

Yes, Virginia, A Witness Signature is Required!

We've had many questions from citizens voting by mail about the witness signature, and the short answer is yes, a witness signature is required on all absentee ballots.

In 2020, the witness signature was temporarily waived on absentee ballots due to the declared health emergency stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. That declaration has since expired, so we are back to observing the state elections laws that stipulate a witness signature is required.

The Code of Virginia states in 24.2-707:

"After the voter has marked his absentee ballot, he shall (a) enclose the ballot in the envelope provided for that purpose, (b) seal the envelope, (c) fill in and sign the statement printed on the back of the envelope **in the presence of a witness, who shall sign the same envelope**, (d) enclose the ballot envelope and any required assistance form within the envelope directed to the general registrar, and (e) seal that envelope."

You can read the full law here: [§ 24.2-707. How ballots marked and returned \(virginia.gov\)](#).

If you do not get a witness signature, we cannot count your ballot. If we receive your ballot on or before the Friday before the election and it is missing a witness signature (or has other missing or erroneous info), we will attempt to reach you to "cure" your ballot so that it will be counted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office. We're open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm, 703-792-6470 or pwcvote@pwcgov.org.