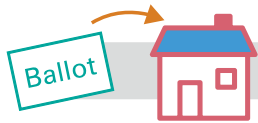
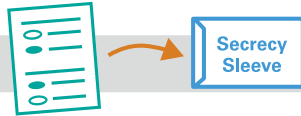


Path of the Ballot in Washington State



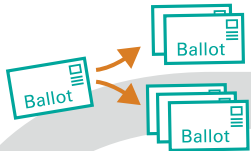
All eligible voters are sent a ballot at least 18 days before election.



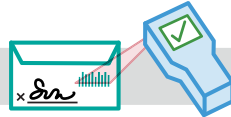
Voter places marked ballot into a security sleeve or envelope.



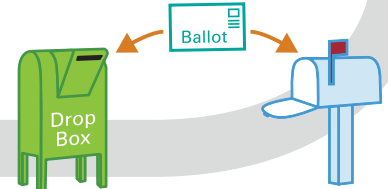
The security sleeve or envelope is put in a return envelope and signed. Voter may add email or phone number in case county needs to contact them.



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



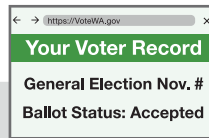
Drop boxes are regularly emptied by teams of trained election staff. Ballots are tracked from collection through processing.



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.



Each signature is checked by trained election staff. Voter is contacted if the signature is missing or doesn't match the voter registration record.



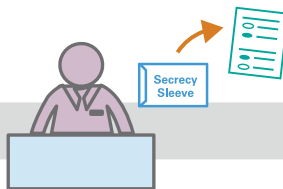
When signature is verified, ballot is marked as "Accepted" in the VoteWA system. The voter is credited for participating, ensuring that if more than one ballot is returned, only one is counted.



Voters can check their ballot status online or sign up for text notifications. Allow 3-4 days for the system to post status updates.



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



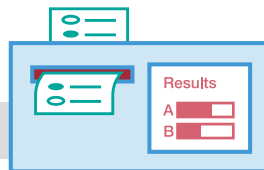
Security sleeve or envelope is opened and ballot is removed for processing.



Return envelope is opened and security sleeve or envelope is removed, and the two are separated. At this point, the ballot cannot be traced back to the voter.



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



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



Ballots continue to be processed, signatures verified, and votes tabulated until the election results are officially certified.

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