

## **Voting in person and on Election Day**

### **How do I find my polling location?**

You can find your polling location by visiting [my.arizona.vote](https://my.arizona.vote) and click on "Find your Polling Locations." Maricopa and Pima County voters should follow the prompts to redirect to their county's search tool. For all other counties, type in your address and review the address options that display in the drop down. Select your address and the current election, and then a list of polling locations will display on the next page.

### **Who staffs polling locations?**

The counties train and hire bipartisan teams of poll workers which consist of a Judge, Marshal, and Clerk.

The Judge helps with the check-in process, curbside voting, and assists voters who wish to use the Accessible Voting Devices.

The Marshal announces when polls open and close, and manages the lines on Election Day by measuring the length of wait time throughout the day.

The Clerk provides the voter with their correct ballot or provisional ballot and provides a receipt after they cast their ballot. They stock paper, ballot paper and affidavit envelope printers.

### **What is a provisional ballot?**

Provisional ballots help ensure every eligible voter can vote only once and that all voters can vote.

Provisional ballots are provided to voters when additional verification of that voter's eligibility is needed. Provisional ballots will be tabulated once the County Recorder's Office confirms that the voter is registered and eligible to vote in the election.

Provisional ballots merely provide an additional safety check to ensure that no one who is ineligible to vote is able to cast a ballot.

Arizona law also allows for conditional provisional ballots. Conditional provisional ballots are issued by poll workers when a voter fails to present the required ID. For these ballots to be counted, the voter must provide their ID to the County Recorder within 5 days for elections that include Federal races, and 3 days for any other election.

### **How do provisional ballots work?**

1. When a voter attempts to cast their ballot at a polling location, the address on their identification must reasonably match the voter's residence or mailing address in the signature roster or e-pollbook in order to vote a regular ballot. If the address does not reasonably match, the voter is deemed to have shown identification, but must vote a provisional ballot. Additionally, if a roster indicates that a voter received a ballot by mail and the poll worker is unable to confirm that the ballot has not been received and/or is unable to cancel the mailed ballot, the voter will be asked to vote a provisional ballot until it can be verified they have not previously voted.
2. The voter should complete the provisional ballot and follow poll worker instructions on submitting it.
3. The County Recorder will verify that the voter is a registered and eligible voter prior to sending that provisional ballot to be tabulated. If the County Recorder determines the voter is not eligible, then that ballot will not be tabulated.

**Forgot your ID at the polls? Make sure you provided it by Nov. 16 for your conditional provisional ballot to count!**

## **My Ballot**

### **What's on my ballot?**

The contests on your ballot depend on where you live and in what elections you are eligible to vote. Reach out to your county to see what is on your ballot. You can find county contact information at <https://azsos.gov/county-election-info>

If you are eligible to vote in statewide contests, you'll have 10 ballot measures in addition to candidate races. Visit our website for more info:

<https://azsos.gov/elections/ballot-measures/2022-ballot-measure-information>

### **When are early ballots tabulated?**

Counties may begin tabulating ballots once early voting begins and their equipment has been certified through logic and accuracy testing. All early ballots (whether cast by mail or in person) will go through the signature verification process prior to tabulation. Your County Recorder's Office will confirm that the voter's signature on the ballot affidavit envelope matches the signature in that voter's record. The timing of early ballot tabulation depends on your county.

## **When are Election Day ballots tabulated?**

Ballots cast in person on Election Day will be tabulated that day. Some counties provide polling location tabulators where a voter will input their ballot on the spot. Other counties only tabulate at a central tabulation location. Regardless of how your county chooses to tabulate, all in-person ballots cast on Election Day will typically be tabulated and included in the election results posted after the first round of results on election night.

## **Why can't I see my ballot after I cast my vote?**

State and federal law protects your right to a secret ballot. Once you put your ballot in the ballot box or tabulator, no identifying information on the ballot exists to connect that ballot back to you. However, your county election officials count every eligible ballot and ensure audits are in place to check the tabulation process. If you'd like to learn more about election security, visit [Arizona.Vote](https://www.arizona.vote).

## **What if I mismark my ballot?**

Follow the instructions provided with your ballot. If you make a mistake, contact your County Recorder before you return the ballot. You can request that your first ballot be canceled and that you receive a new one.

## **How do write-in candidates work?**

Federal, state, and legislative write-in candidates must file paperwork with the Secretary of State's Office to have votes cast for them tabulated. Write-in candidate names do not appear printed on the ballot – by definition, a voter must write them in. If a voter writes a name who has not timely filed write-in paperwork, then votes for that write-in will not be tabulated. For example, a write-in vote for “Mickey Mouse” will not be counted and instead would be reported as “write-in unaffiliated” since no write-in candidate with that name filed paperwork.

## **Where can I find a list of write-in candidates?**

The list of official write-in candidates will be available on county websites and will be posted in voting locations, as well as at [Arizona.vote](https://www.arizona.vote). A write-in vote will be tabulated for official write-in candidates so long as the voter's intent is clear.

It is important to note that ONLY official write-in candidates will be counted if written in. If a voter writes in a candidate whose name already appears as the ballot, that vote may

not be counted as a vote for that candidate and could instead show up as an unaffiliated write-in.

**If a candidate I voted for drops out, can I vote again?**

If you have already returned your ballot, the first ballot your county receives is the one that will be counted. If you have not returned your ballot, contact your county to learn how to return and cancel your original ballot to receive a new one.

**If I get a ballot in the mail, but return it to a vote center/drop box, will I be kicked off the early voting list?**

No, you will remain on the Active Early Voting List.

**My child is at college but registered at their permanent home address, how can they receive a ballot?**

The voter can call the County Recorder and request a one-time ballot by mail be sent to their temporary address. This request must be made by October 28 by 5pm.

**What happens if I forgot to sign my ballot or they can't confirm my signature?**

The County Recorder will try to contact you if you are missing a signature or if they are unable to confirm the signature is yours (as you age, your signature changes, or you broke your writing hand and are forced to sign with your other hand). In the case of a missing signature, you have until 7 p.m. on election day to sign your ballot affidavit. If you need to confirm that you in fact signed your ballot, a process referred to as curing your ballot, you have until 5 p.m. 5 business days following the election to notify the County Recorder that you in fact were the one who signed the ballot. Check with your County Recorder on the last day to cure your ballot for your county as well as for the procedure to confirm.

**Post-Election**

**What triggers a recount?**

Arizona law provides for a recount when the margin between the top two candidates or issues is less than or equal to 0.5% (one half of one percent) of the total votes cast for that contest. For example, a race in which the two candidates/issues received 49.9% and 49.5% (a difference of 0.4%) of the vote would go to a recount, but a race in which the candidates/issues received 49.9% and 49.3% (a difference of 0.6%) would not. In 2022, this margin was lowered, which will mean that voters could expect a greater number of recounts following the 2022 General Election.

## **How are recounts ordered?**

Neither candidates nor the public can request a recount. Recounts **must** be ordered by a court at the request of the officer in charge of elections (for state, federal and legislative races, that is the Secretary of State). Once a court orders a recount, the County will tabulate all ballots for that contest and perform the required audit functions.

## **How long will a recount take?**

This process will take time, and for federal, statewide, and legislative contests, it cannot begin until after the December 5, 2022 statewide canvass. If a recount is triggered, voters should not expect final results until late December.

## **What is a hand count audit?**

A limited hand count audit may occur before the results are confirmed and canvassed by the governing board. The purpose of the hand count audit is to compare the results of the machine count to the hand count to assure that the machines are working properly and accurately counting votes. This hand count is in addition to the logic and accuracy testing of the machines before and after ballot tabulation.

## **I want to have my early ballot tabulated on Election Day. Why is the county saying they can't?**

While a new law was passed in 2022 that *allowed* (not required) counties to tabulate early ballots at polling locations, most counties do not yet have the capability to provide this service. Counties are continuing to review options to determine whether it will be available for future elections.

## **Tabulation**

### **When will results be published?**

The counties will begin reporting results on Election Night, starting at 8 p.m. The first uploads from the counties will report early ballots returned before Election Day. The next report on Election Night will include ballots cast in person on Election Day. Throughout the following days, the counties will report the remaining early and provisional ballots that were returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

### **Why do some ballots take more time to process?**

Sometimes a voter's signature does not match what is on record. In these cases, they are contacted to "cure" their signature by verifying they signed the ballot affidavit envelope.

Conditional provisional ballots, as well as ballots that require curing signatures, take several days to resolve, since voters have a 5-day statutorily mandated time period to provide the required information.

### **How are early ballots processed?**

All Early ballots require signature verification before they can be sent to tabulation. County Recorder's Offices need to verify that the individual that signed that ballot is, in fact, the early voter that was permitted to cast that ballot.

All voters' signatures are verified by manual process. An individual trained in signature verification must confirm that a signature matches those on record. This process takes time but is vital to ensure one person, one vote.

### **Why does it take so long to canvass results?**

Many additional steps are involved in canvassing an election to make it official. For instance:

- A Limited Hand Count Audit to verify that the results received from the tabulation equipment match a random sample tabulated by humans.
- A Post-Election Logic and Accuracy Test verifies that the equipment is tabulating accurately following the election.
- Governing authorities at the Municipal, County, and / or State level must then certify the results in a public meeting before the results are final.

### **Why won't the Secretary of State's Office declare results sooner?**

Neither the counties nor the Secretary of State "call" elections or declare the results prior to the canvass of the election, which for federal, statewide and legislative races will be on December 5, 2022. Barring any statutorily required recounts, this is when the reported results become official.

Media outlets and political pundits may call races or make determinations that they are "too close to call." These "calls" are based on many factors related to the race in question but have no bearing on the continued process of county elections offices completing the process of tabulating ballots and curing provisional ballots through the allowable deadlines.