Rules of  
Elected Officials  
Division 30—Secretary of State  
Chapter 5—Mail Ballot Election Procedures and Forms

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Chapter 8—Mail Ballot Election Procedures and Forms

15 CSR 30-5.080 Mail Ballot Election Procedures and Forms

PURPOSE: This rule provides requirements for local election authorities to fulfill for conducting Mail Ballot Elections.

(1) The election authority shall prepare a written plan setting forth the steps to be followed during the conduct of a Mail Ballot Election as follows:

(A) A plan shall be prepared for the initial Mail Ballot Election in a jurisdiction;

(B) In each county in which the county clerk is the election authority, a plan shall be prepared by the county clerk who is conducting his/her first Mail Ballot Election, regardless of whether or not it is the initial Mail Ballot Election for the jurisdiction;

(C) Subsequent to the initial Mail Ballot Election in subsection(a) (1)(A) and/or (B) of this rule, the election authority, in lieu of a written plan, may prepare a checklist. The checklist shall show compliance with the procedures and steps contained in the written plan, as outlined in section (2) of this rule and with the provisions of the Mail Ballot Election Act; and

(D) Not later than the fourth Wednesday prior to the election, the plan or checklists shall be made available to the public and shall be forwarded to the political subdivision or special district official(s) responsible for calling the Mail Ballot Election.

(2) The plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(A) A checklist outlining the steps to be followed during the preparation and conduct of the Mail Ballot Election;

(B) A timetable listing projected dates for completion of various steps and procedures necessary to the conduct of the election;

(C) The procedures to ensure ballot secrecy;

(D) The procedures for mailing out ballots;

(E) The procedures for handling returned, voted ballots;

(F) The procedures for handling undeliverable ballots and for canvassing registration records;

(G) The procedures for allowing absentee votes;

(H) The procedures for replacement of ballots destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received by voters;

(I) The procedures for resolving signature conflicts;

(J) The proposed ballot, instruction sheet, secrecy envelope, ballot-return envelope, mail-out envelope and ballot replacement application; and

(K) The procedures to establish the list of qualified voters who are to receive a ballot.

(3) Printed materials, when possible, shall be printed in type not less than fourteen (14) points in size and conform to the following guidelines and formats:

(A) The secrecy envelope shall be opaque and contain on the front face the name of the political subdivision or special district calling the election and the date of the election. Also on the front face shall be the words MAIL BALLOT SECRECY ENVELOPE, prominently displayed in type not less than twenty-four (24) points in size. Instructions for marking and returning the voted ballot may be included on the back side of the secrecy envelope;

(B) The instruction sheet shall describe the voting process and include information on marking the ballot, use of the secrecy envelope and the return identification envelope, and completion of the self-administered affidavit required in section 115.655, RSMo (Cum. Supp. 1990);

(C) The application for a replacement ballot as provided for in section 115.655, RSMo shall be in substantially the following form:
State of Missouri

County (City) of ____________________________

I, ____________________________, declare that I am

Print Name

a resident and a properly registered voter residing at

Residence Address

City

I further declare that my ballot was: (circle one)

destroyed       spoiled       lost       not received

and that I have not and will not vote more than one (1) ballot in this election.

Telephone Number

Date of Birth

I wish my replacement ballot to be sent to the address listed below:

Address

City

State

Zip

Signature of Voter

Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed)

before me, this __________ day of __________, 19__

__________________________

Notary Public or other officer
authorized to administer oaths

(SEAL)

My commission expires ____________________________

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

Election Authority
Address
City, State, Zip

For Office Use Only
Date application received ____________________________

Date replacement ballot was mailed or delivered ____________________________
(D) No information which encourages a vote for or against an issue shall be included with an official mail ballot delivered to any voter.