

Global postal voting

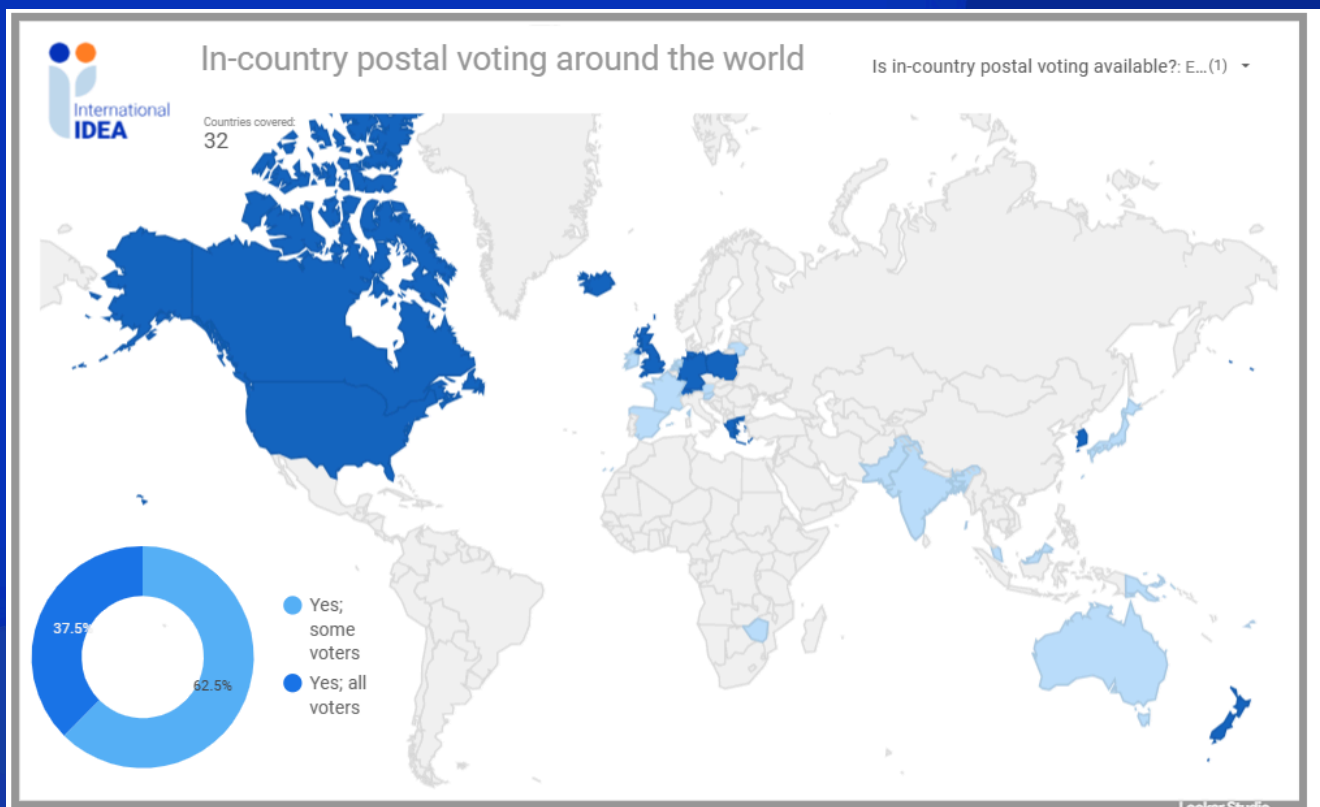
Special Voting Arrangements data

As of 2025, 32 countries offer mail-in (postal) voting in different shapes and forms. Countries that offer postal voting commonly do this as an alternative to, not as a replacement of, voting in polling stations for national elections.

Yet how countries implement or regulate postal voting varies greatly. These variations include deadlines, eligibility (who, under what conditions), formats (type of envelope), tracking systems (if any), security features (such as witness requirements), collection points, counting processes (at polling stations, dedicated regional/ national counting centers), deadlines, mail-out 'direction' (is the postal ballot mailed out or picked up; is it mailed back or can it be submitted in person).

Learn more about in-country posting on International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's (International IDEA) Special Voting Arrangements data, available on the [global in-country postal voting data](#) page.

Countries that allow global in-country postal voting data



Countries that allow in-country postal voting for all voters

Canada
Germany
Iceland
Korea, Republic of
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg

New Zealand
Poland
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

Countries that allow in-country postal voting for some voters (based on country-specific criteria)

Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Fiji
France
Greece
India
Ireland
Japan
Lithuania

Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Micronesia, Federated States of
Netherlands
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Slovenia
Spain
Zimbabwe

The data presented is from International IDEA's [Special Voting Arrangements Tool](#), which was compiled in the context of research done for the publication [Special Voting Arrangements: The International IDEA Handbook](#) in November 2023.

Postal data last updated as of 20 August 2025.

Postal voting and the United States

Special Voting Arrangements data

Just as there is no uniform postal voting system across countries, there is no uniform postal voting system across the states of the United States. Features of in-country postal voting where the United States differs from other countries include:

- Ballot tracking from voter to counting center, as practised in parts of the United States, is a transparency feature not yet available in most other countries.
- Decentralised election administration. Most countries have the same postal voting systems and regulations for the entire nation, while in the United States, the system differs from state to state, or even county to county.
- The option to correct an invalidly submitted ballot ('curing the ballot') is uncommon globally.

Learn more about in-country posting with International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's (International IDEA) **Special Voting Arrangements** Tool, available on the [global in-country postal voting data](#) page.

Contact us

If you have any questions regarding the data produced in the Special Voting Arrangements Tool or would like to report inaccurate country data, please contact elections@idea.int.



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