



Grand County

Colorado

HOW BALLOTS ARE PROCESSED & COUNTED IN COLORADO

In 2013, Colorado became an all mail ballot state after the passage of HB1303. Since then, ALL active registered voters receive a ballot in the mail to the mailing address on record in the state voter registration system.

When you receive your ballot:

- **Fill in the circle beside your chosen candidate.** Do NOT make marks, squiggles, drawings or comments on the ballot.
- **Sign the affidavit on the ballot envelope.** This is a VERY important step, as ALL signatures are verified as part of the counting process.
- Submit your ballot to the Clerk & Recorder:
 - **Place your ballot in the mail.** Make sure to affix a stamp, and allow up to 12 days to ensure it's received.
 - **Drop it in a 24-hour ballot box.** Boxes are under 24-hour video surveillance, and ballots are collected by bi-partisan teams every day. They are transported in a secured container with a tamper-evident, numbered seal.
 - **Deliver it to the Voter Service and Polling Center in Hot Sulphur Springs.**
- Track your ballot at **Grand.BallotTrax.net**. To update your voting record, visit **www.GoVoteColorado.com**.

If you do not receive a ballot in the mail, or your ballot is damaged, you can obtain a replacement from the Clerk & Recorder's office. (You may receive up to three ballots - **only ONE will be counted**, even if you return all three.)

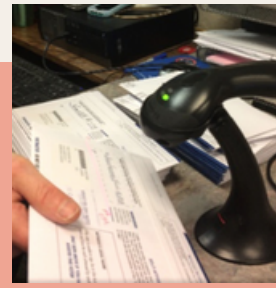
Once ballots are received, this is what happens:

STEP 1. BALLOTS ARE TIME STAMPED AND CHECKED FOR SIGNATURES.



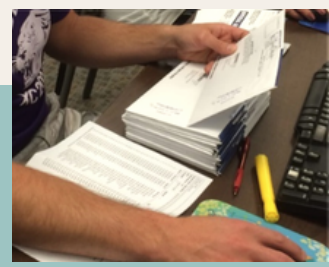
Unsigned envelopes are placed into a different batch so voters can be notified, and a log is kept of all unsigned ballots. Voters who receive a **Missing Signature Affidavit Form** must return the form along with an approved form of ID. The cure period for unsigned envelopes and signature discrepancies is **8 days after** the election.

STEP 2. BALLOTS ARE "BING'D."



The barcode on your ballot's envelope is scanned into Colorado's state voter registration system, known as "SCORE." (This is how you can track your ballot through the counting process at Grand.BallotTrax.net.) A ballot processing log sheet is created for each batch of ballots. Batches are kept in locked, sealed storage containers in a locked room that is under 24-hour surveillance.

STEP 3. SIGNATURE VERIFICATION.



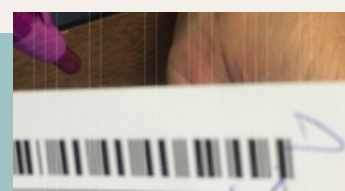
Trained, bipartisan Signature Verification Judges compare EVERY signature on ballot return envelopes with the voter's most recent signature in the state voter registration system database. Any signatures that are deemed discrepant are logged, and a bipartisan team then reviews those particular signatures. If judges determine signatures do not match, the ballot is rejected and a letter is mailed to the voter. The ballot is removed from the batch and is not counted, unless the voter returns the Signature Affidavit Form and an approved ID by the election deadline.

STEP 4. BALLOTS ARE OPENED AND COUNTED.



One of the most intensive, surveilled and overseen aspects of the process, ballot envelopes are opened and the contents separated from the envelope. Empty ballot envelopes are counted, logged, packaged together and removed from the area. Ballots are then rotated to another judge who separates them from the privacy sleeve and removes the stub - which are also counted and logged. Ballots are now anonymous, and are rotated to yet another judge who did not participate in opening envelopes or separating contents.

STEP 5. BALLOT REVIEW.



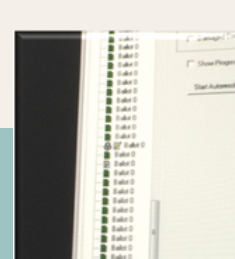
Ballots are examined by a bipartisan team of judges for any kind of damage or irregularity: food and dirt stains, White Out, ballots marked with colors other than blue or black, or that include extraneous marks that would prohibit the scanner from being able to read the ballot. The bar code on the ballot does NOT identify the voter - only the election, ballot style and ballot page number so that the ballot is correctly processed.

STEP 6. DAMAGED BALLOTS ARE REPLICATED.



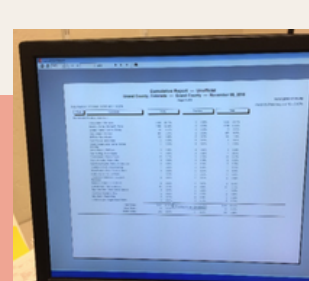
Ballots that were removed during the review process are replicated by a bipartisan team of at least four judges. Working on one ballot at a time, one judge reads aloud from the damaged ballot, while a second judge from the opposite party observes to ensure it's read correctly. A third judge marks a blank ballot with the results while a fourth judge from the opposite party observes the mark. Original ballots are logged, sealed and kept in a vault for 25 months before being destroyed. Replicated ballots are placed in a box for scanning and counting.

STEP 7. BALLOT BATCHES SCANNED.



Ballots are scanned in batches of about 100. The scanner indicates whether a ballot was tabulated, or must be manually resolved. Resolution happens when a voter chooses not to vote for any candidate, selects more candidates than allowed, or submits a write-in candidate. Successfully scanned ballots are placed in sealed boxes and stored for 25 months before being destroyed.

STEP 8. BALLOT TABULATION.



While ballots can be scanned ahead of polls closing, cast votes cannot be tabulated until after the polls close at 7 p.m. on Election Day. Like 61 other Colorado counties, Grand County uses Dominion Voting Systems to tally votes. Once all results are tallied, they are released as Unofficial Results. Official results are not available until at least eight days following an election. Voters have those eight days to "cure" their ballot and have it counted.

Election Security

While Dominion Voting Systems are widely used throughout Colorado the country, **NONE** of the machines are connected to the internet - meaning **they cannot download or upload data**. They function independently, and Grand County has several layers of security protocols in place surrounding access to ballots. If you have questions about election security, please contact Grand County Clerk & Recorder Sara Rosene: SRosene@co.grand.co.us.