MARICOPA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

TABULATION SECURITY

Maricopa County upgraded our 25-year-old tabulation equipment in 2019. This new equipment includes features designed to improve efficiency and security over the tabulation process. It counts ballots faster and comes with a new ballot style where voters mark ovals. The equipment is federally and state certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Arizona Secretary of State, and the nationally accredited Voting System Test Laboratory.

ACCURACY & AUDITS

Prior to an election, we test 100% of all tabulators and accessible voting devices.

Before tabulation can begin, the Secretary of State performs an independent Logic & Accuracy test.

After the election, the political parties perform a hand count audit of results.

Our team performs a post-election accuracy test on equipment as a final check.

ELECTION DAY BALLOTS

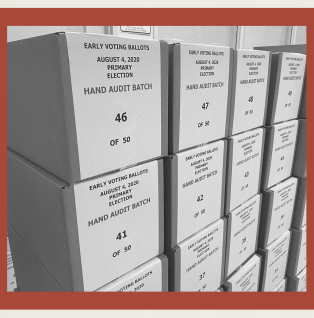
PRECINCT-BASED TABULATORS

Used on Election Day at all voting locations, precinct-based tabulators count ballots onsite to keep a record of votes cast at each location. Results are printed on receipt paper and are stored on two separate, encrypted memory cards. The memory cards must be programmed together at the Ballot Tabulation Center, and the tabulator will only work if both memory cards inside are programmed together. The precinct-based tabulators only accept Election Day ballots and cannot read early ballots or provisional ballots.

TRANSPARENCY & SECURITY

BALLOT TABULATION CENTER

FOR EARLY AND PROVISIONAL BALLOTS



RESTRICTED ACCESS

Access is restricted to those with a job responsibility or direct oversight of tabulation.

MONITORED 24-7

Cameras stream live 24-7 at Maricopa.Vote.

POLITICAL PARTY OVERSIGHT

During tabulation, party representatives and observers are present, providing oversight.

NO INTERNET CONNECTIONS

No equipment or programs in the Ballot Tabulation Center are connected to the internet.

VISIBLE WIRING

Visible wiring shows how tabulation equipment is not connected to the internet, but instead routed directly to a secure server, which is behind glass and on display for public view.

RED PENS ONLY

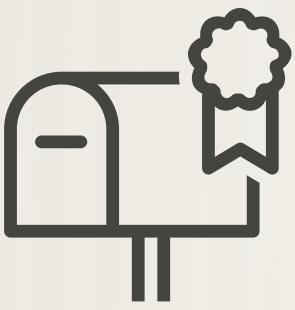
Only red pens are allowed in the Ballot Tabulation center, as equipment cannot read red ink.

MARICOPA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

VOTING BY MAIL

Security. Verification. Transparency.

Voting by mail in Arizona is secure and verifiable. Only registered voters may request a ballot in the mail. All ballot affidavit envelopes require a signature that is then checked against a known signature on the official voter registration file. The Elections Department and the Office of the Recorder have internal controls and tracking methods for ballot security. Our ballot processing teams conduct multiple audit checks before and after ballots are tabulated. Only verified ballots are counted, but we report all uncounted ballots. Find out more below!



1 ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS CAN REQUEST A BALLOT

The law requires that the Elections Department check the voter registration record against vital records and government systems prior to mailing a ballot to a voter. These checks verify the registration status of the voter and ensures we send the correct ballot to the correct voter.

2 VERIFICATION STARTS 90 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION

The law requires the Office of the Recorder mail out notices to all voters on the Permanent Early Voting List 90-days prior to an election. This mailing confirms that the voter still lives at the address on file and allows the voter the opportunity to update their record if the voter has moved. After reconciling our voter records, we mail ballots 27 days before an election.

3 TRACKING YOUR BALLOT

Every single mailed ballot is tracked upon delivery and receipt with an intelligent mail barcode so voters can have peace of mind knowing it was counted. Track your ballot by texting "JOIN" to 628-683 or online at BeBallotReady.Vote. The Elections Department also has internal controls and tracking methods for ballot security beginning from when your ballot is initially mailed, to how we transport voted ballots from the post office, to onsite security and much more.

4 ALL AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPES ARE SIGNATURE VERIFIED

All signatures are checked against a known signature on the official voter registration file and past affidavit signatures. Our signature verification process has multi-level checks to ensure only valid signatures are counted. Voters with questionable signatures are contacted by the Elections Department and have 3-5 days after an election to confirm their signature.

5 ONLY VERIFIED BALLOTS ARE COUNTED

Once the signature is verified on the affidavit envelope, it is opened by a bipartisan board and sent to be counted. All uncounted ballots are tracked and reported in the official canvass for each election.

MARICOPA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

DROP BOX SECURITY

Maricopa County voters may return an early ballot by mail or drop it off at any Vote Center or secure ballot drop box. There are many layers of oversight to ensure ballots are safe and secure. All drop box locations are publicly accessible, approved by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and can be found at Locations.Maricopa.Vote.

Where can I find drop boxes?

LOCATIONS.MARICOPA.VOTE

1 VOTE CENTERS
MONITORED BY TRAINED STAFF

Drop off your early ballot at any Vote Center. Locations are open for up to 28 days. Just make sure to return your ballot prior to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

2 DRIVE THROUGH DROP BOXES
MONITORED BY TRAINED STAFF

Voters can drop off their completed early ballot from the comfort of their car at our drive-thru drop box locations.

3 24-HOUR DROP BOX
PERMANENTLY SECURED

The drop box outside the Maricopa County Elections Department is available 24 hours a day, bolted to the ground and monitored by a security camera.

4 DROP BOX ONLY LOCATIONS
INSIDE A GOVERNMENT FACILITY

Drop box locations are inside many city and town clerk's offices.

DROP BOX MATERIAL
MARKED. LOCKED. LIMITED ACCESS.

All ballot drop boxes are visibly marked as an official drop box, locked, and have a small opening for envelopes. Only the Elections Department or the inspector have a key.

How is my ballot secured?

DAILY PICK UPS

Two ballot couriers of differing parties pick up the signed and sealed early ballot packets every day the location is open.

TAMPER EVIDENT SEALS

During pickup, the sealed envelopes are placed in a transport bin, which is secured by a tamper evident seal.

SERIAL NUMBERS AND LOGS

The seals have a serial number that is logged in a transport statement, which is signed by both ballot couriers and the inspector (at Vote Centers or Drive-Through Drop Boxes) or a government official (at drop box only locations in government facilities).

AUDITED NIGHTLY

All forms are reviewed and audited nightly when the transport bins are inspected at the Elections Department and sealed envelopes are removed for early ballot processing.

RETAINED FOR TRANSPARENCY

All paperwork and seals are retained and transferred to the treasurer's vault along with counted ballots and other election materials at the end of each election.