

LIFE OF A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT



Vote-by-Mail ballots are mailed to registered voters in Orange County 29 days before an election.



Undeliverable ballots will be returned to the ROV. Voters that do not receive their ballot may request a replacement at ocvote.gov/replacement.



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



Ballots are returned by mail, to an official ballot drop box, or to a Vote Center located throughout Orange County.



Ballots returned at ballot drop boxes, Vote Centers, and by mail are collected by two-person teams, using strict tracking and chain of custody procedures.



Once verified, the ballot is separated from its envelope and sorted.



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



Signature comparison is conducted for every returned ballot.



Returned ballot envelopes are scanned for signature verification and election participation history is recorded.



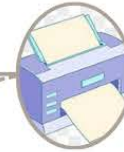
Ballots are stored in a secure location when returned to the Registrar of Voters' office.



Ballots are unfolded, flattened, and prepared for counting.



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



Ballots are scanned and reviewed for accuracy before being counted.



In a secure room with limited physical access, votes are tallied on an "air-gapped" system.



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.



ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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