

# May 2025 Election

Integrity Maintained,  
Improved Accessibility and  
Data Security  
Transparency Needed



October 10, 2025

# Background

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# May 2024 Election Calendar

	<b>2/8 First day for candidate filing</b>
	3/20 Last day for candidate filing
	3/24 Last day to file statements for the Voter's Pamphlet
	4/5 Last day to print and mail ballots to military and overseas voters
4/30 First day to mail ballots to voters	4/29 Last day to register to vote
	5/6 Last day to distribute and mail pamphlets and ballots
5/13 Last day to conduct certification test of vote tally system	
	<b>5/20 Election Day</b>
5/27 Last day to receive ballots postmarked by election day	
<b>6/11 Deschutes County election results certified</b>	6/10 Last day to resolve challenged signatures
	6/16 Last day to deliver abstracts to appropriate elections officials
	6/26 Last day to deliver results to Secretary of State
6/30 Last day to file contest of election	7/1 Last day to file recount demand
<b>7/7 Election Day Report due</b>	



# Clerk's Office Description of Process



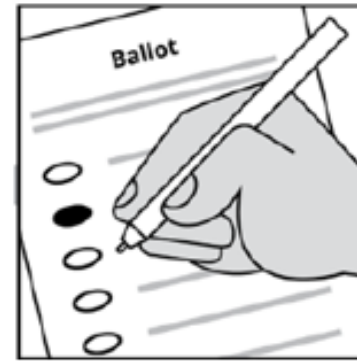
## 1. Voter Registration:

To register to vote, you are required to provide valid identification proving that you are eligible to vote. After reviewing and verifying your information, we enter it into our voter registration database.

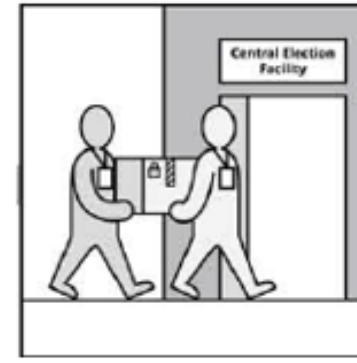


## 2. Equipment Testing:

We use election equipment that is certified according to State and Federal standards. We test our election equipment before, during, and after each election.



3. **Ballots Are Mailed:** All registered voters are mailed a ballot packet containing their ballot and a postage-paid return envelope that has a printed security weave on the inside that protects your privacy and the secrecy of your vote.

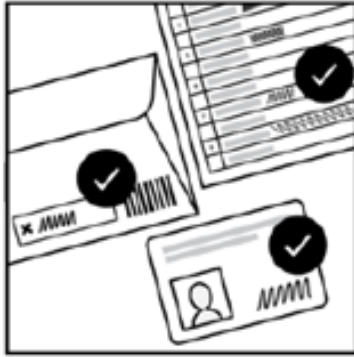


## 4. Ballot Collection:

Voters can return their voted ballot by mail or at one of our ten Official Ballot Drop Site locations, conveniently located throughout the county. Drop Site ballots are collected, and mailed ballots are received at our Clerk's Office located in the Deschutes Services Building for ballot tabulation.



# Clerk's Office Description of Process



## 5. Verify Voter

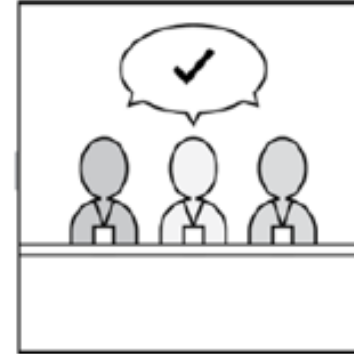
**Eligibility:** Upon receipt of your ballot, it is sent through our ballot envelope sorting machine, which scans an image of your signature while sorting your ballot by voting precinct. Trained elections staff verify your envelope signature by comparing it to your signature on file in the voter registration database.



**6. Processing Ballots:** If your signatures match, your ballot envelope moves on to be opened. If they don't match, we contact you by mail to resolve the issue so we can count your ballot. If a ballot is damaged or contains machine-unreadable marks, we flag it for manual review. Our goal is to count all eligible ballots as voters intend.



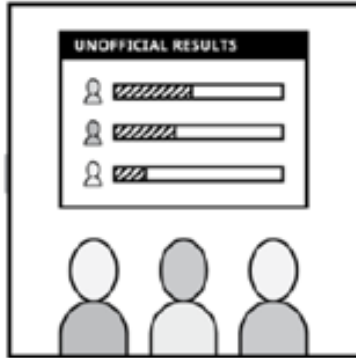
**7. Ballot Scanning and Tabulation:** After ballots are removed from their envelopes, we scan the ballots and count all the valid votes to determine the results of each contest in the election. Our federally and state certified voting system is secure and never connected to the internet.



**8. Ballot Adjudication:** Teams of two staff, each of different political parties, review if ballots are damaged, have stray marks, or have corrections, undervotes, overvotes, and blank contests to verify voter intent and ensure accurate tabulation. All ballots are stored in a secure location under 24/7 surveillance.



# Clerk's Office Description of Process



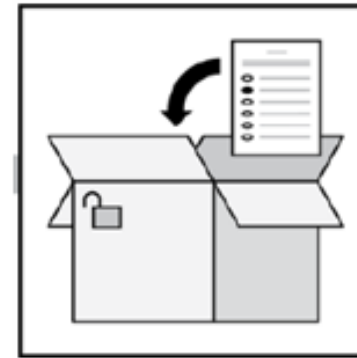
**9. Unofficial Results:** We begin publishing unofficial results after 8pm on Election Day. Results are unofficial until after all [ballot](#) return deadlines have passed and after we have counted every valid ballot we received.



**10. Certification of Official Results:** After the Board of Canvassers reviews and verifies the outcome of the election, official election results are certified by the county.



**11. Audits:** Audits are a normal check and balance that are part of every election. We use audits to confirm that election equipment accurately interpreted and tallied voters' ballots, that the outcome of the election reflects how voters voted, and that election workers followed procedures.



**12. Ballot Storage:** We securely store all paper ballots and other records as part of the official record for two years. After two years, the ballots are destroyed.

Source: Clerk's Office Deschutes County Elections Overview



# Audit Objective

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Determine whether the County's election system is secure, accessible, and accurate.



# Sub Objectives: Determine whether

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1. Information security controls on the Clear Ballot system are adequate to prevent tampering with the system.
2. Voting is accessible to people with physical disabilities or language barriers.
3. Control processes to identify ineligible registered voters are effective.
4. The signature verification process correctly identifies invalid signatures.
5. The ballot inspection process correctly identifies which ballots should be counted, enhanced/reproduced, or rejected.





# Fieldwork

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Cyber  
Security  
Checklist



Election  
Observation



Document  
and Data  
Analysis



# Scope Impairment

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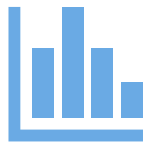
# Can't Draw Conclusions Related to Information Security



Technology is an integral component of modern elections, and its reliability is a major concern



National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)



The Clerk denied access to procedures related to the Clear Ballot system and refused to discuss information security



Could not assess cause



# Findings and Recommendations

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# Ballot Drop Boxes Not Fully Accessible



Ballot box height exceeded 48 inches at the Old Mill.



Gaps in pavement at the Fair and Expo Center.



A gate at the Bradbury Park and Ride site prevented use as a drive-up location.



# Recommendations

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Inspect drop boxes on a regular basis using Americans with Disabilities Act standards for accessible design.

Create plan for improving any boxes that do not meet standards.



# Observations

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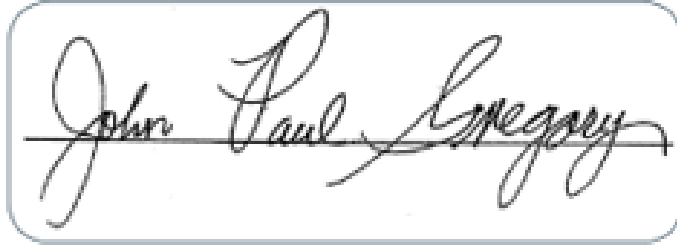
# Voter Rolls Checked and Confirmed

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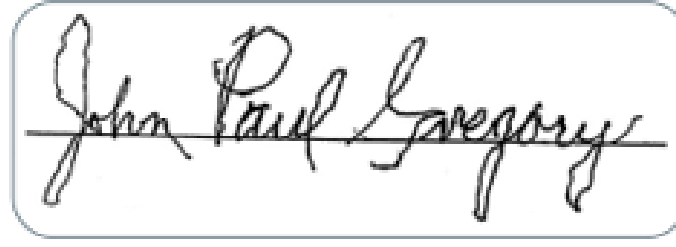




# Signature Verification Process Worked

A handwritten signature of John Paul Gregory in cursive script, written on a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a rounded rectangular box.

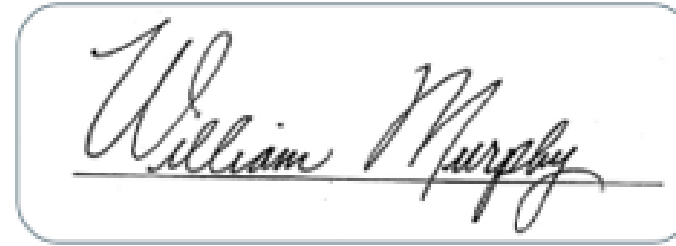
Signature 1

A handwritten signature of John Paul Gregory in cursive script, written on a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a rounded rectangular box.

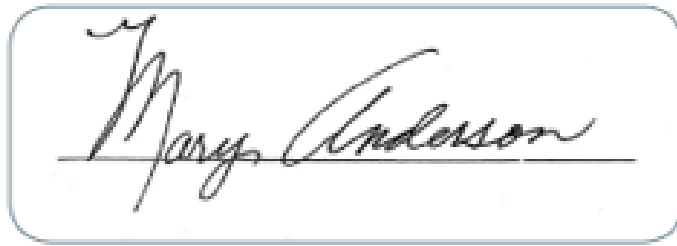
Signature 2

A handwritten signature of Bill Murphy in cursive script, written on a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a rounded rectangular box.

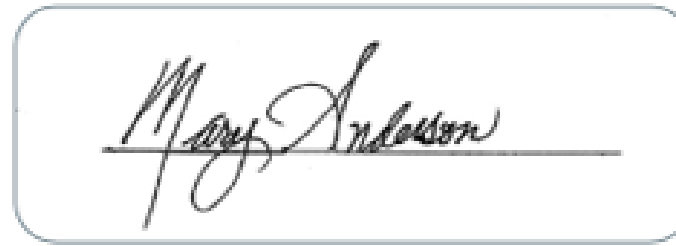
Signature 1

A handwritten signature of William Murphy in cursive script, written on a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a rounded rectangular box.

Signature 2

A handwritten signature of Mary Anderson in cursive script, written on a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a rounded rectangular box.

Signature 1

A handwritten signature of Mary Anderson in cursive script, written on a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a rounded rectangular box.

Signature 2

Source: Oregon Vote By Mail Manual



# Votes Cast Reflected Intent



Yes



No (erasure has been done)



Yes



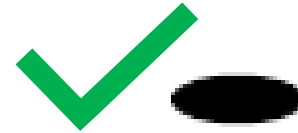
No (erasure has not been done)



Yes



No



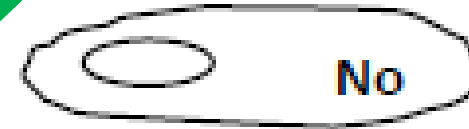
Yes



No



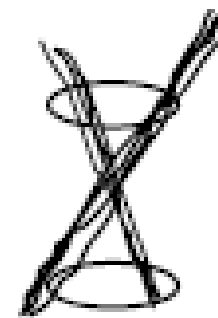
Yes



No



Yes



No



# Accommodations Offered, but Outreach Could Be Improved



**Elecciones especiales de  
mayo de 2025**

**Folleto en español para los  
votantes del condado de  
Deschutes**



# Questions and Comments?

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## Complete the Survey!

