

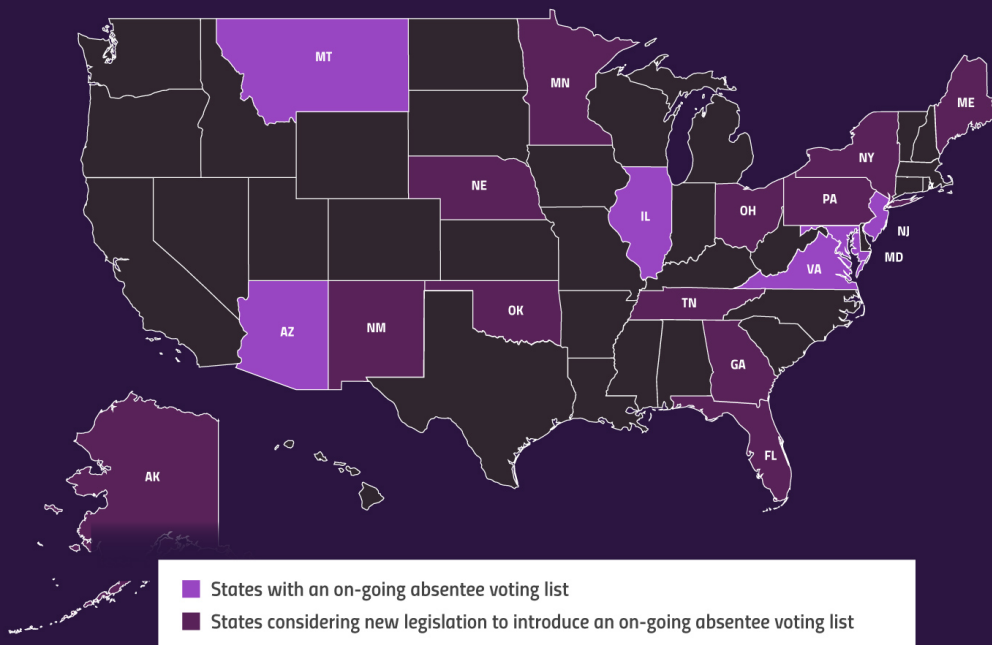


## ON-GOING ABSENTEE MAILING LIST BRIEF

### QUICK FACTS:

- » In Maine, the majority of absentee voters use the absentee mailing option repeatedly - 66.5% of absentee voters in 2018 also voted absentee in 2016<sup>1</sup>.
- » Absentee voting is on the rise, nationwide and in Maine. A growing number of Mainers are choosing to vote absentee, with 2022 absentee requests [surpassing 2018 numbers](#).
- » Mail ballot voters [turnout at higher rates](#) than polling place voters, participate in off-year elections at a higher rate, and on-going absentee mailing lists [increased the likelihood](#) that voters will participate in the next election.
- » Six states and the District of Columbia [have](#) on-going absentee mailing lists: Arizona<sup>2</sup>, Illinois<sup>3</sup>, Maryland<sup>4</sup>, Montana<sup>5</sup>, New Jersey<sup>6</sup>, and Virginia<sup>7</sup>. In those states, usage varies: in 2021, 75% of Arizonans were members of the on-going absentee mailing list and during the pandemic, 80% of Arizonans used the absentee mailing option to cast ballots in the 2020 election.<sup>8</sup>

### On-Going Absentee Voting List



## THE PROBLEM:

In Maine, any voter may request an absentee ballot however they must do so every time they wish to vote absentee, creating an unnecessary burden on voters. An on-going absentee mailing list will increase access to the ballot, especially for voters in rural areas, voters with disabilities, and others who struggle to access polling places<sup>9</sup>.



## THE LEGISLATION DOES THE FOLLOWING:

- » Ease voting access with an **on-going absentee mailing list**: Every eligible voter can sign up for the on-going absentee mailing list, beginning with the November 2025 election.
- » Voters on the list will automatically be mailed an absentee ballot in all eligible elections.
- » Support election security with **verification tools**:
  - **List maintenance**: Voters will remain on the list and continue to receive absentee ballots automatically until they cease to be a registered Maine voter, official election mail to their registered address is returned as undeliverable or they request to be removed from the list, which can be done in writing.
- » **Ballot tracking**: Voters will be able to track the progress of their absentee ballots with ballot tracking, enabling voters to receive notifications of their ballots' progress along with any issues that come up (including issues that require curing).
- » **Early ballot processing rules** cut down on cost and labor while producing results earlier.

## MAINERS FOR MODERN ELECTIONS

[www.lwvme.org/MME](http://www.lwvme.org/MME)

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## FOOTNOTES

- 1 [National Vote At Home Institute, 2019:](https://voteathome.org/portfolio/permanent-absentee-efficiency-improvement-opportunity-for-voters-and-elections-officials/)  
<https://voteathome.org/portfolio/permanent-absentee-efficiency-improvement-opportunity-for-voters-and-elections-officials/>
- 2 Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-544 (A)
- 3 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/19-2
- 4 Md. Code, Elec. Law § 9-311.1
- 5 Mont. Code § 13-13-212(3)
- 6 N.J. Stat. § 19:63-3(a)(1)
- 7 Va. Code § 24.2-703.1
- 8 [ABC News:](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/arizona-gov-doug-ducey-signs-law-purge-voters/story?id=77606533)  
<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/arizona-gov-doug-ducey-signs-law-purge-voters/story?id=77606533>
- 9 [Mail-ballot voters turnout at higher rates than polling place voters:](https://app.box.com/s/cmjffpumiesvtzvgtl6pevhrgekpyer4)  
<https://app.box.com/s/cmjffpumiesvtzvgtl6pevhrgekpyer4>