

ELECTION SECURITY FAQ's

How is my signature checked?

Absentee voter identifications are checked twice. First, on the absentee ballot application and second, on the absentee ballot. If there is a signature issue, the Board of Elections has seven days to rectify this, which includes contacting the voter. It is extremely important to include your contact information including your address, phone number and email address in the designated spaces on the ballot.

Who can drop off absentee ballots? Can someone stuff the ballot box?

Only an immediate relative of the voter may drop off a ballot. An immediate relative includes the voter's spouse or the voter's father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, half-sibling, son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece. A person is limited to dropping off no more than 10 ballots for near relatives.

Can ballot counting machines be hacked?

Voting machines are not connected to the internet and therefore cannot be hacked.

If I drop my ballot into a drop box, how do I know that it will be counted?

Drop boxes are monitored 24/7 using security cameras. They are emptied daily by a bipartisan team (one member from each political party). Ballots are then stored in a secure vault.

Hasn't there been fraud in the past in Ohio?

Per Ohio Secretary of State, instances of voter fraud are 'exceedingly rare' in Ohio and only a fraction of a percent. Ballots go through a series of proven voter ID confirmations and clearances as well as stringent signature validations during the chain of custody. There are also a number of robust high level physical security and cyber security measures in place.

When will my absentee ballot be counted?

Absentee ballots and early voting ballots are counted first. Most counties start processing the ballots as they come in. Counts cannot be announced until polls close on Election Day.

How do I know that the Post Office will deliver my ballot on time?

Although the US Post Office is working closely with all Boards of Elections to ensure timely delivery of absentee applications and ballots, ALL VOTERS are strongly advised to anticipate delays in mail delivery. Delivery times are slower than normal due to the surge of mail-in voting. Be sure to mail absentee applications and ballots as quickly as possible to avoid delays OR voters can drop off their ballot at their local Board of Elections.

What if I don't have enough postage?

All ballots must be delivered, even if the postage is incorrect.

What if I think that I'm being unfairly treated at the polls?

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Contact the Election Protection Hotline IMMEDIATELY. There will be voter assistance hotlines in multiple languages to connect voters with trained, legal assistance:

- 866-OUR-VOTE (English, administered by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law)
- 888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish, administered by the NALEO Educational Fund)
- 888-API-VOTE (Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Tagalog, administered by APIAVote & AAJC)
- 844-YALLA-US (Arabic, administered by Arab American Institute)

Are Ohio elections audited?

Yes, every Ohio election is audited. A percentage of contested races are selected for the audit. Auditors compare hand counted tallies with machine counted tallies to reconcile voting totals. All audits include bipartisan representation throughout the entire audit process.