

State of Maryland

Absentee Ballot Rejection Reasons – Examples

Use this document when rejecting State absentee ballots.¹ The rejection reasons in this document track the rejection reasons used in MDVOTERS.

Note: An absentee ballot from a voter who is subject to and has not satisfied the ID requirement (i.e., “Active – Show ID” voter) or an applicant who has not meet the verification requirement (i.e., “Pending – ID Not Provided” or “Pending – ID Not Verified”) must be canvassed as a provisional ballot. (The return envelopes for these individuals should have “ID Required” printed on them.) A list of the rejection reasons relating to the identification and verification requirements and examples are found in the *Provisional Ballot Rejection Reasons – Examples* document.

1. **Used agent and ballot envelope not sealed.** (MDVOTERS Code: Agent) (COMAR 33.11.05.03C)

Example: Voter used an agent to pick up and deliver absentee ballot and the ballot envelope was not sealed when it was returned by the agent.

2. **Board action.** (MDVOTERS Code: B)

Example: Ballot envelope was unsealed **and** there was some indication that the integrity of the election process has been compromised. See COMAR 33.11.05.06B.

Example: Envelope did not contain absentee ballot.

3. **Voter cancelled.** (MDVOTERS Code: C)

Example: Voter’s registration has been cancelled for a reason **other than** the voter died after voting the absentee ballot and before election day or the voter is a convicted felon.

Note: Do not use this rejection reason if the voter died after voting the absentee ballot and before election day (use reason #4) or because the voter has been removed for being a convicted felon (use reason #5).

4. **Voter has been convicted of a felony.** (MDVOTERS Code: F)

Example: Voter’s registration has been cancelled because he or she has been convicted of a felony. Voter’s name was removed based on information provided under § 3-504 of the Election Law Article.

5. **Identifying mark on ballot.** (MDVOTERS Code: IDB) (Election Law, § 11-302(d)(3)(iv) & COMAR 33.11.05.05B)

Example: The board of canvassers unanimously agreed that the ballot was intentionally marked with a clearly evident identifying mark and placed on the ballot for the purpose of identifying the ballot.

Example: The board of canvassers unanimously agreed that the voter used a pencil or ink unusual enough to be considered an attempt to intentionally identify the ballot.

¹ The rejection reasons in MDVOTERS for Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots vary from the rejection reasons for State absentee ballots. Do **not** use this document as a guide for rejecting Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots. (Updated: 2/2016)

6. **Late for election.** (MDVOTERS Code: L) (Election Law, § 11-302(c)(2) & COMAR 33.11.03.08, 33.11.05.03A, & 33.11.04.07)

Example: Absentee ballot was either not mailed on or before election day.

Example: Absentee ballot was not received before the start of the 2nd absentee canvass.

Example: Absentee ballot had no postmark, no date on the absentee oath, and no LBE time stamp showing date of receipt.

Example: Voter dropped off voted absentee ballot at a polling place and wanted election judges to return the absentee ballot.

7. **Voted more than one ballot.** (MDVOTERS Code: M) (Election Law, § 11-302(d)(3)(iii) & 33.11.05.04)

Example: Voter returned more than one ballot in the same envelope. Reject both ballots.

Example: Voter returned more than one ballot in separate envelopes. See COMAR 33.11.05.04 to determine which ballot to accept and which to reject. Use this rejection reason for the rejected ballot.

Example: Voter votes and returns an absentee ballot and votes a provisional ballot during early voting or on election day. Reject both ballots.

8. **No signature on oath.** (MDVOTERS Code: N) (Election Law, § 11-302(d)(3)(ii))

Example: Voter did not sign absentee oath.

9. **No absentee ballot application.** (MDVOTERS Code: NABA)

Example: Voter did not submit an absentee ballot application.

10. **Not a registered voter.** (MDVOTERS Code: R)

Example: Individual has never been registered to vote.

Note: Do not use this rejection reason if the individual was previously registered to vote and has now been cancelled. If voter's registration was cancelled because he or she died before election, use reason #4; if cancelled because voter has been convicted of a felony, use reason #5; for all other reasons, use reason #3.

11. **Surrendered absentee ballot at polls.** (MDVOTERS Code: S)

Example: Voter went to the polling place, turned in his or her unvoted absentee ballot, and wanted to vote at the polling place. Voter would vote a provisional ballot.

Example: Voter went to the polling place and explained that he or she made a mistake on the absentee ballot. Voter would vote a provisional ballot.

Note: These ballots do not need to be presented for canvassing.

Note: Do not use this rejection reason if the voter dropped off a voted absentee ballot at the polling place and wanted the election judges to return the absentee ballot. This absentee ballot would be rejected under reason #7 – Late for election.