

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 273

By: Boren

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to absentee voting; amending 26 O.S. 2021, Section 14-115.4, which relates to in-person absentee voting; increasing number of days for in-person absentee voting; requiring designation of certain polling places; authorizing certain officers to provide certain election security; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 14-115.4, is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-115.4. A. 1. A registered voter may ~~apply~~ get in line to request an application for an in-person absentee ballot at a location designated by the secretary of the county election board from:

- a. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday immediately preceding any election conducted by a county election board, and
- b. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Saturday of each of the three weeks immediately preceding a General Election,

1 Primary Election, Runoff Primary Election or
2 Presidential Preferential Primary Election as
3 described in Sections 1-101, 1-102, 1-103 and 20-101
4 of this title, ~~and~~

5 ~~c. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately~~
6 ~~preceding a General Election as described in Section~~
7 ~~1-101 of this title.~~

8 2. As part of the application for an in-person absentee ballot
9 such registered voter shall swear or affirm that the voter has not
10 voted a regular mail absentee ballot and that the voter will not
11 vote at the regular polling place in the election for which the in-
12 person absentee ballot is requested.

13 3. The secretary of the county election board in counties with
14 twenty-five thousand (25,000) or more registered voters, or with an
15 area in excess of one thousand five hundred (1,500) square miles,
16 ~~may~~ shall designate ~~more than~~ one location for every fifteen
17 thousand (15,000) registered voters as an in-person absentee polling
18 place for an election, subject to the approval of and pursuant to
19 the procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election
20 Board.

21 B. 1. The voter ~~also~~ shall provide proof of identity as
22 defined in Section 7-114 of this title. If the voter declines to or
23 is unable to produce proof of identity, the voter may sign a
24 statement under oath, in a form approved by the Secretary of the

1 State Election Board, swearing or affirming that the person is the
2 person identified on the precinct registry, and shall be allowed to
3 cast a provisional ballot as provided in Section 7-116.1 of this
4 title.

5 2. False swearing or affirming under oath shall be punishable
6 as a felony as provided in Section 16-103 of this title, and the
7 penalty shall be distinctly set forth on the face of the statement.

8 C. One or more absentee voting boards shall be on duty at the
9 in-person absentee polling place on the days and during the hours
10 set forth in subsection A of this section. If the secretary of a
11 county election board receives an application from a registered
12 voter requesting to vote by in-person absentee ballot, the secretary
13 shall cause to be implemented the following procedures:

14 1. An absentee voting board shall provide to each registered
15 voter who applies for an in-person absentee ballot appropriate
16 ballots and materials as may be necessary to vote;

17 2. The voter must sign an in-person absentee voter record, and
18 the signature of the voter on such record must be certified by both
19 members of the absentee voting board, except that the secretary of
20 the county election board and one other member of the absentee
21 voting board may certify the signature of another member of the
22 absentee voting board;

23 3. The voter must mark the ballots of the voter in the manner
24 provided by law in the presence of the absentee voting board, but in

1 such a manner as to make it impossible for any person other than the
2 voter to ascertain how such ballots are marked. Insofar as is
3 possible, the voting procedure shall be the same as if the voter
4 were casting a vote in person at a precinct;

5 4. The voter shall then deposit the ballot in a voting device
6 designated for in-person absentee voting by the secretary of the
7 county election board;

8 5. When the in-person polling place is closed on each day of
9 in-person absentee voting, the in-person absentee voting board
10 shall, without obtaining a printout of results, remove the
11 electronic results storage media from the voting device and seal
12 ballots counted that day in a transfer case which shall be secured
13 by the sheriff of the county or a law enforcement officer of the
14 municipality where the precinct is located in the same manner as
15 provided in Section 8-110 of this title. The electronic results
16 storage media shall be sealed in a container prescribed by the
17 Secretary of the State Election Board. The sheriff or law
18 enforcement officer shall secure the sealed electronic results
19 storage media container and return it to the in-person absentee
20 voting board no later than 7:45 a.m. on the next day of in-person
21 absentee voting or to the secretary of the county election board at
22 the time of the county election board meeting to count absentee
23 ballots on election day; and
24

1 6. If there is a malfunction in such a way that the electronic
2 results storage media used for in-person absentee voting will not
3 function, the sheriff or law enforcement officer is authorized to
4 return the transfer cases containing in-person absentee ballots to
5 the county election board to be recounted as provided in Section 7-
6 134.1 of this title.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective January 1, 2026.

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