



Will my Vote-by-Mail (Absentee) Ballot be Counted?

Yes, according to the law, all ballots of all types must be counted

before an election can be officially closely or certified. This includes ballots coming from overseas, from dropboxes, polling places, etc.

Winners can be announced before counting is complete:

It is mathematically possible to “call” an election and announce a winner before the ballot counting is complete - (but that does not mean the counting stops!) The calculation is made based on the ballots already counted to that minute and remaining outstanding ballots to count.

When the polls have closed and ballot counting reaches a point where one candidate has more votes than the remaining ballots left to count, then the election is called and a winner announced. The remaining ballots must still be counted and included in the tally. All votes cast on time must be included in the official certified ballot count. Sometimes an election is not certified until two weeks after an election.

Helpful Insights to the OVERSEAS absentee ballot casting and counting process:

1. Election officials start to send overseas absentee ballots to voters as of 45 days before the election. Apply early and you get your ballots early too!
2. Upon receipt - examine your ballot and the instructions carefully.
3. Research the issues and candidates.
4. Mark your ballot and take time to check it.
5. Remember! Sign and date the back of the envelope. Note that you may also need to write in your US voting address.
6. Check the mailing instructions. Take your ballot to the post office to weigh it and apply the correct postage. Make sure it gets postmarked. The postmark ensures that if your ballot arrives after Election Day, it's still eligible to be counted because it was mailed in time.
7. Track your ballot: many states have bar codes on their ballots so you can track your ballot status via postal delivery services, all the way through your ballot arriving at the election office!



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GOOD TO KNOW

Ballot envelopes are checked to make sure the signature matches the one the election office has on file. If it's a match, your ballot envelope goes into a lockbox with the other absentee ballots until Election Day when ballot counting begins.

Absentee votes aren't usually allowed to be scanned or counted until Election Day. On Election Day, the Absentee Voting team removes ballots from envelopes, and counts the actual votes on the ballots, either by scanner or by hand.

Results of any election cannot be announced until after the polls close on Election Day. If your state sends all ballots by mail, your absentee vote probably was counted on Election Day. However, absentee ballot counting can take as long as 10 days to complete, in order to be fair to overseas voters who can't control how long the mail takes to arrive.

In close elections, the deciding votes are almost always the absentee ballots. (See, we told you your ballot counted!)

If someone tells you your ballot doesn't count - you know now - they are wrong. All ballots that are completed and sent in according to the instructions must, by law, be counted.

Thanks for letting us accompany you to cast your absentee ballot! It's our honor to provide you with the tools you need to vote. And remember **#EveryCitizenIsAVoter!**