



“Voter Intent” Laws to Standardize Ballot Interpretation

Scoring

- State has a voter intent law or administrative rule, 1/2 point
- State has no applicable law or rule, 0 points
- Note: Almost every state has some form of a “voter intent” law or policy, which operates to guide election officials in determining a voter’s choices on their ballot. These policies help in situations where the voter’s marks on a ballot are unclear or there are stray markings, and allow voter’s ballots to be counted rather than disqualified.
- No updates required since January 1, 2023

Alabama (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule (Ala. Admin. Code 820-2-1-.02).

Alaska (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (AS 15.15.360).

Arizona (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule (ARS 16-602(G); [Elections Procedures Manual](#)).

Arkansas (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and guidance (Ark. Code 7-5-603(2)(B); [State Board of Elections](#)).

California (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and guidance (CA Elec. Code 15154; [Secretary of State](#)).

Colorado (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (CRS 1-7-309; 8 CCR 1505-1-18).

Connecticut (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Delaware (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (15 Del. Code 4972).

D.C. (0)

- Has no applicable law.



Florida (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (Fla. Stat. 102.166(4)(b); Fla. Admin. Code R. 1S-2.027).

Georgia (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (OCGA 21-2-435; GA R 183-1-15-.02).

Hawaii (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule (HAR 3-177-769).

Idaho (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and guidance (Idaho Code 34-1203; [Idaho Election Handbook](#)).

Illinois (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (10 ILCS 5/17-100; 5/18-100; 5/24A-22; 5/24B-9.1).

Indiana (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (IC 3-12-1-1 et seq).

Iowa (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (Iowa Code 49.92 et seq.; IAC 721.26.1 et seq).

Kansas (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and guidance (KS Stat. 25-3002; [Kansas Election Standards](#)).

Kentucky (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule (31 KAR 60:030).

Louisiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maine (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule (29-50 C.M.R. Chap. 550).

Maryland (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule (COMAR 33.08.02).

Massachusetts (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule ([Secretary of State](#)).



Michigan (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (MCL 168.803; Mich. Admin. Code r. 168.934).

Minnesota (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (MS 204C.22).

Mississippi (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (MCA 23-15-523).

Missouri (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (Mo.Rev.Stat. 115.456; 15 CSR 30-9.010 et seq).

Montana (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (MCA 13-15-206(7); ARM 44.3.2402).

Nebraska (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (NRS 32-901, 1003, 1004, 1015).

Nevada (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (NRS 293.3677, .367).

New Hampshire (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (NH RSA 659:64).

New Jersey (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (NJSA 19:16-3; 19:53C-15).

New Mexico (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (NMSA 1-1-5.2; 1-14-22(A)).

New York (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (NY Elec. Law 9-112; 9 CRR-NY 6210.13, 6210.15).

North Carolina (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and guidance (NCGS 182.1; 08 NCAC 09.0106).

North Dakota (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule (NDAC 72-06-01-05, 06).



Ohio (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (ORC 3506.21).

Oklahoma (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (OK Stat. 26-7-127; OAC 230:45-5-19).

Oregon (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and guidance (ORS 254.505; [Vote by Mail Procedures Manual](#)).

Pennsylvania (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (25 PS 3063, 3155).

Rhode Island (1/2)

- State has voter intent rule ([Secretary of State](#)).

South Carolina (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (SC Code 11-13-1120).

South Dakota (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (SDCL 12-20-7; ARSD 5:02:09:22).

Tennessee (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (TCA 2-7-133; Tenn. Comp. R and Regs. 1360-2-12-.05(7)).

Texas (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and guidance (Tex. Elec. Code 65.009; [Secretary of State](#)).

Utah (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (Utah Code 20A-4-105; Utah Admin. Code r. 623-2).

Vermont (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (17 VSA 2587; CVR 04-010-003).

Virginia (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (Va. Code 24.2-712(D), 644, 802).

Washington (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (RCW 29A.60.040; WAC 434-61-286).



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West Virginia (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (WVa Code 3-6-7; W.Va. Code R. 153-27).

Wisconsin (1/2)

- State has voter intent law (Wisc. Stat. 7.50(2)).

Wyoming (1/2)

- State has voter intent law and rule (Wyo. Stat. 22-14-114; 002-0005-6 Wyo. Code. R).