

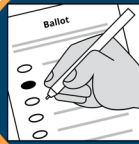
LIFE CYCLE OF A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT



Vote-by-mail ballots are mailed to all registered voters in SLO County by 29 days before an election.



Election mail is not forwardable. Undeliverable ballots will be returned to the SLO Elections Office. Voters that do not receive their ballot may request a replacement.



Voters vote their ballot, place it in their return envelope, and sign the envelope.



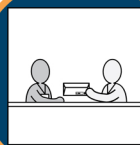
Ballots are returned by mail, to an official drop box, to the SLO County Elections Office, or to any voting location in California.



Ballots are collected by two-person teams, using strict tracking and chain of custody procedures.



Once the signature is verified, the envelope is opened and the ballot is removed.



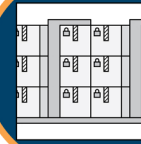
If the signature does not match, the voter is notified and may resolve the discrepancy by returning a signature verification statement.



Signature comparison is conducted for every returned ballot, and election participation is recorded.



Returned ballot envelopes are scanned into batches for signature verification.



Ballots are stored in a secure location when returned to the SLO Elections Office.



Ballots are unfolded and inspected for damage or anything that would hinder scanning—as well as any identifying information like initials or a signature.



Ballots that are damaged or marked improperly and unable to go through the scanning process will be duplicated.



Ballots are scanned in batches of 200, utilizing certified vote tabulation scanners. The batches are then logged and boxed for storage with tamper-proof seals.



In a secure room with limited physical access, votes are tallied on an "air-gapped" system that is incapable of connecting to the Internet, county network, or other computers.



Audits and tests, including hand counts of randomly selected ballots, are performed before certifying the election to confirm the accuracy of the voting system results.



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