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Drop Box Policies & Availability

No updates required since October 10, 2023

Background	1
Scoring	1
Summary Table	2
State-by-State Sources and More Detail	3
Democracy Map & Additional Resources	7

Background

In addition to returning absentee or mail ballots through the postal service, many states offer voters the option of returning their ballot to a secure drop box provided by election authorities. States take a variety of policy approaches to ballot drop boxes, with some states requiring they be accessible statewide, while other states limit, restrict, or even ban the option. MAP defines “accessible” drop boxes as those available 24 hours per day, not required to be staffed, and not limited in number.

Scoring

- Drop boxes required or allowed statewide and broadly accessible, 1/2 point
- Drop boxes required or allowed statewide but limited or restricted, 1/4 point
- State has no applicable law or policy and drop boxes are not used, 0 points
- State bans drop boxes, -½ point



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Summary Table

Category	Number	List
Drop boxes are required or allowed statewide and broadly accessible	29 states	Alaska Arizona California Colorado Delaware Hawaii Idaho Illinois Kentucky Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Montana Nebraska Nevada New Jersey New Mexico New York North Dakota Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island Utah Vermont Virginia Washington Wyoming
Drop boxes are required or allowed statewide but limited or restricted	5 states	Florida Georgia Indiana Iowa Ohio
State has no applicable law or policy and drop boxes are not used	4 states & D.C.	Alabama Connecticut D.C. Kansas New Hampshire
State bans drop boxes	12 states	Arkansas Louisiana Mississippi Missouri North Carolina Oklahoma South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas West Virginia Wisconsin



State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- State has no applicable law and drop boxes are not used.

Alaska (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Example: [City of Anchorage](#)).

Arizona (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 16-548, 16-550, 16-579, 16-584).

Arkansas (-1/2)

- State law effectively bans ballot drop boxes by requiring the voter to deliver their absentee ballot to the office of the county clerk (Ark. Code § 7-5-411).

California (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes ([California Secretary of State](#)).

Colorado (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-5-102.9).

Connecticut (0)

- State allowed the use of drop boxes in the 2020 election but has no applicable law in effect at this time.

Delaware (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (DE SB 320 (2022)).

D.C. (0)

- Allowed the use of drop boxes in the 2020 election but has no applicable law in effect at this time.

Florida (¼)

- State allows the use of drop boxes statewide but restricts the availability, location, and hours of drop boxes (FL [SB 90](#) (2021)).

Georgia (1/4)

- State requires drop boxes statewide, but restricts the availability, location, and hours of drop boxes ([GA SB 202](#) (2021)).



Hawaii (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 11-109).

Idaho (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes.

Illinois (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (10 ILCS 5/19-6).

Indiana (1/4)

- State allows drop boxes but restricts the availability, location, and hours of drop boxes (Ind. Code § 3-11-10-24).

Iowa (1/4)

- State allows drop boxes but restricts the availability, location, and hours of drop boxes (Iowa Code § 53.17).

Kansas (0)

- State allowed the use of drop boxes in the 2020 election but currently has no applicable law in effect.

Kentucky (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 117.086).

Louisiana (-1/2)

- State law effectively bans drop boxes (SB 144 (2022)).

Maine (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes ([Maine Secretary of State](#)).

Maryland (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes ([MD SB 683](#) (2021)).

Massachusetts (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 54, § 92).

Michigan (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes (Michigan Proposal 2 (2022)).



Minnesota (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Minn. Stat. § 203B.082).

Mississippi (-1/2)

- State law effectively bans drop boxes as absentee ballots are required to be returned by mail (Miss. Code § 23-15-637).

Missouri (-1/2)

- State bans drop boxes (MO HB 1878 (2022)).

Montana (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Mont. Code Ann. § 13-19-307).

Nebraska (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes for all elections, and requires drop boxes for mail elections in small counties (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-960).

Nevada (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes ([NV AB 321](#) (2021)).

New Hampshire (0)

- State has no applicable law and drop boxes are not used.

New Jersey (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes (N.J. Stat. § 19:63-16.1).

New Mexico (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes (NM HB 4 (2023)).

New York (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes ([NY Board of Elections](#)).

North Carolina (-1/2)

- State bans drop boxes (NC [SB 747](#) (2023)).
- Formerly, state had no applicable law and drop boxes were not used.

North Dakota (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (N.D. Cent. Code § 16.1-11.1-04).



Ohio (1/4)

- State allows drop boxes but restricts to one per county (OH HB 458 (2022)).

Oklahoma (-1/2)

- State law effectively bans drop boxes as absentee ballots are required to be returned by mail or delivered to an election office (Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 1-101, et seq).

Oregon (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes (Or. Rev. Stat. § 254.470).

Pennsylvania (1/2)

- State currently allows accessible drop boxes ([Pennsylvania Department of State](#)).

Rhode Island (1/2)

- State law requires accessible drop boxes statewide (SB 2007 (2022)).

South Carolina (-1/2)

- State bans drop boxes (SC SB 108 (2022)).

South Dakota (-1/2)

- State bans drop boxes (SD HB 1165 (2023)).

Tennessee (-1/2)

- State law effectively bans drop boxes (Tenn. Code § 2-6-202(e)).

Texas (-1/2)

- State law effectively bans drop boxes (Tex. Elec. Code § 86.006).

Utah (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Utah Code § 20A-5-403.5).

Vermont (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes ([VT SB 15](#) (2021)).

Virginia (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes ([VA SB 1245](#) (2021)).

Washington (1/2)

- State requires accessible drop boxes (Wash. Rev. Code § 29A.40.170).



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West Virginia (-1/2)

- State does not allow drop boxes ([West Virginia Secretary of State](#)).

Wisconsin (-1/2)

- State Supreme Court has ruled that ballot drop boxes are illegal under state law ([Teigen v. Wisconsin Election Commission](#) (2022)).

Wyoming (1/2)

- State allows accessible drop boxes (Wyo. Stat. § 22-29-116).

Democracy Map & Additional Resources

- See our Democracy Map, [Drop Box Policies](#), which is updated in real time.