

## **Mail Ballot Elections FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

▪ **What are mail ballot elections?**

Mail elections are an alternative to polling place voting. Prior to each election, a ballot is automatically mailed to every eligible “active” registered voter to the address on record. The ballot is then returned to the county Elections Office.

▪ **What is an “active” registered voter?**

An “active” registered voter is someone who voted in the 2006 General Election, or someone who has registered or changed his/her registration since the 2006 General Election. If you are unsure of the status of your voter record, you can call the Elections Office at 303-271-8111 or you can go to the [votejeffco.com](http://votejeffco.com) website.

▪ **Why are elections conducted by mail?**

Many voters enjoy the extra time to review the ballot before casting a vote. Mail ballots give voters the opportunity to review the candidates and issues on the ballot in the comfort of their own home and make informed choices.

In addition, mail ballot elections have shown to be more cost effective than polling place elections, and in some cases, have also shown to increase overall voter turnout in odd-year elections.

▪ **What do I have to do to vote by mail?**

You must be registered to vote to receive a ballot and your voter record must be “active” for the ballot to be mailed to you. A ballot will be mailed to all active registered voters approximately 15-25 days before the election. Once you vote your ballot, just place it in the secrecy sleeve and place it in the return envelope. Make sure to sign & date the affidavit on the back side of the return envelope. Place the correct postage on the return envelope and mail it back. You can also drop-off your ballots at designated drop-off locations. The drop-off site information will be listed on the secrecy sleeve in your ballot packet and on our [votejeffco.com](http://votejeffco.com) website.

▪ **What if I have moved and have not updated my registration?**

Mail-ballots cannot be forwarded to your new address. You will need to appear in person at the Elections Office in order to update your address.

▪ **I will be out of town when ballots are mailed. How do I make sure I get a ballot?**

If you return prior to Election Day, you may have time to vote and return your ballot when you get back. If you will not return prior to Election Day, you will need to apply for a mail-in (absentee) ballot with the county clerk’s office. Your ballot will be mailed to the temporary address you indicate on the form.

▪ **What if I make a mistake while voting my ballot?**

If you make a mistake on your ballot, contact us for instructions on how to obtain a replacement ballot.

▪ **Will my vote still count if I forget to put my ballot into the secrecy sleeve?**

Yes, all eligible ballots will be counted regardless of whether they are sent back in a secrecy sleeve.

▪ **I’ve heard that mail ballots are only counted if there are close races. Is this true?**

No, every eligible ballot received prior to 7 p.m. on Election Day is counted, regardless of whether the ballot is received at a drop off location or by mail.

- **What if I forget to sign my return envelope and I have already mailed it?**

If you return your mail ballot without signing the affidavit on the envelope, we will contact you by mail after the election. You will have up to 8 days after the election to come into our office to sign the affidavit.

- **Why do I have to sign the back of the ballot envelope?**

Your signature on the back of the ballot envelope will be compared to your signature on file in our office. If the signatures do not match, a letter will be sent to the address on our file along with a form that will allow you to confirm that you voted the ballot. Discrepancies in signatures that cannot be confirmed will be turned over to the District Attorney's Office for investigation.

No one else may sign your ballot envelope for you. This includes family members or people who have a "Power of Attorney" to sign documents on your behalf. If you are unable to sign you must make your mark and have a witness sign that he or she observed the mark.

- **Do I have to return my ballot by mail?**

No. You have the choice of mailing your ballot or returning it to any county Elections Office or any designated drop off site. The sites, times and locations are listed in the "Voter Instructions" you will receive in your ballot packet and are listed at our [votejeffco.com](http://votejeffco.com) website. Please do not allow anyone, other than someone you trust, to deliver your ballot for you.

- **When must the voted ballot be returned?**

Mail ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. If the ballot is received after Election Day, the votes on the ballot will not be counted.

- **How do I know my ballot has been received?**

Upon receiving your voted ballot, we flag your record in the voter system to indicate you have returned a ballot. You can call the Elections Office at 303-271-8111 and ask if the ballot was received or you can go to the [votejeffco.com](http://votejeffco.com) website.

- **Can someone find out whether I've returned my ballot?**

Yes. That information is public record. Many parties and candidates use this information for their "Get Out The Vote" campaigns.

- **Can someone find out how I've voted?**

No, the procedures for processing mail ballots ensure that the secrecy is maintained for each voter's ballot. The secrecy sleeves containing the ballots are removed and separated from the outer envelope so that a ballot cannot be tied back to an individual voter.

- **When will the ballots be counted?**

Counting of mail ballots may begin ten days prior to the election and continue until counting is completed. Every eligible ballot received prior to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day will be counted.

- **When will election results be known?**

Preliminary unofficial results will be released after 7:00 p.m. on election night.

## **More Questions?**

**You can call our office at 303-271-8111 or you can email us at [countyclerk@jeffco.us](mailto:countyclerk@jeffco.us), and our Elections' staff will be glad to assist you.**