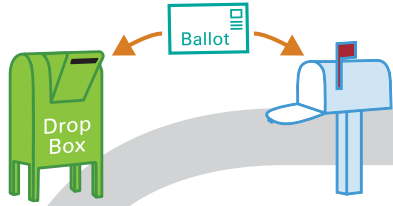
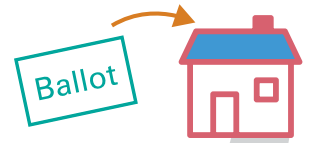


Vote By Mail in Washington state

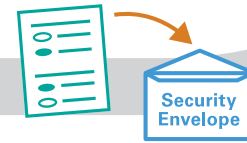
All eligible voters are sent a ballot at least 18 days before election.



Ballot has pre-paid postage and can be returned by U.S. mail or placed in an official ballot drop box. If mailed, must be postmarked by election day. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on election day.



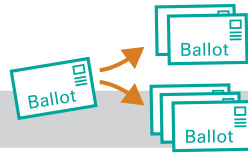
The security envelope or sleeve is put in a return envelope and signed. Voter may add email or phone number in case county needs to contact them.



Voter places marked ballot into a security envelope or sleeve.



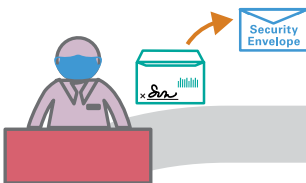
Drop boxes are regularly emptied by teams of trained election staff. Ballots are tracked from collection through processing.



At processing facility ballots are sorted into batches. An image of the voter's signature is captured for verification.



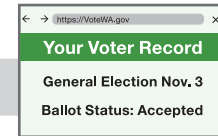
Signature is checked against voter registration record. Voter is contacted by available means before processing to "cure" signature if it is missing or doesn't match the voter registration record.



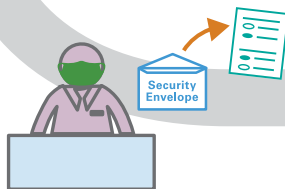
Return envelope is opened and security envelope or sleeve is removed.



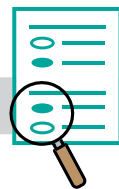
Voters can check their ballot status online. Allow 3-4 days for the system to post status updates.



When signature is verified, ballot is marked as "Accepted" in the VoteWA system and the voter is credited for participating, ensuring that if more than one ballot is returned, only one is counted.



Security envelope or sleeve is opened and ballot is removed for processing, resulting in secrecy of the vote.

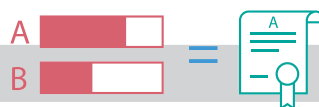


Ballot is reviewed for potential scanning issues like torn corners, then scanned and securely stored.

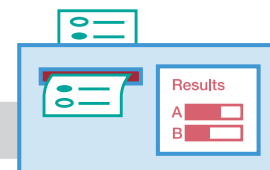


Scanners are not connected to any form of network or internet.

The election is complete, and preparations for the next election cycle begin.



Ballots continue to be processed, cured, and tabulated until certification.



At 8 p.m. on election night, ballots that have already been scanned are tabulated and results reported.