

## Frequently Asked Questions in Mail Ballot Elections

**Q: Who will receive a ballot in the mail?**

A: All active registered voters will receive a ballot. In addition, a mail ballot will be mailed to all registered electors whose registration record has been marked as inactive for failure to vote. Voters in the following precinct numbers do not have any candidates, questions or issues to vote on so they will not receive a ballot: 060, 061, 062, 063, 080, 082, 115, 119, 131, 132, 156, 168, 185, 201, 230, 242, 299, 330, 341 and 362.

**Q: Will there be early voting or poll places open on election day?**

A: No, the Coordinated Election is an all mail ballot election approved by the County Commissioners on January 12, 2009.

**Q: What is the deadline to register to vote?**

A: October 5, 2009. If you will turn 18 years of age after October 5, 2009 and on or before November 3, 2009, you must register to vote on or before October 5, 2009.

**Q: What if I need to update my voter registration information after the registration deadline?**

A: If you have moved and are not registered at your current address, you must come in person to the Election Department to complete a form.

**Q: When will I receive my ballot?**

A: Ballots will be mailed between October 13, 2009 and October 16, 2009.

**Q: I am a registered voter under the age of 18 but will be 18 on or before election day. When will my ballot be mailed?**

A: Statute does not allow your ballot to be mailed until you have turned 18. Therefore, your ballot will be mailed on your birthday or the first business day after your birthday if your birthday falls on a weekend. However, if you turn 18 on or after October 28, 2009 it will be too late for us to mail your ballot to you. In this situation you can go to the Election Department at 200 South Cascade Avenue on or after your birthday, and pick up your ballot during regular business hours or from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

**Q: I have a change of address through the post office, will my ballot be forwarded to me through the USPS?**

A: No, mail ballots cannot be forwarded through the USPS.

**Q: What if I will not be at my address on file during the Mail Ballot Election?**

A: If you need to receive your ballot at an address that is not your address on file, you must complete a mail-in ballot application and either mail the form to the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder's office, fax it to 719-520-7327 or return it in person. The deadline to return the mail-in ballot application is Tuesday, October 27, 2009 if you want your ballot sent to you by mail. Forms are available at <http://car.elpasoco.com/election>.

**Q: What is the deadline for returning ballots?**

A: All ballots must be received by the Clerk & Recorder's office no later than 7:00 pm on Election Day, November 3, 2009. Postmark dates do not count as received. There is an exception for voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens' Absentee Voters Act that gives them until the 8<sup>th</sup> day after the election for their ballot to be received.

**Q: If I am "inactive" for some reason other than failure to vote, how do I get a ballot?**

A: After the ballots have been mailed, "inactive" voters can complete an Application for Mail Ballot by an Inactive Voter. If the address on file is correct, the application can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the voter and can be returned by mail, fax or e-mail. We must receive the completed form before we can activate the voter and mail them a ballot. Forms are available at <http://car.elpasoco.com/election>.

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**Q: What if I need a replacement ballot?**

A: If you spoil, deface or lose your ballot, you may obtain a replacement ballot, one at a time, not to exceed three ballots in all. You may contact the Election Office for instructions on requesting a replacement ballot by calling (719) 575-VOTE (8683). Beginning October 13, 2009 replacement ballots may be obtained only at the downtown office, 200 S. Cascade Avenue, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Q: I used a marker, pencil or a colored pen other than black to complete my ballot, do I need a replacement?**

A: No, your clearly marked votes will be counted.

**Q: I already sealed my return envelope but forgot to put my ballot in the secrecy envelope, do I need a replacement?**

A: No, as long as the affirmation on the return envelope is signed, the ballot will be counted.

**Q: I already sealed the return envelope but forgot to sign the affirmation, do I need a replacement?**

A: No, the tab can be removed and you can sign the affirmation before mailing.

**Q: If husband/wife put their ballot in the other's return envelope, do they need a replacement?**

A: No, as long as they are in the same household, the signer of the affirmation on the return envelope will have their ballot counted.

**Q: Is return postage required for my ballot?**

A: You may return your voted ballot by mail or you may hand deliver your ballot to a Designated Drop Off Site. If you choose to return your voted ballot by mail postage is required. The return postage cost for the November 3, 2009 election ballot is \$0.44, however, additional postage may be needed if you are required to enclose a copy of your ID with your voted ballot. That rate would be \$0.61.

**Q: Where are the designated drop-off locations?**

A: DESIGNATED DROP OFF SITES for voted ballots (all sites open weekdays during times specified below and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day)

El Paso County Clerk & Recorder's Office:

Centennial Hall

200 South Cascade Avenue

(Downtown)

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Beginning 10/12/09, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Chapel Hills Branch

Chapel Hills Mall

(On North side next to JCPenney)

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Powers Branch

5650 Industrial Place

(Southeast corner of Powers Blvd. and Airport Rd.)

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Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Q: Am I required to provide an ID with my voted ballot?**

A: If you are required to provide ID with your voted ballot, your return envelope will include the following: ID REQUIRED PLACE COPY IN RETURN ENVELOPE. If your return envelope includes this statement, place a photocopy of one of the following ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION into the Official Return Envelope. (Do not place the photocopied identification in the Secrecy Sleeve with your voted ballot.) Additional postage may be required on the return envelope if you are required to submit a photocopy of your ID.

### **Q: What are the acceptable forms of ID?**

A: Acceptable forms of ID are:

- A valid Colorado driver's license ;
- A valid identification card issued by the Department of Revenue ;
- A valid U.S. passport;
- A valid employee identification card with a photograph of the eligible elector issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government or of this state, or by any county, municipality, board, authority, or other political subdivision of this state;
- A valid pilot's license issued by the Federal Aviation Administration or other authorized agency of the United States;
- A valid U.S. military identification card with a photograph of the eligible elector; or
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the elector. (A cable bill, a telephone bill, documentation from a public institution of higher education in Colorado containing at least the name, date of birth, and legal residence address of the student elector, a paycheck from a government institution, or a Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaskan Native Blood are sufficient forms of identification);
- A valid Medicare or Medicaid card;
- A certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate;
- Certified documentation of naturalization; or
- A valid student identification card with a photograph issued by an institution of higher education in Colorado.