

# WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG TO COUNT THE VOTES?



Counting votes involves more than just scanning ballots and tallying results. Beginning no later than 29 days **before** the election — when ballots are mailed to all registered voters — work is in high gear. The roadmap below shows what happens from the time polls close until the election is certified in SLO County.

## Election Day

1

Unofficial Election Night Results contain:

- VBM ballots received prior to Election Night
- Ballots cast at the polls

2

Canvass begins to ensure every valid vote is counted. In California, we have 30 days to complete the canvass and certify the election. The first step is to scan all of the signatures from Election Day poll rosters.

3

Vote-by-mail ballots properly postmarked by 8pm on Election Day are accepted for 7 calendar days.

6

Provisional ballots and same-day registrations are researched and verified.

5

Cure letters are sent to give voters the chance to rectify discrepancies between VBM or roster signatures and voter records.

4

VBM ballot processing involves:

- Envelope scanning
- Signature checks
- Duplication of damaged ballots
- Ballot scanning

7

Ballots sent from other counties are accepted up to 8 days after Election Day.

8

Roster reconciliation ensures voters only voted once.

9

1% manual tally verifies that the ballot count is accurate.

## Did you know?

All processes are open to the public for observation.



## Certification of Election