

Comparing State Regulations

Using 50 State Regulatory Surveys on Westlaw

You will find it easy to compare regulations of one state with those of another by using the surveys in the 50 State Regulatory Surveys database (REG-SURVEYS) on Westlaw. Each survey, created by West attorney-editors, includes a summary of a selected legal topic and applicable state regulations, including links to the regulations' full text. In addition, many surveys include an easy-to-read PDF that provides state-by-state comparisons of the key legal issues in the survey.

Retrieving a Survey

Surveys can be retrieved in several ways.

- Access the REG-SURVEYS database. At the Search page, do one of the following:
 - Click **Table of Contents** at the top of the page. The Table of Contents for the database is displayed (Figure 1). Browse the available topics by clicking the plus (+) and minus (-) symbols. Click a link to display a survey.

Type a Terms and Connectors query or Natural Language description for your issue in the *Search* text box and click **Search Westlaw**. For example, type a Natural Language description such as **licensing of physical therapists**.

- While viewing a state regulation, click **50 State Surveys** on the Links tab, if available, to display surveys citing the regulation. To display a survey, click its number.
- While viewing a survey, click **Table of Contents** in the left frame.
- While viewing the tabbed 50 State Surveys page, click a topic in the right frame. For example, click **Family Medical Leave** under *Regulations: Employment*.

For assistance using Westlaw, call **1-800-WESTLAW** (1-800-937-8529).

For free reference materials, visit west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides.

The screenshot displays the Westlaw interface for the '50 State Surveys' database. At the top, there are navigation links: FIND&PRINT, KEYCITE, DIRECTORY, KEY NUMBERS, COURT DOCS, FORMFINDER, SITE MAP, and HELP. Below this, the current database is identified as 'Ohio Westlaw 50 State Surveys'. The main heading is 'Table of Contents'. Underneath, it says 'Selected Databases' and '50 State Regulatory Surveys (REG-SURVEYS)'. There are links for 'Change Database(s)' and 'Notices'. A link for 'All TOCs' is also present. The main content is a tree view of topics:

- REGSURVEYS
 - BLUE SKY LAWS
 - BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS
 - CRIMINAL LAWS
 - EDUCATION
 - ELECTION LAW
 - VOTING
 - Ballot Format Requirements
 - Certification of Results - Primary Elections
 - Certification of Results - General Elections
 - Marking and Counting of Ballots
 - Voter Registration
 - Voting Machines
 - EMPLOYMENT

 At the bottom, there are controls: 'Selection(s): Retrieve & Print | Search | Expand Selection(s) | Collapse All | Clear'.

Figure 1. REG-SURVEYS table of contents

Comparing State Regulations

Each survey contains a summary of the legal topic (Figure 2), followed by a list of each state's relevant regulations. Click the PDF icon, if available, to view a table listing key regulatory provisions for each state with citations to the appropriate regulations (Figure 3).

The screenshot shows a legal research interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with navigation options: 'Result List 1 Doc', 'Full Screen List', 'Locate in Result', 'Find citation:', 'Full-Text Document', and 'Table of Contents'. The main content area displays the title 'Ballot Format Requirements' with 'Approx. 13 pages'. Below the title, it says '0050 REGSURVEYS 1' and '50 STATE REGULATORY SURVEYS ELECTION LAW VOTING Thomson Reuters/West January 2009'. A 'Ballot Format Requirements' section is highlighted with a red box, containing a 'PDF' icon and the text 'State by State Analysis'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'State regulations establish ballot form and content often in great detail in order to ensure the ease of use by the voter and to ensure uniform readability by electronic, marksense, and punchcard vote tabulators. These details include the size, color, and shape of a ballot, the order and placement of offices and candidates' names, and the language, type'.

Figure 2. Ballot Format Requirements survey

The screenshot shows a PDF table titled 'Ballot Format Requirements (REGULATIONS)'. The table is titled 'Table 1: Ballot Format Requirements' and contains the following data:

State	Form	Candidates' Names	Absentee Ballots	Other Content
Alabama	Marksense ballots: Shall be in the same order of arrangement as provided by statute for paper ballots, except that they shall be of the size and design required by the	None	Each ballot shall have a pre-printed serial number. Ballot serial numbers shall correspond to the number of ballots printed in a particular ballot style. While serial numbers may	In primary elections, constitutional amendments may be printed on party ballots, provided that sufficient ballots containing only the constitutional amendments are available.

Figure 3. PDF table

Adding the Tabbed 50 State Surveys Page

To view or add the 50 State Surveys page, click **Add a Tab** at the top of any page. At the next page, click **Add Westlaw Tabs** to display a list of available tabbed pages. Click **50 State Surveys** under *General* to display the page for your current Westlaw session, or select the check box next to **50 State Surveys** and click **Add to My Tab Set** to add the page to your tabbed pages. To display the page, click its tab.

