

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §3-3-3

## §3-3-3. Early voting in person.

(a) The voting period for early in-person voting is to be conducted during regular business hours beginning on the 13th day before the election and continuing through the third day before the election. Additionally, early in-person voting is to be available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays during the early voting period.

(b) Any person desiring to vote during the period of early in-person voting shall, upon entering the election room, clearly state his or her name and residence to the official or representative designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting. If that person is found to be duly registered as a voter in the precinct of his or her residence, he or she is required to sign his or her name in the space marked "signature of voter" on the pollbook. If the voter is unable to sign his or her name due to illiteracy or physical disability, the person assisting the voter and witnessing the mark of the voter shall sign his or her name in the space provided. A ballot may not be given to the person until he or she signs his or her name on the pollbook.

(c) When the voter's signature or mark is properly on the pollbook, two qualified representatives of the official designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting shall sign their names in the places indicated on the back of the official ballot.

(d) If the official designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting determines that the voter is not properly registered in the precinct where he or she resides, the clerk or his or her representative shall challenge the voter's absentee ballot as provided in this article: *Provided*, That the clerk or his or her representative may not challenge the voter's absentee ballot if the voter has had an address change within the county, shows proof of new address, and the address change is completed in the state-wide voter registration system by the county clerk prior to canvass.

(e) The official designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting shall provide each person voting an absentee ballot in person the following items to be printed as prescribed by the Secretary of State:

(1) In counties using paper ballots, one of each type of official absentee ballot the voter is eligible to vote, prepared according to law;

(2) In counties using punch card systems, one of each type of official absentee ballot the voter is eligible to vote, prepared according to law, and a gray secrecy envelope;

(3) In counties using optical scan systems, one of each type of official absentee ballot the voter is eligible to vote, prepared according to law, and a secrecy sleeve; or

(4) For direct recording election systems, access to the voting equipment in the voting booth.

(f) The voter shall enter the voting booth alone and there mark the ballot: *Provided*, That the voter may have assistance in voting according to the provisions of section four of this article. After the voter has voted the ballot or ballots, the absentee voter shall: Place the ballot or ballots in the gray secrecy envelope and return the ballot or ballots to the official designated to supervise and conduct the absentee voting: *Provided, however*, That in direct recording election systems, once the voter has cast his or her ballot, the voter shall exit the polling place.

(g) Upon receipt of the voted ballot, representatives of the official designated to supervise and conduct the absentee voting shall:

(1) Remove the ballot stub;

(2) Place punch card ballots and paper ballots into one envelope which shall not have any marks except the precinct number and seal the envelope; and

(3) Place ballots for all voting systems into a ballot box that is secured by two locks with a key to one lock kept by the president of the county commission and a key to the other lock kept by the county clerk