUNTY OF, ss.

99 I,, do solemnly swear that:

100 (1) Before becoming a resident of this election jurisdiction, I resided at
101 (residence address) in (town, township, village or city)
102 of county in the state of

103 (2) I moved to this election jurisdiction after the last day to register to vote in such
104 election;

105 (3) I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in the election to be
106 held (date);

107 (4) I hereby make application for an [absentee] **early** ballot for candidates and issues on
108 which I am entitled to vote pursuant to the laws of this state. I have not voted and shall not vote
109 other than by this ballot at such election.

110 Signed

111 (Applicant)

112

113 (Residence Address)

114 Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,

115 Signed

116 (Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"

117 9. An application for an absentee ballot by an interstate former resident, as defined in
118 section 115.275, shall be received in the office of the election authority where the applicant was
119 formerly registered by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately prior to the election, unless the
120 application is made in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority, in which
121 case such application shall be made no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

 115.283. 1. Each ballot envelope **for an absentee ballot** shall bear a statement on which
2 the voter shall state the voter's name, the voter's voting address, **and** the voter's mailing address

3 [and the voter's reason for voting an absentee ballot]. On the form **for absentee ballots or early**
4 **ballots**, the voter shall also state under penalties of perjury that the voter is qualified to vote in
5 the election, that the voter has not previously voted and will not vote again in the election, that
6 the voter has personally marked the voter's ballot in secret or supervised the marking of the
7 voter's ballot if the voter is unable to mark it, that, **if voting an absentee ballot**, the ballot has
8 been placed in the ballot envelope and sealed by the voter or under the voter's supervision if the
9 voter is unable to seal it, and that all information contained in the statement is true. In addition,
10 any person providing assistance to the absentee voter shall include a statement on the envelope
11 identifying the person providing assistance under penalties of perjury. Persons authorized to vote
12 only for federal and statewide officers shall also state their former Missouri residence.

13 2. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots **or early ballots** who are registered
14 voters shall be in substantially the following form:

15
16 State of Missouri

17 County (City) of

18
19 I, (print name), a registered voter of County (City of St. Louis, Kansas
20 City), [declare under the penalties of perjury that I expect to be prevented from going to the polls
21 on election day due to (check one):

22 absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which I am
23 registered;

24 incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including caring for a
25 person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;

26 religious belief or practice;

27 employment as an election authority or by an election authority at a location other than my
28 polling place;

29 incarceration, although I have retained all the necessary qualifications for voting.

30

31 I] hereby state under penalties of perjury that I am qualified to vote at this election; I have not
32 voted and will not vote other than by this ballot at this election. I further state that I marked the
33 enclosed ballot in secret or that I am blind, unable to read or write English, or physically
34 incapable of marking the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated below marked the
35 ballot at my direction; all of the information on this statement is, to the best of my knowledge
36 and belief, true.

37 Signature of Voter

Signature of Person

38

Assisting Voter

39 (if applicable)

40 Signed Subscribed and sworn to

41 Signed before me this day

42 Address of Voter of,

43

44

45 Mailing addresses Signature of notary or

46 (if different) other officer authorized

47 to administer oaths

48 3. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots pursuant to the provisions of
49 subsection 2, 3, 4, or 5 of section 115.277 without being registered shall be in substantially the
50 following form:

51

52 State of Missouri

53 County (City) of

54

55 I, (print name), declare under the penalties of perjury that I am a citizen of the
56 United States and eighteen years of age or older. I am not adjudged incapacitated by any court
57 of law, and if I have been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor connected with the right of
58 suffrage, I have had the voting disabilities resulting from such conviction removed pursuant to
59 law. I hereby state under penalties of perjury that I am qualified to vote at this election.

60 I am (check one):

61 a resident of the state of Missouri and a registered voter in County and moved from
62 that county to County, Missouri, after the last day to register to vote in this election.

63

64 an interstate former resident of Missouri and authorized to vote for presidential and
65 vice presidential electors.

66

67 I further state under penalties of perjury that I have not voted and will not vote other than by this
68 ballot at this election; I marked the enclosed ballot in secret or am blind, unable to read or write
69 English, or physically incapable of marking the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated
70 below marked the ballot at my direction; all of the information on this statement is, to the best
71 of my knowledge and belief, true.

72 Subscribed to and sworn

73 Signature of Voter before me this day

74 of,

75
 76
 77 Address of Voter Signature of notary or
 78 other officer authorized
 79 to administer oaths
 80
 81 Mailing Address (if different).....
 82
 83
 84 Signature of Person Address of Last
 85 Assisting Voter Missouri Residence
 86 (if applicable)

87 4. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots **or early ballots** who are entitled
 88 to vote at the election pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 of section 115.137 shall be in
 89 substantially the following form:

90
 91 State of Missouri
 92 County (City) of

94 I, (print name), [declare under the penalties of perjury that I expect to
 95 be prevented from going to the polls on election day due to (check one):

96 absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which I am
 97 directed to vote;

98 incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including caring for a person
 99 who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;

100 religious belief or practice;

101 employment as an election authority or by an election authority at a location other than my
 102 polling place;

103 incarceration, although I have retained all the necessary qualifications of voting.

104
 105 I] hereby state under penalties of perjury that I own property in the district and am
 106 qualified to vote at this election; I have not voted and will not vote other than by this ballot at
 107 this election. I further state that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret or that I am blind, unable
 108 to read and write English, or physically incapable of marking the ballot, and the person of my
 109 choosing indicated below marked the ballot at my direction; all of the information on this
 110 statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true.

111 Subscribed and sworn
 112 Signature of Voter to before me this
 113 day of,
 114
 115
 116 Address Signature of notary or
 117 other officer authorized
 118 to administer oaths

119
 120 Signature of Person
 121 Assisting Voter
 122 (if applicable)

123 5. The statement for persons providing assistance to absentee **ballot or early ballot**
 124 voters shall be in substantially the following form:

125
 126 The voter needed assistance in marking the ballot and signing above, because of blindness, other
 127 physical disability, or inability to read or to read English. I marked the ballot enclosed in this
 128 envelope at the voter's direction, when I was alone with the voter, and I had no other
 129 communication with the voter as to how he or she was to vote. The voter swore or affirmed the
 130 voter affidavit above and I then signed the voter's name and completed the other voter
 131 information above. Signed under the penalties of perjury.

132
 133 Reason why voter needed assistance:
 134

135 ASSISTING PERSON SIGN HERE

- 136 1. (signature of assisting person)
- 137 2. (assisting person's name printed)
- 138 3. (assisting person's residence)
- 139 4. (assisting person's home city or town).

140 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any covered voter as defined in
 141 section 115.902 or persons who have declared themselves to be permanently disabled pursuant
 142 to section 115.284, otherwise entitled to vote, shall not be required to obtain a notary seal or
 143 signature on his or her absentee ballot.

144 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 115.291 to the contrary,
 145 the subscription, signature and seal of a notary or other officer authorized to administer oaths
 146 shall not be required on any ballot, ballot envelope, or statement required by this section if the

reason for the voter voting absentee is due to [the reasons established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 115.277] **incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability. The voter shall affirm such exemption on the absentee ballot envelope.**

8. No notary shall charge or collect a fee for notarizing the signature on any absentee ballot or absentee voter registration.

9. A notary public who charges more than the maximum fee specified or who charges or collects a fee for notarizing the signature on any absentee ballot or absentee voter registration is guilty of official misconduct.

115.289. 1. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section, as applications for absentee ballots are received, the election authority shall list the name, voting address and mailing address, if different, of each applicant. Any person authorized under subsection 2 of this section may copy the list, and the election authority may make copies of the list available to such persons for a reasonable fee determined by the election authority.

2. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, all lists of applications for absentee ballots shall be kept confidential to the extent that such lists of applications shall not be posted or displayed in any area open to the general public, nor shall such lists of applications be shown to any person who is not entitled to see such lists of applications, either pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or any other provisions of law. Persons entitled to see such lists shall include a candidate or a duly authorized representative of a campaign committee as defined in section 130.011, or any person with written authorization from a candidate, or any person that has applied for an absentee ballot.

3. In each city not within a county, in each county of the first classification having a population of more than nine hundred thousand inhabitants, in each county of the first classification containing the major portion of a city which has over three hundred thousand inhabitants, and in that portion of each city which has over three hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county, situated in the county containing the major portion of the city, as applications for absentee ballots are received, the election authority shall list the name, voting address and mailing address, if different, of each applicant. Prior to 8:00 a.m. on the Friday before an election all absentee ballot applications, lists of absentee ballot applications, or any information contained on the absentee ballot applications shall be kept confidential. Use of the applications, lists or information contained thereon by the election authority prior to 8:00 a.m. on the Friday before an election for purposes other than processing absentee ballots shall be deemed a class one election offense. After 8:00 a.m. on the Friday before an election any person authorized under subsection 4 of this section may copy the list, and the election authority

27 may make copies of the list available to such persons for a reasonable fee determined by the
28 election authority.

29 4. In each city not within a county, in each county of the first classification having a
30 population of more than nine hundred thousand inhabitants, in each county of the first
31 classification containing the major portion of a city which has over three hundred thousand
32 inhabitants, and in that portion of each city which has over three hundred thousand inhabitants
33 and located in more than one county, situated in the county containing the major portion of the
34 city, after 8:00 a.m. on the Friday before an election, all lists of applications for absentee ballots
35 shall be kept confidential to the extent that such lists of applications shall not be posted or
36 displayed in any area open to the general public, nor shall such lists of applications be shown to
37 any person who is not entitled to see such lists of applications, either pursuant to the provisions
38 of this chapter or any other provisions of law. Persons entitled to see such lists shall include a
39 candidate or a duly authorized representative of a campaign committee as defined in section
40 130.011, or any person with written authorization from a candidate, or any person that has
41 applied for an absentee ballot.

42 **5. The election authority shall maintain a list stating the name, voting address, and**
43 **mailing address, if different, of each person that cast an early ballot. Any person**
44 **authorized under subsection 4 of this section may copy the list, and the election authority**
45 **may make copies of the list available to such persons for a reasonable fee determined by**
46 **the election authority. The list of early ballot voters or any information contained on the**
47 **early ballot application shall be kept confidential. On the third Tuesday before the election**
48 **and after 8:00 a.m. on the Friday before an election, any person authorized under**
49 **subsection 4 of this section may copy the list, and the election authority may make copies**
50 **of the list available to such persons for a reasonable fee determined by the election**
51 **authority. Nothing shall prohibit any person authorized under subsection 4 of this section**
52 **from requesting to copy the list at any time.**

115.291. 1. Upon receiving an absentee ballot [in person or] by mail, the voter shall
2 mark the ballot in secret, place the ballot in the ballot envelope, seal the envelope and fill out the
3 statement on the ballot envelope. The affidavit of each person voting an absentee ballot shall
4 be subscribed and sworn to before the election official receiving the ballot, a notary public or
5 other officer authorized by law to administer oaths, unless the voter is voting absentee due to
6 incapacity or confinement due to the provisions of section 115.284, illness or physical disability,
7 or the voter is a covered voter as defined in section 115.902. If the voter is blind, unable to read
8 or write the English language, or physically incapable of voting the ballot, the voter may be
9 assisted by a person of the voter's own choosing. Any person assisting a voter who is not entitled
10 to such assistance, and any person who assists a voter and in any manner coerces or initiates a

11 request or a suggestion that the voter vote for or against or refrain from voting on any question,
12 ticket or candidate, shall be guilty of a class one election offense. If, upon counting, challenge
13 or election contest, it is ascertained that any absentee ballot was voted with unlawful assistance,
14 the ballot shall be rejected.

15 2. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, each absentee ballot shall be
16 returned to the election authority in the ballot envelope and shall only be returned by the voter
17 in person, or in person by a relative of the voter who is within the second degree of consanguinity
18 or affinity, by mail or registered carrier or by a team of deputy election authorities; except that
19 persons in federal service, when sent from a location determined by the secretary of state to be
20 inaccessible on election day, shall be allowed to return their absentee ballots cast by use of
21 facsimile transmission or under a program approved by the Department of Defense for electronic
22 transmission of election materials.

23 3. In cases of an emergency declared by the President of the United States or the
24 governor of this state where the conduct of an election may be affected, the secretary of state may
25 provide for the delivery and return of absentee ballots by use of a facsimile transmission device
26 or system. Any rule promulgated pursuant to this subsection shall apply to a class or classes of
27 voters as provided for by the secretary of state.

28 4. No election authority shall refuse to accept and process any otherwise valid marked
29 absentee ballot submitted in any manner by a covered voter solely on the basis of restrictions on
30 envelope type.

115.297. Before the precinct registers are delivered to the polling places for an election,
2 the election authority shall record in the precinct registers those voters who have submitted an
3 absentee ballot **or early ballot** and are ineligible to vote at the polls. On election day, the
4 election authority shall notify the appropriate election judges of any absentee ballot **or early**
5 **ballot** received by the election authority not previously recorded in a precinct register. The
6 election authority shall record the fact in the appropriate precinct register and shall not allow any
7 person who has voted an absentee ballot **or early ballot** in the election to vote at the polls on
8 election day. After the election and before convening the verification board, the election
9 authority shall record in the precinct registers those voters whose absentee ballots were received
10 too late to permit previous recording in the precinct registers. If it is determined that any voter
11 submitted an absentee ballot **or early ballot** and voted at the polls on election day, the election
12 authority shall certify the fact and the name of the voter to the verification board. Such
13 certificate shall be included with the abstracts drawn by the verification board.

115.300. In each jurisdiction, the election authority may start, not earlier than the [fifth]
2 **seventh** day prior to the election, the preparation of absentee ballots for tabulation on the election
3 day. The election authority shall give notice to the county chairman of each major political party

4 forty-eight hours prior to beginning preparation of absentee ballot envelopes. Absentee ballot
5 preparation shall be completed by teams of election authority employees or teams of election
6 judges, with each team consisting of one member from each major political party.

115.417. 1. Before the time fixed by law for the opening of the polls, the election
2 authority shall deliver to each polling place a sufficient number of voter instruction cards which
3 include the following information:

4 (1) If paper ballots or an electronic voting system is used, the instructions shall inform
5 the voter on how to obtain a ballot for voting, how to vote and prepare the ballot for deposit in
6 the ballot box and how to obtain a new ballot to replace one accidentally spoiled;

7 (2) If voting machines are used, the instructions shall inform the voter how to operate
8 the machine in such a manner that the voter may vote as the voter wishes.

9 2. The election authority at each polling place shall post in a conspicuous place voting
10 instructions on a poster no smaller than twenty-four inches by thirty inches. Such instructions
11 shall also inform the voter that the voting equipment can be demonstrated upon request of the
12 voter. The election authority shall also publicly post during the period of time in which a person
13 may cast an absentee ballot **or early ballot** and on election day a sample version of the ballot
14 that will be used for that election, the date of the election, the hours during which the polling
15 place will be open, instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters, general information
16 on voting rights in accordance with the state plan filed by the secretary of state pursuant to the
17 Help America Vote Act of 2002, general information on the right to cast a provisional ballot and
18 instructions for provisional ballots, how to contact appropriate authorities if voting rights have
19 been violated, and general information on federal and Missouri law regarding prohibitions on
20 acts of fraud and misrepresentation. The secretary of state may promulgate rules to execute this
21 section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to the authority of this section shall
22 become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to chapter 536.

23 3. If marking devices or voting machines are used, the election authority shall also
24 provide to each polling place a model of a marking device or portion of the face of a voting
25 machine. If requested to do so by a voter, the election judges shall give instructions on operation
26 of the marking device or voting machine by use of the model.

27 4. The secretary of state may develop multilingual voting instructions to be made
28 available to election authorities.

115.430. 1. This section shall apply to primary and general elections where candidates
2 for federal or statewide offices are nominated or elected and any election where statewide issue
3 or issues are submitted to the voters.

4 2. (1) A voter claiming to be properly registered in the jurisdiction of the election
5 authority and eligible to vote in an election, but whose eligibility at that precinct cannot be

6 immediately established upon examination of the precinct register, shall be entitled to vote a
7 provisional ballot after providing a form of personal identification required pursuant to section
8 115.427 or upon executing an affidavit under section 115.427, or may vote at a central polling
9 place as established in section 115.115 where the voter may vote his or her appropriate ballot for
10 his or her precinct of residence upon verification of eligibility or vote a provisional ballot if
11 eligibility cannot be determined. The provisional ballot provided to a voter under this section
12 shall be the ballot provided to a resident of the voter's precinct determined by reference to the
13 affidavit provided for in this section. If the voter declares that the voter is eligible to vote and
14 the election authority determines that the voter is eligible to vote at another polling place, the
15 voter shall be directed to the correct polling place or a central polling place as established by the
16 election authority pursuant to subsection 5 of section 115.115. If the voter refuses to go to the
17 correct polling place or a central polling place, the voter shall be permitted to vote a provisional
18 ballot at the incorrect polling place, but such ballot shall not be counted if the voter was not
19 eligible to vote at that polling place.

20 (2) The following steps shall be taken to establish a voter's eligibility to vote at a polling
21 place:

22 (a) The election judge shall examine the precinct register as provided in section 115.425.
23 If the voter is registered and eligible to vote at the polling place, the voter shall receive a regular
24 ballot;

25 (b) If the voter's eligibility cannot be immediately established by examining the precinct
26 register, the election judge shall contact the election authority. If the election authority cannot
27 immediately establish that the voter is registered and eligible to vote at the polling place upon
28 examination of the Missouri voter registration system, or if the election judge is unable to make
29 contact with the election authority immediately, the voter shall be notified that the voter is
30 entitled to a provisional ballot.

31 (3) The voter shall have the duty to appear and vote at the correct polling place. If an
32 election judge determines that the voter is not eligible to vote at the polling place at which a
33 voter presents himself or herself, and if the voter appears to be eligible to vote at another polling
34 place, the voter shall be informed that he or she may cast a provisional ballot at the current
35 polling place or may travel to the correct polling place or a central polling place, as established
36 by the election authority under subsection 5 of section 115.115, where the voter may cast a
37 regular ballot or provisional ballot if the voter's eligibility still cannot be determined. Provisional
38 ballots cast at a polling place shall be counted only if the voter was eligible to vote at such
39 polling place as provided in subsection 5 of this section.

40 (4) For a voter requesting [an absentee ballot in person] **to vote by early ballot at a**
41 **central voting location**, such voter shall be entitled to cast a provisional ballot when the voter's

42 eligibility cannot be immediately established upon examination of the precinct registers or the
43 Missouri voter registration system. **No voter requesting to vote by early ballot at a satellite**
44 **voting location shall be entitled to cast a provisional ballot for any reason.**

45 (5) Prior to accepting any provisional ballot at the polling place, the election judges shall
46 determine that the information provided on the provisional ballot envelope by the provisional
47 voter is consistent with the identification provided by such person under section 115.427.

48 3. (1) No person shall be entitled to receive a provisional ballot until such person has
49 completed a provisional ballot affidavit on the provisional ballot envelope.

50 (2) The secretary of state shall produce appropriate sizes of provisional ballot envelopes
51 and distribute them to each election authority according to their tabulating system. All
52 provisional ballot envelopes shall be printed on a distinguishable color of paper that is different
53 from the color of the regular ballot. The provisional ballot envelope shall be in the form required
54 by subsection 4 of this section. All provisional ballots shall be marked with a conspicuous stamp
55 or other distinguishing mark that makes them readily distinguishable from the regular ballots.

56 (3) Once voted, the provisional ballot shall be placed and sealed in a provisional ballot
57 envelope.

58 4. The provisional ballot in its envelope shall be deposited in the ballot box. The
59 provisional ballot envelope shall be completed by the voter for use in determining eligibility.
60 The provisional ballot envelope specified in this section shall contain a voter's certificate which
61 shall be in substantially the following form:

62

63 STATE OF

64 COUNTY OF

65 I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that my name is; that my date of birth is
66; that the last four digits of my Social Security Number are; that I am
67 registered to vote in County or City (if a City not within a County), Missouri; that
68 I am a qualified voter of said County (or City not within a County); that I am eligible to vote at
69 this polling place; and that I have not voted in this election.

70 I understand that if the above-provided information is not correct and the election
71 authority determines that I am not registered and eligible to vote, my vote will not be counted.
72 I further understand that knowingly providing false information is a violation of law and subjects
73 me to possible criminal prosecution.

74

75 (Signature of Voter)

76

77 (Current Address)

78 Subscribed and affirmed before me this day of, 20.....

79

80 (Signature of Election Official)

81

82 The voter may provide additional information to further assist the election authority in
83 determining eligibility, including the place and date the voter registered to vote, if known.

84 5. (1) Prior to counting any provisional ballot, the election authority shall determine if
85 the voter is registered and eligible to vote and if the vote was properly cast. The eligibility of
86 provisional votes shall be determined according to the requirements for a voter to cast a ballot
87 in the election as set forth in sections 115.133 and 115.135. A provisional [voter] ballot shall
88 not be eligible to be counted until the election authority has determined that:

89 (a) The voter cast such provisional ballot at a polling place established for the voter or
90 the central polling place established by the election authority under subsection 5 of section
91 115.115;

92 (b) The individual who cast the provisional ballot is an individual registered to vote in
93 the respective election at the polling place where the ballot was cast;

94 (c) The voter did not otherwise vote in the same election by regular ballot, absentee
95 ballot, or otherwise; and

96 (d) The information on the provisional ballot envelope is found to be correct, complete,
97 and accurate.

98 (2) When the ballot boxes are delivered to the election authority from the polling places,
99 the receiving teams shall separate the provisional ballots from the rest of the ballots and place
100 the sealed provisional ballot envelopes in a separate container. Teams of election authority
101 employees or teams of election judges with each team consisting of one member of each major
102 political party shall photocopy each provisional ballot envelope, such photocopy to be used by
103 the election authority to determine provisional voter eligibility. The sealed provisional ballot
104 envelopes shall be placed by the team in a sealed container and shall remain therein until
105 tabulation.

106 (3) To determine whether a provisional ballot is valid and entitled to be counted, the
107 election authority shall examine its records and verify that the provisional voter is properly
108 registered and eligible to vote in the election. If the provisional voter has provided information
109 regarding the registration agency where the provisional voter registered to vote, the election
110 authority shall make an inquiry of the registration agency to determine whether the provisional
111 voter is properly registered and eligible to vote in the election.

112 (4) If the election authority determines that the provisional voter is registered and eligible
113 to vote in the election, the election authority shall provide documentation verifying the voter's

114 eligibility. Such documentation shall be noted on the copy of the provisional ballot envelope and
115 shall contain substantially the following information:

- 116 (a) The name of the provisional voter;
- 117 (b) The name of the reviewer;
- 118 (c) The date and time; and
- 119 (d) A description of evidence found that supports the voter's eligibility.

120 (5) The local election authority shall record on a provisional ballot acceptance/rejection
121 list the provisional ballot identification number and a notation marking it as accepted.

122 (6) If the election authority determines that the provisional voter is not registered or
123 eligible to vote in the election, the election authority shall provide documentation verifying the
124 voter's ineligibility. Such documentation shall be noted on the copy of the provisional ballot
125 envelope and shall contain substantially the following information:

- 126 (a) The name of the provisional voter;
- 127 (b) The name of the reviewer;
- 128 (c) The date and time;
- 129 (d) A description of why the voter is ineligible.

130 (7) The local election authority shall record on a provisional ballot acceptance/rejection
131 list the provisional ballot identification number and notation marking it as rejected.

132 (8) If rejected, a photocopy of the envelope shall be made and used by the election
133 authority as a mail-in voter registration. The actual provisional ballot envelope shall be kept as
134 ballot material, and the copy of the envelope shall be used by the election authority for
135 registration record keeping.

136 6. All provisional ballots cast by voters whose eligibility has been verified as provided
137 in this section shall be counted in accordance with the rules governing ballot tabulation.
138 Provisional ballots shall not be counted until all provisional ballots are determined either eligible
139 or ineligible and all provisional ballots must be processed before the election is certified. The
140 provisional ballot shall be counted only if the election authority determines that the voter is
141 registered and eligible to vote. Provisional ballots voted in the wrong polling place shall not be
142 counted. If the voter is not registered but is qualified to register for future elections, the affidavit
143 shall be considered a mail-in application to register to vote pursuant to this chapter.

144 7. (1) After the election authority completes its review of the provisional voter's
145 eligibility under subsection 5 of this section, the election authority shall deliver the provisional
146 ballots and copies of the provisional ballot envelopes that include eligibility information to
147 bipartisan counting teams, which may be the board of verification, for review and tabulation.
148 The election authority shall maintain a record of such delivery. The record shall include the
149 number of ballots delivered to each team and shall include a signed receipt from two judges, one

150 from each major political party. The election authority shall provide each team with a ballot box
151 and material necessary for tabulation.

152 (2) If the person named on the provisional ballot affidavit is found to have been properly
153 qualified and registered to cast a ballot in the election and the provisional ballot otherwise
154 qualifies to be counted under the provisions of this section, the envelope shall be opened, and
155 the ballot shall be placed in a ballot box to be counted.

156 (3) If the person named on the provisional ballot affidavit is found not to have been
157 properly qualified and registered to cast a ballot in the election or if the election authority is
158 unable to determine such person's right to vote, the envelope containing the provisional ballot
159 shall not be opened, and the person's vote shall not be counted. The members of the team shall
160 follow the procedures set forth in subsection 5 of this section for rejected provisional ballots.

161 (4) The votes shall be tallied and the returns made as provided in sections 115.447 to
162 115.525 for paper ballots. After the vote on all ballots assigned to a team have been counted, the
163 ballots, ballot envelopes, and copies of ballot envelopes with the eligibility information provided
164 by the election authority shall be enclosed in sealed containers marked "Voted provisional ballots
165 and ballot envelopes from the election held, 20...". All rejected provisional ballots, ballot
166 envelopes, and copies of ballot envelopes with the eligibility information provided by the
167 election authority shall be enclosed in sealed containers marked "Rejected provisional ballots and
168 ballot envelopes from the election held, 20...". On the outside of each voted
169 ballot and rejected ballot container, each member of the team shall write their name and all such
170 containers shall be returned to the election authority. Upon receipt of the returns and ballots, the
171 election authority shall tabulate the provisional votes.

172 8. Challengers and watchers, as provided by sections 115.105 and 115.107, may be
173 present during all times that the bipartisan counting teams are reviewing or counting the
174 provisional ballots, the provisional ballot envelopes, or copies of the provisional ballot envelopes
175 that include eligibility information provided by the election authority. Challengers and watchers
176 shall be permitted to observe the determination of the eligibility of all provisional ballots. The
177 election authority shall notify the county chair of each major political party of the time and
178 location when bipartisan counting teams will be reviewing or counting the provisional ballots,
179 the provisional ballot envelopes, or the copies of the provisional ballot envelopes that include
180 the eligibility information provided by the election authority.

181 9. The certificate of ballot cards shall:

182 (1) Reflect the number of provisional envelopes delivered; and

183 (2) Reflect the number of sealed provisional envelopes with voted ballots deposited in
184 the ballot box.

185 10. In counties where the voting system does not utilize a paper ballot, the election
186 authority shall provide the appropriate provisional ballots to each polling place.

187 11. The secretary of state may promulgate rules for purposes of ensuring the uniform
188 application of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to the authority of
189 this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to chapter 536.

190 12. The secretary of state shall design and provide to the election authorities the
191 envelopes and forms necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

192 13. Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the secretary of state shall ensure
193 a free access system is established, such as a toll-free number or an internet website, that any
194 individual who casts a provisional ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that
195 individual was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not
196 counted. At the time an individual casts a provisional ballot, the election authority shall give the
197 voter written information that states that any individual who casts a provisional ballot will be
198 able to ascertain under such free access system whether the vote was counted, and if the vote was
199 not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.

200 14. In accordance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, any individual who votes
201 in an election as a result of a court order or any other order extending the time established for
202 closing the polls in section 115.407 may vote only by using a provisional ballot, and such
203 provisional ballot shall be separated and held apart from other provisional ballots cast by those
204 not affected by the order. Such ballots shall not be counted until such time as the ballots are
205 determined to be valid. No state court shall have jurisdiction to extend the polling hours
206 established by law, including section 115.407.

115.447. 1. As used in this subchapter, unless the context clearly implies otherwise, the
2 following terms shall mean:

3 (1) "Counting judges" are the two judges, one from each major political party, who read
4 each vote received by all candidates and each vote for and against all questions at a polling place;

5 (2) "Receiving judges" are the two judges, one from each major political party, who
6 initial each voter's ballot at a polling place;

7 (3) "Recording judges" are the two judges, one from each major political party, who tally
8 the votes received by each candidate and for and against each question at a polling place. These
9 terms describe functions rather than individuals, and any election judge may perform more than
10 one function at a polling place on election day.

11 2. As used in this subchapter, unless the context clearly implies otherwise, the following
12 terms shall mean:

13 (1) "Defective ballot" is any ballot card on which the number of write-in votes and votes
14 cast on the ballot card for any office exceed the number allowed by law, and any ballot card

15 which is bent or damaged so that it cannot be properly counted by automatic tabulating
16 equipment;

17 (2) "Rejected ballot" is any ballot on which no votes are counted because the ballot fails
18 to have the initials of the proper election judges, because the number of votes for all offices and
19 on all questions exceeds the number authorized by law, because the voter is deemed by the
20 election judges to be unqualified, because it is [an] **a mail-in** absentee ballot not accompanied
21 by a completed and signed affidavit, **because the number of votes on an early ballot for all**
22 **offices and on all questions exceeds the number authorized by law**, or because the ballot was
23 voted with unlawful assistance;

24 (3) "Spoiled ballot" is any ballot accidentally spoiled by a voter and replaced by election
25 judges in the manner provided in subsection 2 of section 115.439.

115.481. The final and correct return printed by the automatic tabulating equipment
2 added to the write-in, absentee, **early ballot** and handcounted votes shall be the official return
3 of each polling place and the jurisdiction.

115.507. 1. Not later than the second Tuesday after the election, the verification board
2 shall issue a statement announcing the results of each election held within its jurisdiction and
3 shall certify the returns to each political subdivision and special district submitting a candidate
4 or question at the election. The statement shall include a categorization of the number of regular,
5 **early**, and absentee votes cast in the election, and how those votes were cast; provided however,
6 that absentee votes shall not be reported separately where such reporting would disclose how any
7 single voter cast his or her vote. When absentee votes are not reported separately the statement
8 shall include the reason why such reporting did not occur. Nothing in this section shall be
9 construed to require the election authority to tabulate absentee ballots by precinct on election
10 night.

11 2. The verification board shall prepare the returns by drawing an abstract of the votes
12 cast for each candidate and on each question submitted to a vote of people in its jurisdiction by
13 the state and by each political subdivision and special district at the election. The abstract of
14 votes drawn by the verification board shall be the official returns of the election.

15 3. Any home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in
16 more than one county may by ordinance designate one of the election authorities situated
17 partially or wholly within that home rule city to be the verification board that shall certify the
18 returns of such city submitting a candidate or question at any election and shall notify each
19 verification board within the city of that designation by providing each with a copy of such duly
20 adopted ordinance. Not later than the second Tuesday after any election in any city making such
21 a designation, each verification board within the city shall certify the returns of such city
22 submitting a candidate or question at the election to the election authority so designated by the

23 city to be its verification board, and such election authority shall announce the results of the
24 election and certify the cumulative returns to the city in conformance with subsections 1 and 2
25 of this section not later than ten days thereafter.

26 4. Not later than the second Tuesday after each election at which the name of a candidate
27 for nomination or election to the office of president of the United States, United States senator,
28 representative in Congress, governor, lieutenant governor, state senator, state representative,
29 judge of the circuit court, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor, or
30 at which an initiative, referendum, constitutional amendment or question of retaining a judge
31 subject to the provisions of article V, section 29 of the state constitution, appears on the ballot
32 in a jurisdiction, the election authority of the jurisdiction shall mail or deliver to the secretary of
33 state the abstract of the votes given in its jurisdiction, by polling place or precinct, for each such
34 office and on each such question. If mailed, the abstract shall be enclosed in a strong, sealed
35 envelope or envelopes. On the outside of each envelope shall be printed: "Returns of election
36 held in the county of (City of St. Louis, Kansas City) on the day of,
37, "[, etc].

2 [115.294. Other provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, no
3 absentee ballot shall be rejected for failure of the voter to state on the ballot
envelope his reason for voting an absentee ballot.]

✓