



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Want to Know the Status of Your Ballot?

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that Californians can go through her website to find out if, in the case of vote-by-mail voters, their ballot arrived at their county in time to be counted and, in the case of provisional voters, whether their ballot was counted.

“While Election Day has come and gone for voters, it’s not over for county elections officials who have until July 9 to verify and count every last eligible vote-by-mail, provisional and damaged ballot,” said California Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “As county elections officials continue the ballot verification process, voters can check to find out the status of their ballot.”

Under federal law, every voter who casts a provisional ballot is entitled to find out from their county elections official if their ballot was counted and if not, why not. Under state law, any voter who casts a vote-by-mail ballot can find out if their ballot arrived at their county elections office. Each county elections official may provide this information through their website, by telephone, or both. To access each county’s website or phone number, voters can go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-status/.

Ballots that arrive at polling places or elections offices after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, and ballots cast by people who are not registered voters or who have already voted are not eligible to be counted.

Counties have 31 days after Election Day to report their final results to the Secretary of State’s office, which for this election is July 9. During this canvass period, before vote-by-mail, provisional and damaged ballots can be counted, county elections officials must confirm each voter’s registration status, verify voter signatures by comparing the signature on each vote-by-mail ballot envelope against the voter’s voter registration card, ensure people are not voting more than once, remake damaged ballots cast by eligible voters, and more. The Secretary of State will certify the results of the election by July 16.

To track the number of ballots outstanding statewide, please visit the Secretary of State’s website at <http://vote.sos.ca.gov/misc/vote-by-mail.htm>.

To sign up for regular election updates via email, RSS feed or Twitter, go to www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia.

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