



## LR 403 Considerations for All-Mail Elections

In light of the testimony provided to the Election Technology Committee, research has been compiled on how all-mail states have structured their elections. A synopsis is below.

### All-Mail States

- Washington
- Oregon
- Colorado

### Common Trends:

1. **Security and integrity of voter registration data** – Only Oregon has implemented Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), but all three states have put a much greater emphasis on online voter registration and providing means for the voter to conveniently update their information prior to ballots being distributed.
2. **Retaining the right to vote privately and independently** – All-mail states have retained the ability for individuals to vote early in person and constructed a system that protects the right of voters, especially those with disabilities, to vote privately and independently.
3. **Balancing cost-savings and necessary investments** – Each of the all-mail states proactively redistributed anticipated and realized cost-savings of all-mail elections and reinvested those funds in improving their election system and administration, offering numerous drop box locations, expanding beyond the county election office to ensure availability in all cities within a county's jurisdiction.



## Security and integrity of voter registration data

- **Automatic Voter Registration** – Of the three states that have implemented all-mail elections, only Oregon has implemented automatic voter registration. However, Washington is considering and likely to pass its own version of automatic voter registration called “point of service AVR”. This differs from Oregon’s method of a subsequent postcard and an opt-out period in that Washington already incorporated the voter registration form into the electronic DMV form. This mirrors Nebraska’s current model and Nebraska could easily implement a point of service AVR to improve the integrity of the data collected and ensure the security of our voter rolls.
- **Mailing address** – All three states prominently place on the website opportunities for the voter to update their registration or mailing address. Both Washington and Colorado use a website and app called MyVote – essentially their online voter registration. Oregon also uses MyVote for address updates, but also has a form that an individual can fill out and return to their county election office to change their mailing address.

## Retaining the right to vote privately and independently

- **Vote Centers** – Of the three states, Oregon is the only one that does not have vote centers as an option. For individuals with a disability, the voter can use a screen reader or other technology to access a ballot at home or request an election worker come to their home with an electronic tablet and portable printer. Colorado and Washington both utilize vote centers. Washington is required to have at least one and in some Colorado counties they have over 10 with additional centers added just for Election Day. Both states require vote centers be open so many days leading up to the



election, Washington requires they open the same time ballots go out, Colorado requires it shortly afterwards.

- **Secrecy sleeves** – All three states send ballots with a secrecy sleeve or envelope for the ballot return. The return envelope has the signature line and ballot declaration.

### **Balancing cost-savings and necessary investments**

- **Paid return postage** – It does not appear that any of the states put pre-paid postage on the return envelopes. However, it looks like Colorado’s return ballot only requires first-class postage.
- **Notification of rejected ballots** – It could not be ascertained whether Colorado requires notification of rejected ballot with opportunity to remedy. In Oregon, the voter is mailed a card and provided instructions on how to remedy and the timeline to do so (up to two weeks after the election). In Washington, if the voter fails to sign the ballot declaration or it doesn’t match records, the county elections department contacts the voter to notify of the issue and provide instruction to remedy.
- **Drop Boxes and Return Dates** – All three states heavily invested in increasing the number of drop boxes and in Oregon, a ballot can be returned to any state sanctioned drop box (Washington and Colorado require they be returned to a drop box within your county). For all three states, ballots delivered via drop box or in person to the county election office must be received by close of Election Day. The same deadline applies to ballots returned via mail in Oregon and Colorado. Washington requires the ballot just be post-marked by Election Day.