Mail Ballot Drop-Off Checklist, Nov. 3, 2026

Before you leave, at the box, and after

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- [ ] Check your state's row: Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma and West Virginia hand-in ended Nov. 2; Tennessee bars hand delivery — Mon., Nov. 2
- [ ] Note your state's cutoff in your local time — Tue., Nov. 3
- [ ] Look up your official drop box or election office on your state or county election site — Find
- [ ] Sign the return envelope if your state asks (Arizona: a signed ballot) — Sign
- [ ] Photo ID if you hand it in in Texas or South Carolina — Bring
- [ ] Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia: only the voter may hand it in — Check
- [ ] Delaware, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota and Boston: not at a polling place — Check

AT THE DROP BOX OR OFFICE

- [ ] Use an official drop box or election office your state or county lists — Use
- [ ] California and Oregon drop boxes (8 p.m.) and Ohio (7:30 p.m.) take voters in line at the cutoff — In line
- [ ] Vermont and Wisconsin: bring it to your own polling place — Polls
- [ ] If the polling-place tabulator cannot take it, surrender the ballot and vote in person — Michigan
- [ ] Carrying for others? Minnesota allows 3, Nebraska 2, South Carolina 5 besides your own — Others
- [ ] If you mail it instead, ask for a manual postmark at the Postal Service retail counter — Mailing

AFTER YOU DROP IT OFF

- [ ] Look for your state's online ballot tracking tool; federal guidance says many states have one — Track
- [ ] A voter whose ballot never arrived can vote in person — Boston
- [ ] A returned mail ballot means no vote at your polling place — Pennsylvania

My notes

Source: state and county election offices named in the story (Nov. 2, 2026 check); U.S. Postal Service, Oct. 20, 2026 release; Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency election mail guidance. Times are local.