

Ten-Step Life Cycle of a Ballot

Step one – Ballot content is certified by the Colorado Secretary of State's Office.

Step two – The ballot is designed and proofed for accuracy.

Step three – The ballot design is sent to the printer vendor for production.

Step four – Tablet ballots are set up for voting, and the Denver Elections Division also conducts a public Logic and Accuracy Test.

Step five – Ballots are mailed 22 days before Election Day.

Step six – Drop boxes open and are checked daily by bipartisan security teams. Unopened envelopes are returned to Denver Election Division headquarters.

Step seven – Ballot envelopes are prepped for sorting. Envelopes are also date- and time-stamped at this point.

Step eight – Signatures are verified and ballots are prepared for counting.

Step nine – Ballots are scanned and imprinted with a number used to conduct a Risk-Limited Audit after the election.

Step ten – Ballots are tabulated. First unofficial results are posted at 7 p.m. on Election Day and are counted from ballots that have been returned before the last day to vote. Unofficial results are not posted until ALL BALLOTS ARE COUNTED and then are sent to the Secretary of State and posted publicly. In the weeks following, a risk-limiting audit is performed to ensure accuracy, and a bipartisan canvass board certifies the results.