

Pennsylvania

Provisional Ballot Survey

Provisional Ballots Cast: 53,698
Provisional Ballots Counted: 26,092
Percent Counted: 48.6%
Percent of Vote: 0.93%
Figures may not complete

DESIGN

1. Who designs the provisional ballot envelope, the state or county?

The state designs the provisional ballot envelopes. The state sends its design to the counties electronically. Counties can change the design somewhat, but they clear it with the state.

2. Is the entity responsible for designing the provisional ballot designated by statute or rule?

State law requires some design rules, while counties are designated responsible for designing their own local election sections and printing ballots for their communities.

3. Does Pennsylvania have a provisional ballot that also serves as a voter registration application?

No, Pennsylvania does not have a combined form.

4. Is Pennsylvania's provisional ballot visually distinguishable from a regular ballot?

Yes. The envelope has PROVISIONAL BALLOT stamped on it and the provisional ballot is marked as such.

AVAILABILITY AND STANDARDS

1. Are there a required number of provisional ballots at polling places?

No, currently the state does not set a required number of provisional ballots at each polling place. The County Board of Elections is responsible for determining the number of provisional ballots for each precinct. There is pending legislation that would require an amount equal to a given percentage of the electorate in a precinct.

2. What do poll workers do if the polling place runs out of provisional ballots?

Prior to running out, poll workers would contact the County Board of Elections, which would make efforts to deliver more ballots to the precinct. The County Board of Elections in all counties has direct access to all the polling sites. They also have

people dispatched during the day to fix voting machines and address other problems as the election is underway.

3. Are provisional ballots tracked from distribution to polling sites through counting?

Once a provisional ballot is issued to an elector, the ballot is assigned with a unique identifying number and the voter receives a receipt with the same number. A bar coded sticker is stuck on the ballot and the voter gets a card that has the same control number on it. The unique numbers are not issued until the voter receives the ballot. Counties may also track how many provisional ballots are issued to each precinct for auditing purposes.

COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

1. Who determines whether or not a provisional ballot is valid?

The County Board of Elections and its designees investigate the validity of each provisional ballot. The determination is made at a public meeting run by the County Board of Elections.

2. What is the time frame for counting provisional ballots?

Provisional ballot envelopes must be examined within seven days to determine the qualifications of the individual who cast the provisional ballot.

3. What is the process for determining the eligibility of a provisional ballot?

Election Staff investigate whether or not each provisional ballot is cast by a valid voter. After the information is gathered, the determination is made at a public meeting.

4. Who can observe the process?

Any member of the public can observe the meeting. Information gathering by the county is not public.

5. Is a provisional ballot counted if it is cast in the wrong precinct?

A provisional ballot cast in the incorrect county would not be counted. A provisional ballot cast at the wrong precinct within the correct county would be counted in all races for which the voter is eligible to vote.

6. What information must voters provide on the provisional ballot?

Voters provide their name, address, date of birth, county, municipality, signature, and may choose to provide their phone number.

7. May a voter remedy a provisional ballot that may be rejected?

Voters may attend the public meeting to challenge a decision on a provisional ballot or to provide ID.

8. If voters remedy a flawed provisional ballot, how are they notified of this opportunity?

Counties may contact voters before the public meeting, but are not required to do so.

9. What can voters do if they failed to bring ID to the polls?

Only voters who are voting in the precinct for the first time are required to provide ID. They have seven days to bring ID to the county board of elections.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

1. What is the state's Free Notification System to inform voters whether their provisional ballot was counted?

Voters are mailed notification, and they can also call a toll-free number or look up their provisional ballot status on the website.

2. Who administers the Free Notification System?

Counties print and send the letters, and the state administers other components of the notification system.

3. What is the timeline for posting information to the Free Notification System?

There is no required timeline. The state sends out the information after it is received from the counties (at least seven days after the election).