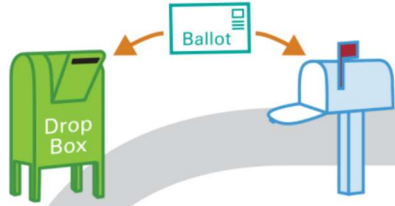


Vote by Mail in Benton County

All eligible voters are sent a ballot at least 18 days prior to the Election Day.



All ballots have pre-paid postage and can be returned by U.S. mail or placed in one of the 10 convenient drop boxes. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day.



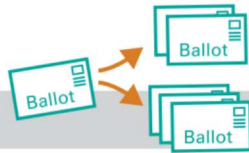
The security sleeve is put in a return envelope and signed (or marked with witnesses). Voters can also update their contact information on this envelope.



Voter places their marked ballot into a provided security sleeve.



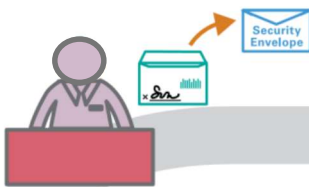
During the 18-day voting period, mail and drop boxes are checked frequently by election staff. Ballots are taken to the Voting Center and are scanned to show as "Received".



At the County Voting Center, ballots are sorted into batches and prepared for signature verification.



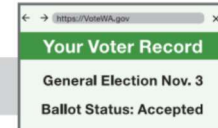
The signature on the outer envelope will be compared to the signature on file for the voter. If the signature is missing or does not match, the voter will be contacted.



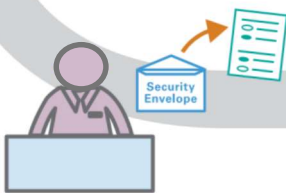
The return envelope (signature envelope) will be opened and the security sleeve with ballot will be removed.



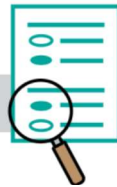
At any point once we get your ballot, you can check the progress online.
*Please allow 2-3 days for the system to update.



If the signature is verified, the ballot will now be marked as "Accepted". You will be credited for participating in this election in the VoteWA system.



The ballot is removed from the security sleeve. This results in secrecy of the vote.

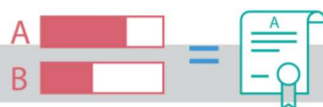


The ballot will be reviewed for potential scanning issues. If there are none, the ballot will be scanned.



All scanned ballots will be moved to a secure location inside the Voting Center.

The election is complete, and preparations for the next election cycle begin.



The County Canvassing Board meets and certifies the election.



At 8 p.m. on Election Night, ballots that have already been scanned are tabulated and results will be reported.