

## INDEPENDENT MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **What is an independent mail ballot election?**

The District can opt to conduct an independent mail ballot election instead of conducting a polling place election or coordinating with the county. The District's Designated Election Official (DEO) would be responsible to identify eligible electors with the boundaries of the District, and conduct all aspects of the District, including mailing and counting of official ballots.

#### **Who is an eligible elector?**

The eligibility of voters in a special district election is not based on just voter registration. The qualifications of an eligible elector within the District are:

A registered voter in the State of Colorado (registered to vote where you reside) AND a property owner (spouse or civil union partner of a property owner) of taxable real or personal property of the District OR a resident of the District. Only natural persons can vote – no corporations, trusts, businesses, etc.

Your DEO will order a voter registration list from the county clerk and recorder. This list provides the names, addresses, voter identification, and other information for all electors who reside within the boundaries of the District.

Your DEO will order a property owner listing from the county assessor. This list provides the names, SITUS addresses, mailing addresses and each line includes ALL owners of said property. These properties are all within the boundaries of the District.

The DEO will compare the property owners listing with the district voter registration list. Property owners who are not on the district voter registration list are identified. These property owners own real or personal property within the District; however, they reside in another county, state or country. It is the task of the DEO to research each of those property owners to determine whether they are electors registered in the State of Colorado. Once this process is complete the property owners residing outside the district will be add to the district registered voter list, while insuring they are not already listed to prevent duplicates.

The DEO is also responsible for sending UOCAVA ballots (uniformed and overseas electors). These ballots go out one week before the rest of the ballots, and can be returned one week after the election and still be counted if they are postmarked as of the day of the election.

#### **Do all eligible electors automatically receive a mail ballot?**

No. ONLY "ACTIVE" REGISTERED VOTERS AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A BALLOT. Typically, an elector becomes "INACTIVE" if they don't vote at a general election or do not update their voter registration. . Inactive voters must request a ballot from the elections office.

**CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION** - Go to [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.govotecolorado.gov) to confirm your registration status and details. Having trouble finding your record or have questions? Contact us at 311 or [elections@denvergov.org](mailto:elections@denvergov.org).

**If I am going be out of town, do I need to request at absentee ballot?**

Yes. Ballots cannot be forwarded, so if you aren't going to be at your residence where you are registered to vote, you need to request an absentee ballot.

On the absentee ballot application, there is a box to check where you can indicate that you want to ALWAYS receive a mail ballot. Your name will be added to the permanent mail ballot list. As an example, if the District Board elected to conduct a polling place election, you would automatically receive your ballot via email and would not have to go to the polls to vote. Here is a link to the absentee ballot application: \_\_\_\_\_

**How do I get a replacement ballot if I make a mistake or don't receive a ballot?**

You can request a replacement ballot by completing the application. Here is the link to the replacement ballot application: \_\_\_\_\_. Once received, your eligibility to vote will be research and if there are no issues with your registration, a ballot will be sent to you. If there is an issue, you will be contacted by one of the election judges.

**Do I have to mail my ballot, or can I drop it off at a ballot drop-off location?**

Ballot drop off locations will be offered and will be identified on the secrecy sleeve contained within your ballot packet.