



Elections Division of Colorado Secretary of State's Office

Colorado Election Fact Sheet

Verifying Identities of Voters Overview

1) Introduction

To register to vote in Colorado, a Coloradan must confirm their identity and eligibility by providing a Colorado driver's license number or other [acceptable form of identification](#) at the time of registration. For Colorado voters who vote by mail ballot, identity is confirmed through the review of the voter's signature. For a small number of first-time voters who vote by mail ballot, in limited circumstances, they will also need to provide a copy of acceptable ID with their ballot. For Coloradans voting in-person, identity is confirmed by reviewing the voter's ID at the voting center.ⁱ Therefore, before any ballot in Colorado is counted, the identity of the voter who cast the ballot is confirmed.

2) Ensuring the Identity of the Voter

- a) **Identity Verification for Mail Ballot Voting.** All returned mail ballots must include the voter's signature on the outside of the envelope. When the ballot is received, those signatures are compared to signatures stored for each voter in the voter registration database (known as SCORE). The comparison is done using advanced signature verification software or trained election judges of multiple political affiliations, including Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliated voters. If the comparison finds a match, the ballot is counted. If a signature does not match those on file, it moves to a second level of review, where a bipartisan team of election judges reviews the signature. The bipartisan team determines whether the signature should be accepted or rejected, based on criteria implemented under Republican Secretary of State Scott Gessler.ⁱⁱ (See Secretary of State's [Signature Verification Guide](#)). A ballot rejected for a signature discrepancy may be fixed ("cured") by the voter by returning a signed form and copy of an acceptable identification to the county clerk or using the Txt2Cure mobile phone system. County clerks are required to send all ballots rejected for signature discrepancy that have not been cured to the local district attorney for investigation.ⁱⁱⁱ
- b) **Identity Verification for Voting In-person.** In-person voters must present an acceptable form of ID at the time of voting. Election judges compare that ID to the voter record before allowing the individual to vote. If a voter cannot provide an acceptable form of ID, they are offered a provisional ballot.

c) **Only One Ballot Per Voter is Accepted.** Colorado's statewide voter registration and election management system is a real-time system that tracks whether a voter has already submitted a ballot for counting. Because the system is in real-time, once a ballot has been accepted for any voter in the state, no other ballot for that voter would be accepted by the system. For instance, if a voter is mailed a ballot but votes in-person instead, the mail ballot is automatically voided and will not be counted. The same is true for voters who move, misplace, or otherwise receive a replacement ballot. Only one ballot will be counted by the county clerk. A voter who attempts to vote twice in any election is referred by the county clerk to the local district attorney for investigation.^{iv} If convicted, there are penalties under state and federal law for attempting to vote twice.

ⁱ C.R.S. 1-7-110

ⁱⁱ C.R.S. 1-7.5-107.3; 8 C.C.R. 1505-1 §7.7

ⁱⁱⁱ C.R.S. 1-7.5-107.3(2)(a)

^{iv} C.R.S. 1-2-305