

Lifecycle of your ballot



1 We send your ballot

Your ballot is mailed about three weeks prior to Election Day, earlier if you are an overseas or service voter.



2 Vote and return your ballot

You can return your ballot without a stamp to a drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

You can also return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by Election Day.



3 We get your ballot

Once we receive your ballot, the signature on your return envelope is scanned by our mail sorting machine, which can sort up to 40,000 ballot envelopes per hour!

After sorting, the machine sends the scanned image of your signature to our signature verification team.



4 We verify your signature

The signature on your return envelope is then compared to your signature on file. If your signatures match, the ballot is approved and moves on to opening. If the signatures don't match, we will "challenge" the ballot and contact you by mail, phone and/or email to resolve the issue so we can count your ballot. About 1-2% of ballots returned each election are challenged.



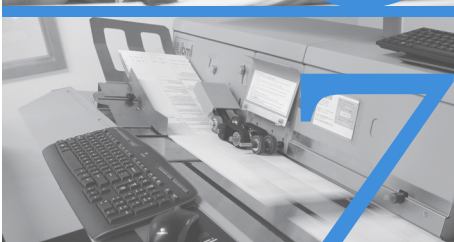
5 We open your ballot

Once your signature is verified, the security envelope with your ballot is removed from the return envelope. Next, the ballot is removed from the security envelope. Finally, we visually inspect the ballot to determine if the votes marked can be read by the scanning equipment.



6 We check your ballot for damage

If there is damage, stray marks, corrections, or if the wrong type of pen was used, the scanners will not be able to read the ballot. In these cases, teams of two use the Voter Intent Manual produced by the Office of the Secretary of State to duplicate the ballot so it can be read by the scanning equipment.



7 We count your ballot

Once your ballot is ready to be counted, a machine will scan the ballot and store the image on a secure and closed system.

Results are produced and made public after 8 p.m. on Election Day. No results are known prior to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

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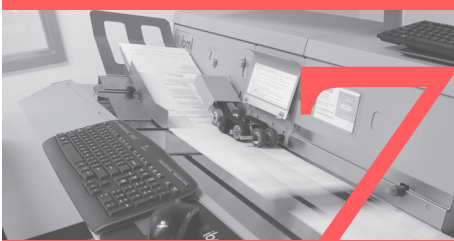
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