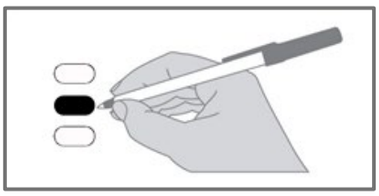
May 17, 2022 Primary Election – Helpful Information

The following information has been provided to assist you with:

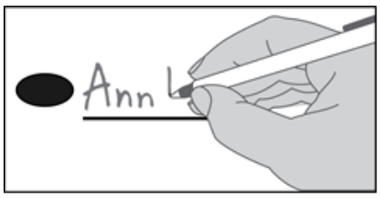
- Ensuring Your Vote Counts
- Returning Your Ballot
- Understanding the Path of Your Vote-By-Mail Ballot
- Answering Some Frequently Asked Questions

➔ Ensure Your Vote Counts: Use a blue or black pen to vote your ballot

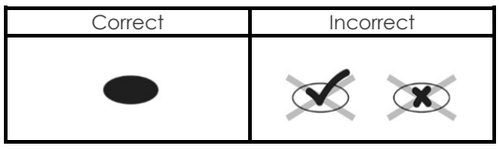
How to Mark Your Ballot



➔ To vote for a candidate or measure, completely fill in the oval to the left of your response of your choice.



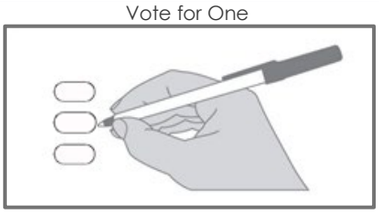
➔ To write in a name, completely fill in the oval to the left of the write-in line and write the name on the line.



➔ To ensure the readability of your response, completely fill in the oval.
➔ Do not make checkmarks.
➔ Do not make X's

Undervote

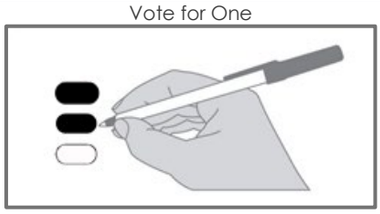
Vote for One



➔ If you do not vote on a race or measure, it is called an undervote.
➔ A vote will not be counted for the race or measure.
➔ You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still be counted.

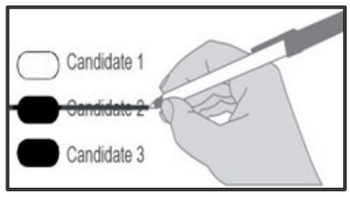
Overvote

Vote for One



➔ If you vote for more candidates than allowed, or if you vote both Yes and No on a measure, it is called an overvote.
➔ A vote will not be counted for the race or measure you overvote, unless you correct it.
➔ You may correct an overvote by following the instructions on "How to Correct a Mistake".

How to Correct a Mistake



To correct a mistake;

➔ Draw a line through the oval and your unwanted response.
➔ Completely fill in the oval to the left of your wanted response.
➔ Your wanted response will be counted.

You may contact Jackson County Elections at 541-774-6148 to request a replacement ballot if: you make a mistake, your ballot is damaged or spoiled, or your ballot is lost (or for any other reason).

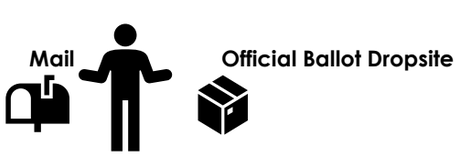
➔ Returning Your Ballot for the May 17, 2022 Primary Election

After voting your ballot:

1. **Review** your ballot for mistakes;
2. **Insert** your ballot into the ballot return envelope;
3. **Seal** the ballot return envelope;
4. **Sign** the ballot return envelope;
5. **Return** your ballot.

You have two ways to return your ballot:

1. **Mail** your ballot so it is postmarked by Election Day; or
2. **Deposit** your ballot in an official Oregon ballot drop box by 8pm on Election Day.



Important! Your ballot must be returned in the ballot return envelope provided with your ballot packet. **Make sure you are signing the ballot return envelope issued to you!**

If you have lost or damaged your ballot return envelope, please contact our office at 541-774-6148.

Official Jackson County Ballot Dropsites

Jackson County Elections 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201 Medford, OR 97501 (Office located on 2nd floor)	**Curbside** and walk up ballot drop boxes open 24 hours daily (left lane - W Main) Closes at 8 pm Election Day **Interior** ballot drop box in Elections office open 8 am to 4 pm, Monday - Friday (7 am - 8 pm on Election Day)
Ashland Library 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Ashland, OR 97520	**Curbside** ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (alley off Gresham St. by book drop) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Central Point Library 116 S. 3rd St. Central Point, OR 97502	**Walk up** ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (south side of library building, main entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Eagle Point Library 239 W. Main St. Eagle Point, OR 97524	**Walk up** ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Medford Library 239 W. Main St. Eagle Point, OR 97524	**Curbside** ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (parking lot entrance off 10th St.) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Phoenix Library 510 W. 1st St. Phoenix, OR 97535	**Walk up** ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Rogue River Library 412 E. Main St. Rogue River, OR 97537	**Walk up** ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day

➔ The Path of Your Vote-By-Mail Ballot

In 1998 Oregon voters passed a ballot measure directing all elections to be conducted by mail, commonly called Vote-By-Mail. Instead of using traditional polling places where voters go to cast ballots on Election Day, a ballot is mailed to each registered voter. The ballot is then returned to the county elections office to be counted.

➔ **Oregon election days:** 2nd Tuesday in March, 3rd Tuesday in May, 4th Tuesday in August, and the Tuesday following the 1st Monday in November. Special elections can be called by governing bodies for other election days.

➔ **Election Types:** Primary-May of even numbered years, General-November of even numbered years, Special District-May of odd numbered years, Special-any election day called by a governing body, including March and August.

➔ **Check your registration status:** Verify your information, register to vote or update if necessary, at **oregonvotes.gov/myvote**. The deadline for new voters to register to vote is 21 days prior to an election. The deadline to change or select a political party is 21 days prior to a Primary Election.

➔ **Your ballot will be mailed to you:** A ballot packet is automatically sent to all registered voters who are eligible to vote in the election.

➔ **Vote your ballot:** Make your selections and place the ballot in the ballot return envelope provided with your ballot packet.

➔ **Sign your ballot return envelope:** The ballot return envelope is preprinted with your information. Make sure you are signing the ballot return envelope addressed to you!

➔ **Return Your Ballot:** Mail your ballot back (no postage needed) on or before Election Day or return it to an official Oregon ballot dropsite by 8pm on Election Day. Ballots mailed back must be postmarked on or before Election Day!

➔ **Upon its return, your ballot return envelope is reviewed:** The barcode on your envelope is scanned, creating a return log. This ensures that only one ballot is accepted for each voter.

➔ **Verify your ballot has been received:** Visit **oregonvotes.gov/myvote** to check the status of your ballot. Currently, the system is only set up to show that your ballot has been received.

➔ **Your signature is verified:** The signature on your ballot return envelope is compared to the signature(s) contained within your voter registration record to verify that you signed the affidavit. The ballot remains sealed inside the ballot return envelope during this process. Power of attorneys may not sign the return identification envelope for a voter.

➔ **Logic and accuracy testing:** Programming and ballot readability testing is performed on each ballot-counting machine before any ballots for the election are scanned. After all ballots have been scanned and before certification, the same testing is performed on each ballot-counting machine to ensure no programming changes have been made to the vote tally system.

➔ **The ballot is prepared for counting:** The ballot is removed from the ballot return envelope and prepared for counting by mixed party election board members. Ballots are carefully logged in and tracked during the counting process but the results cannot be released until 8pm on election day.

➔ **Election results:** Beginning at 8pm on election day, unofficial election results may be viewed at **oregonvotes.gov** and will be updated throughout election day. Precinct level results and write-in results are available upon certification of the election. The deadline to certify election results is 27 days after the election.

➔ **Hand count of ballots counted by the vote tally system:** County elections officials are required to determine whether to conduct a random sampling hand count or risk limiting audit of ballots counted by the vote tally system in the county at every primary, general, or special election. Jackson County will conduct a random sampling hand count for the May 17, 2022 Primary Election. The results of the random sampling hand count will be made available to the public by the Oregon Secretary of State's office at **oregonvotes.gov**.

➔ Frequently Asked Questions for the May 17, 2022 Primary Election

➔ **Why do I not have partisan candidates on my ballot?** In a primary election, voters are limited to choosing candidates of the party in which they are registered with as of the 21st day prior to the election. Democrats will receive a Democratic primary ballot; Republicans will receive a Republican primary ballot; Minor party and nonaffiliated voters will receive a nonpartisan ballot.

➔ **When do I need to update my registration?** When your residence address, mailing address, or name changes or when you want to change your political party affiliation or update your signature. Update your registration online at **oregonvotes.gov/myvote**. Registration cards are also available at post offices, DMV offices or an Elections office (use a card to update your name or signature).

➔ **Where is my optional secrecy sleeve?** An optional secrecy sleeve is no longer included with your ballot packet because the ballot return envelope has been enhanced with a printed security weave on the inside that protects the privacy of your ballot. Your privacy and the secrecy of your vote has always been and will continue to be protected throughout the ballot counting process. This decision has been formally approved by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office and will save money and staff time.

➔ **Why is there a hole in my ballot return envelope?** After the election board members have removed the ballots from the envelopes, they stack them into bundles and look through the holes to verify that all the ballots have been removed. This ensures a ballot has not been left in the envelope. The holes are then used to zip tie the envelopes together in batches for storage.

➔ **What if my signature does not match or I forgot to sign my ballot return envelope?** In the event your signature does not match or you forget to sign your ballot return envelope, we will notify you. You will have until 21 days after the election to prove you were the one who signed the envelope (or forgot to sign the envelope) in order to have your ballot counted.

➔ **Can someone find out how I've voted?** No. All ballots are separated from the ballot return envelope before the ballots are inspected. This process ensures confidentiality.

➔ **Can someone find out whether I've returned my ballot?** Yes. That information is public record.

➔ **Have the Jackson County precincts changed?** Yes, districts and precincts change every ten years after the Decennial Census. The precinct boundaries were updated in early 2022 based on the new electoral boundaries adopted during the 2021 1st Special Session of the Oregon State Legislature. Precincts are created for the purpose of administering elections and, as nearly as practicable, are contiguous; utilize existing geographic or political boundaries; do not divide communities of common interest; are connected by transportation links; and are limited to no more than 10,000 voters. The number of precincts in Jackson County increased from 45 to 50. Precinct and district information, including an interactive map, is available at **jacksoncountyor.org/clerk/Elections/Elections-Office.**

Jackson County Elections 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201 Medford, Oregon 97501 | **Phone** 541-774-6148 | **Fax** (541) 774-6140 | **Email** elections@jacksoncounty.org