

In efforts to combat misinformation about the Election Process, we would like to inform all on how the Bergen County Elections offices work to tabulate votes in a secure and transparent manner in accordance with State Law.

- **Election Day Voting Machines from all votes cast at local polling locations**
  - Each voting machine undergoes extensive testing to ensure correct results and each machine provides a Zero Proof sheet before the polls open that shows the machine started off with no votes.
  - These machines are never connected to the internet.
  - All data from the machines after the close of polls gets delivered to the Bergen County Clerk's office to be tabulated.
  - Our office reads the data upon receipt and performs multiple uploads to our website throughout election night. We upload at 25%, 50% 75% until we reach 100% of the town's polling locations results – **to be clear 100% means 70 of the 70 towns in Bergen County's election day machine votes are received and counted.**
  - These totals do not reflect any other type of vote such as Vote by Mails, Provisionals, Early Voting. This is the standard method followed for every election.
- **In-Person Early Voting Results**
  - Results are collected throughout the entirety of the early voting period until the last day of early voting when the machine is closed.
  - The data is delivered to the County Clerk's Office and is kept in a secure location to be read and posted after the close of polls on Election Night.
  - Votes from the Early Voting Machines and Election Day machines are integrated on the same report as they have the same Election Software System.
- **Vote by Mail Ballots**
  - Vote by Mail Ballots begin to be mailed only to voters with active requests 45 days before an election. Once a ballot is mailed from our office the voter should receive it within 3 days. Mail-In Voters who do not receive their ballots within 7 days should contact our office.
  - The voted Mail-In Ballots are received by the Board of Elections in person, by mail and are picked up regularly from our county's Secure Ballot Drop Locations by a Republican and Democrat escorted by a Sheriff's Officer.
  - Upon receipt, the ballots get date stamped, their unique voter barcode on the return envelope is scanned, and the ballots are

sorted by town. They will then update the voter's ballot to "Received". (Accepted or Rejected Status will appear after the Election is over.)

- The Board of Elections then checks each voters' information on their Certificate of Mail-In Voter which is the special envelope that protects the secrecy of each voter's ballot against the Voter's Profile. During this process the signatures of all voters are checked. Voters with mismatched signatures or missing signatures on their Certificates are sent "Cure My Ballot" letters. If voters complete and return the letters their ballots will not be rejected.
- Prior to the election, all voter identifying information is detached and separated from the sealed ballot envelope. Those sealed unidentifiable ballot envelopes will be opened on the morning of election day by Republicans and Democrats sitting side by side and are then fed through a machine to be counted.
- VBMs are tabulated by the Board of Elections – this process is open to the public and through the pandemic has been livestreamed on their website.
- On Election Night, the Board of Elections shares with us their PDF of their Unofficial Results of what they were able to count throughout the day.
- That PDF is added as a separate file to our website as those results are tabulated by the Board of Elections who uses a different Election Software System than the other tally types. Therefore, the public must view two separate results files from the Board of Elections and the County Clerk's Office to gather the total unofficial results. The Clerk's Office staff works meticulously to integrate those numbers so the file will have both sets of results. That aggregation process normally takes another day.
- The Board of Elections continues to receive ballots 6 days after the election, provided they were postmarked by election day in accordance with State Statute. The Board continues to count valid ballots until the Cure Letters are due.
- The Board of Elections tabulates all the timely Vote by Mail Results and shares updated PDFs to the County Clerk's Office to be integrated into the County Clerk's website upon receipt which is why the results will continue to be updated until every qualified vote is counted.

- **Provisional Ballots**

- Upon receipt on Election night, Provisional Ballots go to the Superintendent of Elections for review.
- All Provisionals are given to the Board of Elections with the Superintendent's Office's investigative finding. The 6 Commissioners of the Board of Elections (3 Republicans and 3 Democrats) then reviews them to determine if they are countable.
- The counting of Provisional Ballots is also open to the public and throughout the pandemic livestreamed on the Board of Election's website as well.
- The Board of Elections gives the County Clerk's Office a PDF file of the total Provisional results to be integrated into the County Clerk's Website.

Please be advised, the Results are Unofficial and subject to change until EVERY BALLOT IS COUNTED. Once the Election is certified, the results link will be renamed from Unofficial to Official. Post-election audits are performed as standard procedure pursuant to State Statute.

If you have any questions regarding any of the Election procedures feel free to contact us and we would be happy to give you the answers you are looking for.

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