



# OKLAHOMA STATE ELECTION BOARD

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## State Election Board: Oklahoma Financial Institutions to Offer Free Absentee Voting Services

(Oklahoma City) – The Secretary of the **Oklahoma State Election Board** joined representatives of the **Oklahoma Bankers Association**, **Oklahoma Credit Union Association**, and **Community Bankers Association of Oklahoma** today to announce that financial institutions across the state plan to offer free absentee voting services to all Oklahoma voters.

Participating banks and credit unions will offer one or more of the following services to voters:

- Free ID copy (lobby and/or drive-thru)
- Free absentee ballot notarization (lobby and/or drive-thru)

Voters can find a list of participating banks and credit unions at [elections.ok.gov](http://elections.ok.gov). Services and hours may vary by location.

“Banks and credit unions are in almost every community in Oklahoma. They’re our neighbors and community partners and they realize the importance of democracy. That’s why we’re excited to work with these financial institutions to ensure that **every voter**—both customers and non-customers alike—have free and convenient absentee services available to them,” said Paul Zirix, Secretary of the State Election Board.

Craig Buford, President and CEO of the Community Bankers Association agrees.

“The Community Bankers Association of Oklahoma is proud of the hard work and diligence of the Oklahoma Legislature and the Oklahoma Election Board to streamline the absentee ballot process while maintaining its integrity. Community Financial Institutions are not just the backbone of Oklahoma’s economy, but leaders in their communities. This partnership was a natural fit as we all work together to protect one of our most cherished rights, the right to vote.”

“Community banks across Oklahoma are excited for the opportunity to make absentee voting easier for all Oklahomans,” said Adrian Beverage, Chief of Staff and Executive Vice President for Government Relations for the Oklahoma Bankers.

According to Nate Webb, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Credit Union Association, “Voting is one of the greatest privileges we enjoy as Americans. Oklahoma credit unions are pleased to help our fellow Oklahomans participate in the process.”

While participation by banks and credit unions is voluntary, association officers said they have had a positive response of support from financial institutions across the state.

Under Oklahoma law, standard absentee ballot affidavits are verified by a notary public to ensure that the person who signs the affidavit is the same person to whom the absentee ballot was issued. However, during the COVID-19 emergency, instead of notarization, voters have the option of verifying the affidavit by including a copy of their Voter ID card or their valid state, tribal or federal photo ID.

Voters can apply for absentee ballots online using the OK Voter Portal at [elections.ok.gov/OVP.html](https://elections.ok.gov/OVP.html). Applications can also be downloaded from the State Election Board website at [elections.ok.gov](https://elections.ok.gov).

The last day to apply for an absentee ballot is Tuesday (5 p.m.) before Election Day. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.

For more information about absentee voting in Oklahoma, visit our website at [elections.ok.gov](https://elections.ok.gov). Voters with specific questions should contact their [County Election Board](#) or the State Election Board at (405) 521-2391 or [info@elections.ok.gov](mailto:info@elections.ok.gov).