



BALLOT DROP BOX, OR USPS MAIL?

Knowing your return options ensures your ballot gets counted!

Ballot Boxes in Washington State

Ballots may be returned in any official ballot drop box located anywhere in Washington State.

If your ballot is deposited in another county's drop box and received there on time, that county will securely forward it to Cowlitz County Elections for processing and counting.



Using USPS to Mail your Ballot?

For those choosing to return their ballot by mail, please remember that it must be postmarked no later than Election Day. If you deliver your ballot to a blue USPS collection box, the postmark may not always reflect the same day.

To ensure your ballot receives a timely postmark, you may hand your ballot directly to a postal clerk at your local Post Office and request a hand-applied postmark at the counter.

According to the Washington Secretary of State, the USPS recommends mailing your ballot at least one week before Election Day. After that time, using an official ballot drop box is advised. Drop boxes remain open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Night.

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Ballot Boxes in Cowlitz County

Cowlitz County has 8 drive up ballot drop boxes across the county. Beginning 18 days prior to Election Day, boxes are open 24/7 and close promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Night.

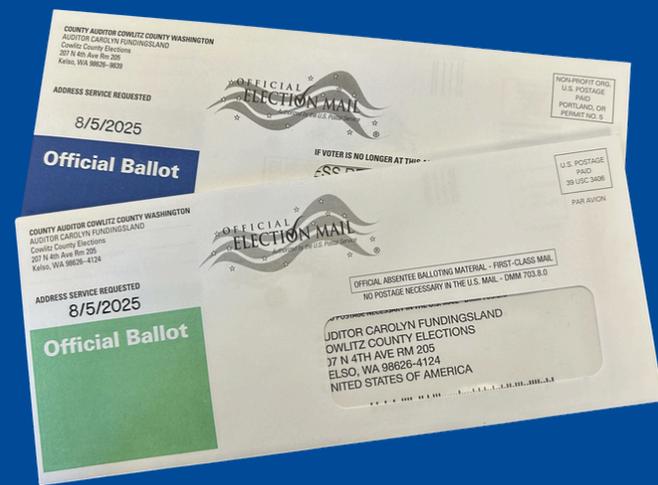
Ballots are picked up daily from the ballot drop boxes by authorized election staff in teams of two people. Daily pickup occurs during business hours, Monday - Friday, and Election Day at 8:00 p.m. when the boxes close.



How Do I Know if My Ballot Arrived Back to the Elections Office to Be Counted?

Voters can confirm their ballot's status at any time by visiting VoteWA.gov, where they can track when their ballot was mailed, received, and accepted for counting.

Voters may also sign up for text message notifications to receive ballot-tracking updates automatically at VoteWA.gov.



So... Ballot Drop Box or USPS Mail?

Election officials rely on the postmark or ballot drop box pick up time to determine whether a ballot was returned on time.

Understanding how postmarks and collection schedules work—and knowing all your return options—helps ensure your vote is counted. No matter which method you choose, every valid ballot received by the deadline is counted according to Washington's election laws.



A MESSAGE FROM COWLITZ COUNTY ELECTIONS