

South Carolina *Provisional Ballot Survey*

Provisional Ballots Cast: 4,930
Provisional Ballots Counted: 3,207
Percent Counted: 65.1%
Percent of Vote: 0.20%

DESIGN

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

The state designs the provisional ballot.

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

State statute designates the state as responsible for the design.

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

No, South Carolina does not have a combined form.

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

Yes. Regular ballots are cast on electronic voting machines, while provisional ballots are cast on an optical scan machines. Provisional ballot forms are the same as the forms that are used if the electronic voting machines break down. However, provisional ballots are put in an envelope and marked "failsafe" or "challenge."

AVAILABILITY AND STANDARDS

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

No. By administrative rule, the number of provisional ballots provided to each precinct is based on historical use.

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

Precinct workers contact the County Election Commission (CEC) to get more provisional ballots.

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

The total number of provisional ballots printed for each precinct is compared with the total number used for each precinct. There is also a secrecy envelope for the provisional ballot. The ballot is kept within this secrecy envelope until its eligibility is determined, so that it can

be tracked up until the time it is counted. There is not tracking system for the reasons why provisional ballots are issued or why they were not counted.

COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

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

By state law, the Municipal Elections Commission for city elections and the County Election Commission for county, statewide, and federal races determine the eligibility of each provisional ballot.

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

For primary elections, the Election Commission holds the hearing to determine the eligibility of provisional ballots on the Thursday following Election Day. For general elections, the hearing is held the Friday following Election Day. This timeline is provided by state law.

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

All provisional ballots are presumed to be counted unless otherwise proven to be invalid. The hearing is public and held by County Election Commission or the Municipal Election Commission in the case of municipal elections. A challenger or the voter can provide evidence at the hearing. The voter can also bring ID to this hearing if the voter failed to bring it to the precinct.

4. Who can observe the process?

Any member of the public may attend the County or Municipal Election Commission hearing that determines the eligibility of provisional ballots.

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

No, provisional ballots must be cast in the correct precinct.

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

A voter must write his or her name and address on the secrecy envelope.

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

Voters may attend the hearing and defend their ballot if it is challenged at the hearing. If the ballot is not challenged at the hearing, it will be counted

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

Provisional voters are notified at the polling place of the hearing..

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

The voter can bring his ID to the polling place on Election Day before the polls close. The best solution is for the voter to bring his ID to the hearing, but some counties may choose to allow the voter to remedy an ID situation before hand.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

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

Voters can check the status of their provisional ballot online at www.scvotes.org.

2. Who administers the Free Notification System?

The site is administered by the state, and counties are responsible for putting in their own information.

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

Information should be available following the day of the hearing.