

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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Drop Box Usage and Security

Drop boxes are a secure and convenient way for voters to drop off their ballots at a time and location that is close and convenient for them.

- There are two types of Drop Boxes:
 - Manned: Located where they can be seen by someone which includes stores, libraries, vote centers or other locations where people are present.
 - Unmanned: Those are typically outside boxes that provide 24-hour drive up availability.
- Placement of cameras at all drop boxes is not feasible:
 - The location is a private business, and they may have their own cameras, or for liability reasons we cannot add county equipment to their facility.
 - Some locations are remote or do not have a way for us to cost effectively place a camera.
 - The drop box at our office is under 24-hour camera monitoring. Others coming in the next year.
- Each Drop Box has three keys to protect the Deposited ballots. It takes two keys to open the storage area and one key to lock the top chute. The top chute is designed to limit the size of objects that can be placed in it.
- Each drop box is either bolted to the ground or secured to a fixed object with a cable and lock.
- All drop boxes are closed at 8pm on Election Day just like Vote Centers.
- The ballots in the drop boxes are picked up by election staff every 1 to 2 days depending on the usage. As we near Election Day they are picked up every day, and sometimes multiple times per day.
- There are always two sworn election representatives retrieving the ballots from Drop Boxes.
- Several of our drop boxes are 24-hour drive up to make it easy and convenient. We do get people who work late shifts or early morning shifts who use these drop boxes on their way to and from work or on their way out of town at late and early hours.
- It is legal for people to drop off multiple ballots whether at a drop box or in our office. Typically, we see people drop off ballots for their household, family, friends, neighbors, or others. We have not seen people drop dozens or hundreds of ballots in El Dorado County, but it would be legal if they did.
- Every ballot dropped in a drop box, in the mail, at our office or a vote center **MUST** be associated with a REGISTERED voter. **ADDITIONALLY**, the signature on the ballot envelope **MUST** match the signature we have on file for the registered voter listed on the envelope. **ALSO**, it has to be the first returned ballot.
- The idea of stuffing a drop box as a method of voter fraud is simply not true. A drop box is the same as a voter putting their ballot in the mail back to us or dropping it at our office or a vote. It makes no difference if someone visits or drops ballots in a Drop Box dozens of times, it must be a legitimate ballot that is associated and signed by a REGISTERED voter and will be verified before opening.
- To Stuff a Drop Box they must first stuff our Voter Registration and have access to every address they use and be experts at forging the false registration signatures each time. We routinely check our registration numbers by address to look for excessive registrations at an address.
- Drop Boxes are simply a mailbox that is managed directly by the Elections Department.
- The highest return of ballots in El Dorado County has historically had 94% of voted ballots arrive by mail. The bulk of these ballots are returned to drop boxes, approximately 60%.