



## “Voter Intent” Laws to Standardize Ballot Interpretation

No updates required since December 22, 2023

### Background

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.

### Scoring

- State has a voter intent law or administrative rule, 1/2 point
- State has no applicable law or rule, 0 points

### Summary Table

Category	Number	List
State has a voter intent law or administrative rule	48 states	Alaska Alabama Arkansas Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey



movement advancement project ▶

		New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming
<b>State has no applicable law or rule</b>	2 states & D.C.	Connecticut D.C. Louisiana



## State-by-State Sources and More Detail

### 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).

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).