



Security of Mail-in Ballots

For the 2020 general election, under the provisions of AB4, Mail-in Ballots will only be sent to “active” registered voters. All active voters will receive a mail-in ballot for the 2020 general election only.

What is an “Active” Voter?

At the beginning of every federal election year, the Election Department mails every “active” registered voter a new voter registration card. If the Postal Service notifies the Election Department that the voter has moved from the address at which he/she registered, the voter is sent a *forwardable* postcard asking the voter to update his/her address. If the voter does not respond within 30 days, he/she is placed on “inactive” status. The individual is still eligible to vote (if he/she still lives in Clark County), but the address on file is not correct and the Election Department will no longer send election related materials to that individual.

Safeguards of the Mail-in Voting Process

Election officials take numerous steps to safeguard the absentee and mail voting process. The state has put in place several safeguards to ensure every vote is validated and counted. One of those safeguards is that a voter must sign a ballot and then have the signature verified.

Every single signature on every single ballot that is returned to a county election official is checked against the signature on file in a voter’s registration record. This enables officials to do two things: (1) ensure the ballot was returned by an eligible voter, and (2) if the signature on the ballot envelope does not match the signature on file, or the voter forgot to sign the envelope it will go through the “signature cure” process.

Signature cure process: Within 48 hours of the county becoming aware of a signature error on a ballot, voters are sent a letter letting them know they have to cure their signature, either by signing an unsigned ballot or fixing a mistake with the original signature. This can be done electronically or physically via fax, mail, or hand-delivery.

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/how-voter-signature-curing-works>

2 Secure Methods to Drop Off Mail-in Ballots

Mailed Through the U.S. Post Office: To send it by postal mail, voters must: Seal their voted mail ballot in the pre-addressed, postage-paid, return envelope included in the packet they will receive. Sign the outside of the envelope in the space provided for their signature. Make sure their signed envelope is postmarked by November 3, 2020.

Dropped-Off In-Person at Staffed Locations: Voters may also drop off their voted mail ballot at any of the locations listed on their voter packet. To do this, voters must: Seal their voted mail ballot in the return envelope included in the packet they will receive. Sign the outside of the envelope in the space provided for their signature. Drop off their voted mail ballot no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

The most common myth about absentee voting is that mail-in ballots are more susceptible to voter fraud.

Mail-in Ballot Fraud Myths

Since people use the term “voter fraud” to mean many different things, it is often important to clarify what a person means when they use the term. Below are common types of potential voter fraud and the security that makes it extremely rare:

Double Voting – An individual casts more than one ballot in the same election.

The voting systems in use in Nevada are designed to prevent a person from voting twice in the same election. If people have already voted by mail and forgot they did, or intentionally come to the polling place, the poll worker *always* looks them up in the system to make sure that they are eligible to vote. And part of that eligibility check is to make sure they have not already participated in the election. This same process is used when a mail-in ballot is returned.

Deceased Voter – The name of a deceased person remains on the voter rolls and a living person fraudulently casts a ballot in that name.

If a person receives a mail-in ballot for a deceased person, they should mark it “Deceased” and give back to the USPS for return and the election department will update their files.

If a person wanted to vote for the deceased person, they would have to mark that ballot and then *sign it* and return it. Their signature would have to match the voter signature on file for it to be counted. If it did not match, then it goes through the cure process. So, there are safeguards in place to protect against that, to make sure that voters are not obtaining a ballot that is not theirs, and then voting it. Voter fraud is a felony.

Ineligible Voter – The casting of a ballot by a person who is not eligible to vote. This includes non-citizens or those who have not had their rights restored.

The information on the voter registration form is compared against databases maintained by the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Office of Vital Statistics, and existing records within Nevada’s Statewide Voter Registration List. Officials look to see if data submitted on a registration form is a perfect match with an existing government record.

A person must check the “yes” box to affirm they are a U.S. citizen and sign that application. Any person who willfully falsifies a voter registration application, is guilty of a category E felony.

(On July 1, 2019, [Assembly Bill 431](#) of the 2019 Legislative Session took effect. Under this new law, any Nevada resident who is convicted of a felony is immediately restored the right to vote upon the individual’s release from prison.)

Voter Impersonation – A person claims to be someone else when casting a vote, either in person or on a mail-in ballot.

The identification requirements are: • Your unexpired Nevada (NV) Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Driver’s License with your current residential address which must match the address in your voter registration; or • Your unexpired NV State Identification Card with your current residential address, which must match the address in your voter registration; or • Your NV DMV temporary “Interim Document” with your current residential address, which must match the address in your voter registration. • If the address on your identification is not your current residential address, meaning it does not match your voter registration residential

address and/or if it is not where you currently live, then you must also provide proof of current residency.

Studies Agree: Impersonation Fraud by Voters Very Rarely Happens

The Brennan Center's seminal report on this issue, *The Truth About Voter Fraud*, found that most reported incidents of voter fraud are actually traceable to other sources, such as clerical errors or bad data matching practices. The report reviewed elections that had been meticulously studied for voter fraud and found incident rates between 0.0003 percent and 0.0025 percent. Given this tiny incident rate for voter impersonation fraud, it is more likely, the report noted, that an American "will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls."

Are Mail-in Ballots secure?

Yes. Did you know that the military has been using vote by mail since the Civil War? Voting by mail is a secure system that provides you with more time and flexibility to cast your ballot and many states allow you to track your ballot so you can make sure it arrives on time.

Is it safe?

It is understandable that many voters feel unsafe going to crowded polling places during a global pandemic. Vote by mail allows you to take your time filling out your ballot and make your voice heard without putting yourself, your family, your community, or poll workers at unnecessary risk.

"Let's put the vote-by-mail 'fraud' to rest

The Hill, April 28, 2020

[Thehill.com/opinion/campaign/494189-lets-put-vote-by-mail-fraud-myth-to-rest](https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/494189-lets-put-vote-by-mail-fraud-myth-to-rest)

"Over the past 20 years more than 250 million ballots have been cast by mail nationwide, while there have been just 143 criminal convictions for election fraud related to mail ballots. That averages out to about one case per state every six or seven years, or a fraud rate of 0.00006%.

Expanding voting by mail will be a challenge in most states in 2020". "But we reiterate: There is no evidence that mail-balloting results in rampant voter fraud, nor that election officials lack the knowledge about how to protect against abuses"

Source: Amber McReynolds, a former Colorado election official and now CEO of the National vote at home Institute, and Charles Stewart, Director of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab.