WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER ELECTION DAY

In Colorado, there are several post-Election Day processes to complete including final correspondence to voters, processing and tabulation of post-election ballots, and preparation of elections records for post-election audit and public Canvass Board certification. We will update this FAQ for important information as the finalization of the election proceeds.

Updated Chart of Outstanding Ballots Pending

Ballot Type	Estimated # of Ballots to be Processed
Resolution Board Ballots	**COMPLETED**
Military, Overseas, Cure Ballots	3,200-3,700
Provisional	7,300-7,600

****Unofficial Results** will be updated at www.votejeffco.com on Thursday, November 15th and **Final Results** will be posted once the election is certified, no later than Friday, November 23rd. We will announce if the final results are tabulated and released prior to the final certification deadline.

The following is a timeline of post-election activities and frequently asked questions regarding those activities:

ELECTION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH (2 days after Election Day)

Last Cure letters to voters who submitted their mail ballot are mailed.

Describe the signature "cure" process for mail-in ballots that have been rejected for a missing signature or a signature that does not match the one on file.

Every mail-in ballot received is first verified for eligibility by our mail ballot judges. The voter's signature on the back of the return envelope is compared with the voter's signature(s) in the voter registration database. If the signature is missing from the envelope, or does not appear to match the one on file, the ballot is rejected and set aside. Within two days of receipt of the ballot up until two days after Election Day, voters whose ballots have been rejected will be sent a letter from the Clerk and Recorder's Office informing them of the status of their ballot and encouraging them to either provide a signature or affirm that the signature on the envelope belongs to them. If the voter takes this action, essentially "curing" their ballot, within eight days after the election, the envelope is then opened and the ballot is removed and counted. "Cured" ballots are included in the final official results of the election.

How and when can a political party, candidate committee or issue committees obtain a list of voters whose ballots are eligible to be "Cured"?

These lists can be obtained from the Office of the Secretary of State two days after Election Day.

DEADLINE FOR VOTERS: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH (8 days after Election Day)

Last day to accept voter cure letters, affidavits and copies of ID.
Last day to accept Military and Overseas ballots.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH Unofficial Results Updated

Remaining eligible ballots, including remaining resolved election day ballots, ballots accepted from Overseas and Military voters and voters that cured their mail ballot prior to the November 14th deadline will be scanned and tabulated and the UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS will be updated on the website at www.votejeffco.com

ELECTION DEADLINE:TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH (Within 14 days after Election Day)

Last day to complete verification and tabulation of provisional ballots.

What is a provisional ballot and why are they necessary?

A provisional ballot is a ballot provided to a voter whose eligibility to vote cannot be immediately established on Election Day. Provisional voting ensures that every qualified and registered voter has the opportunity to vote a ballot on Election Day and that no one is turned away from the polls. After Election Day, provisional ballots are verified by the Clerk and Recorder's Office to determine if the voter casting the ballot was eligible to do so. If the voter was eligible, the ballot will be counted. Historically, Jefferson County has verified 90% or more provisional ballot voters as an eligible voter.

Why would a voter be asked to vote a provisional ballot?

There are several reasons why a voter would be offered a provisional ballot. The most common reasons are:

- The voter is not in their home precinct
- The voter's name is not in the poll book
- Our records show that the voter voted by mail or in early voting
- The voter did not show the required identification

A voter must be offered the choice of a provisional ballot if their eligibility cannot be immediately determined by the election judges.

Does a voter have to fill out an application to receive a provisional ballot?

Yes. To be issued a provisional ballot, a voter will be required to fill out a provisional ballot affidavit form. This form allows the County Clerk's office to research the information provided in order to determine the eligibility of the voter and it also acts as a voter registration form for future elections.

Will a voter be registered to vote if they fill out a provisional ballot affidavit form?

Yes. A provisional ballot affidavit is treated as a registration application for the next election, regardless of whether the provisional ballot is counted, as long as the affidavit contains all the required information and the voter is eligible to register.

Is it correct that all validated provisional ballots are counted eventually?

Yes. All provisional ballots cast by eligible voters whose eligibility has been verified by the Elections Division will be counted and the results of those votes will be included in the final certification of results for this election. The deadline for completing the provisional ballot verification is November 20, 2012.

Is it correct that only federal and statewide races will be counted on validated provisional ballots cast because a voter voted at the wrong precinct?

For more information regarding provisional ballots, please refer to Article 8.5 of Title 1, C.R.S. and SOS Election Rule 26.

If a voter votes a provisional ballot at a polling place in a precinct other than the precinct in which they are registered, only their votes for federal and statewide races will be counted, EXCEPT that, if a voter moves from one address within Colorado to another address within Colorado no less than 30 days before the election and failed to register in their new precinct before election day and their eligibility can be verified, their entire ballot will be counted. Provisional ballots cast by voters who have moved from another state to Colorado and failed to register to vote prior to the deadline will not be counted.

For validated provisional ballots cast for other reasons, will all races be counted?

Information regarding the specific regulations for acceptance and rejection of provisional ballots can be found in Article 8.5 of Title 1, C.R.S. and SOS Election Rule 26.

What is the process for the verification of provisional ballots?

Provisional ballots must be verified and counted within 14 days of Election Day. The Elections Division will verify the eligibility of each provisional ballot using the information on the provisional ballot envelope filled in by both the voter and the polling place election judges to determine eligibility according to statutory requirements and SOS Election Rules. Verification will include research conducted using the SCORE statewide voter registration database, the Colorado Department of Corrections Felon database and the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles database. Once verification is complete on all provisional ballots, those that are eligible to be counted will be removed from their envelopes and sent to the tabulation room along with any outstanding validated mail-in ballot “cures”. All verified ballots will be counted and included as part of the final certified results of the election.

While this process is open to watchers, no identifying information or names of individual provisional ballot voters, nor the disposition of their ballots, will be released. Voters who cast a provisional ballot can independently verify whether or not their provisional ballot was counted, (and if not, the reason for rejection), by calling a toll-free hotline established by the Elections Division upon the conclusion of canvass. Instructions for this process will be provided to only the voter upon casting a provisional ballot.

How does a voter know if their provisional ballot has been counted?

Voters casting a provisional ballot will be given a receipt with instructions as to how to verify that their provisional ballot has been counted. Upon the canvass of the election, the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder will provide a toll-free phone number for provisional voters to call. This number will be printed on the receipt provided. They will be prompted to use the PIN number provided on the receipt to access their record, which will identify whether the ballot was counted, and if not, the reason for rejection.

The public Canvass Board will be convening and certifying the election prior to the **November 23** deadline and final official results will be posted once the election is certified.

ELECTIONS DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd (No later than 17 days after Election Day)

Deadline for the public Canvass Board to complete the certification of the election.

What is the function and role of the Canvass Board?

Information regarding the Canvass Board law and Rules can be found in Article 10 of Title 1, C.R.S. and Secretary of State Election Rule 41.

The Canvass Board is a public board made up of the Clerk and Recorder and appointed members by the two major parties. (C.R.S. 1-10-101) Their duties include reconciliation of the number ballots counted in the election does not exceed the number of ballots cast by voters. (C.R.S. 1-10-101.5) This reconciliation is done through the detailed ballot logs, forms and poll book records produced throughout the election. The Canvass Board observes the post-election audit.
The Canvass Board also serves as the Recount Board in the event of a recount.

ELECTION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6th (30 days after Election Day) RECOUNT

Last day the Secretary of State to order an automatic mandatory recount for state races. Local races are ordered by the Designated Election Official for the local district.

Note: A recount may also be requested by an interested party at their own expense by December 7th. For information on recounts please refer to Article 10.5 of Title 1, C.R.S and Secretary of State Election Rule 14.

What is the threshold for a mandatory recount?

If the difference between the candidate receiving the highest number of votes and the candidate receiving the second-highest number of votes is less than ½ of 1% of the total votes cast for the candidate with the highest number of votes, there is a mandatory recount.

<u>Example 1:</u>

Candidate A receives 12,738 votes		
Candidate B receives 12,541 votes	=	Difference of 197 Votes
½ of 1% of Candidate A's total = 12,738 x 0.005	=	Difference of 63 Votes

Result: NO Mandatory Recount

<u>Example 2:</u>

Candidate A receives 200 votes		
Candidate B receives 199 votes	=	Difference of 1 Vote
½ of 1% of Candidate A's total = 200 x 0.005	=	Difference of 1 Vote

Result: Mandatory Recount

How can an interested party request a recount?

Within 31 days of the General Election (no later than December 7, 2012), an interested party may submit a notarized request for a recount at the expense of the requesting party. The designated election official receiving the recount request will respond to the requesting party with the estimated cost of the recount within one day. The requesting party then has one day to pay for the estimated cost of the recount. The payment will be placed in escrow until the conclusion of the recount. The recount must be completed within 37 days after the election (no later than December 13, 2012). If the result of the election is reversed in favor of the requesting party as a result of the recount, or if the margin of victory after the recount falls within the mandatory recount threshold, the requesting party will be reimbursed the funds paid for the estimated cost of the recount.

Who is an "Interested Party" capable of requesting a recount?
An "interested party" is defined in statute as a candidate who lost the election, the political party of a losing candidate, and issue committee that supported or opposed an issue or question on the ballot, or the governing body that certified a question or issue to the ballot.

How long will a recount take?
A mandatory recount must be completed no later than the thirtieth day after the election (by December 6, 2012). A requested recount must be completed no later than the thirty-seventh day after the election (by December 13, 2012).

If there is a recount where will it physically take place?

Any recounts in Jefferson County will be conducted in the ballot tabulation room of our Elections Division facility. 3500 Illinois Street, Golden, CO 80401.

How many people can watch the recount at a given time?

Each political party, issue committee and unaffiliated or write-in candidate may appoint one watcher to be present during the recount. Appointed watchers must be verified by the office of the Clerk and Recorder and present a Certificate of Appointment and Oath of Watcher form upon arrival. Space is limited, however, and if it is deemed necessary by election officials, watchers may be asked to designate pool watchers to represent others who cannot be in the room, or rotate so that all duly appointed watchers have equal time observing the recount.