

2023 Kansas Statutes

25-433. Mailing of ballots; voting instructions; return envelopes, payment of postage and forms; voting by electors, procedure; replacement ballots; counting, handling and canvass of ballots; verification of signatures; removal of names of voters whose ballots are undeliverable from registration books and party affiliation list. (a) The county election officer shall mail all official ballots with a return identification envelope and instructions sufficient to describe the voting process to each elector entitled to vote in the election on one date not sooner than the 20th day before the date of the election and not later than the 10th day before the date of the election. Ballots mailed by the county election officer shall be addressed to the address of each elector appearing in the registration records, and placed in an envelope that is prominently marked "Do Not Forward." Ballots shall not be mailed to any inactive voter who, based on information provided by the postal service, appears to have moved to a residence address outside the county in which the voter is currently registered and who has been mailed a confirmation notice as described in K.S.A. 25-2316c(e)(4), and amendments thereto, or because a "Forwarding Order Expired" or "Moved — No Forwarding Address" notice was received from the post office. Any inactive voter who believes such voter is entitled to vote in the election may request a replacement ballot as provided for in subsection (d) of this section.

(b) Upon receipt of the ballot the elector shall mark it, sign the return identification envelope supplied with the ballot and comply with the instructions provided with the ballot. The elector may return the marked ballot to the county election officer by United States mail, if it is received by the county election officer by the date of the election, or personally deliver the ballot to the office of the county election officer before noon on the date of the election. The ballot shall be returned in the return identification envelope. The county election officer shall provide for the payment of postage for the return of ballot envelopes.

(c) The return identification envelope shall contain the following form:

I declare under penalty of election perjury, a felony, that I am a resident and a qualified voter for this election as shown on voter registration records and that I have voted the enclosed ballot and am returning it in compliance with Kansas law, and amendments thereto, and have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election.

I also understand that failure to complete the information below will invalidate my ballot.

Signature

Residence Address

(d) If the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received by the elector, the elector may obtain a replacement ballot from the county election officer as provided in this subsection. An elector seeking a replacement ballot shall sign a statement verified on oath or affirmation, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, that the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received. The applicant shall deliver the statement to the county election officer before noon on the date of the election. The applicant may mail the statement to the county election officer, except a county election officer shall not transmit a ballot by mail under this subsection unless the application is received prior to the close of business on the second day prior to the election. When an application is timely received under this subsection, the county election officer shall deliver the ballot to the voter if the voter is present in the office of the county election officer, or promptly transmit the ballot by mail to the voter at the address contained in the application, except when prohibited in this subsection. The county election officer shall keep a record of each replacement ballot provided under this subsection.

(e) A ballot shall be counted only if: (1) It is returned in the return identification envelope; (2) the envelope is signed by the elector to whom the ballot is issued; and (3) the signature has been verified as provided in this subsection. The county election officer shall verify the signature of each elector on the return identification envelope with the signature on the elector's registration records and may commence verification at any time prior to the canvass of the election. The county election office

shall attempt to contact each person who submits a mail ballot if there is no signature or the signature does not match with the signature on file and allow such elector the opportunity to correct the deficiency before the commencement of the county canvass. Verification of the voter's signature shall not be required if the voter has a disability preventing the voter from signing the ballot or preventing the voter from having a signature consistent with such voter's registration form. Signature verification may occur by electronic device or human inspection. If the county election officer determines that an elector to whom a replacement ballot has been issued under subsection (d) has voted more than once, the county election officer shall not count any ballot cast by that elector.

(f) The county election officer shall supervise the procedures for the handling and canvassing of ballots to insure the safety and confidentiality of all ballots properly cast.

(g) The names of voters whose mail ballot envelopes are returned to the county election officer as "undeliverable" shall be subject to removal from the voter registration book and party affiliation list in the manner provided in K.S.A. 25-2316c(d), and amendments thereto.

History: L. 1983, ch. 125, § 3; L. 1984, ch. 138, § 1; L. 1987, ch. 125, § 1; L. 1999, ch. 105, § 1; L. 2008, ch. 165, § 1; L. 2023, ch. 79, § 24; July 1.