



## **How Louisiana Keeps Absentee Voting Safe**

- To qualify to vote absentee by mail, individuals must have first voted in-person in a previous election and confirmed their identity.
- Registrars only send absentee ballot applications to individuals who have requested an application. Ballot applications are never preemptively sent to a voter.
- Registrars only send absentee ballots to individuals who request a ballot and sign an affidavit for one of the limited qualifying reasons that are eligible for an absentee ballot.
- Providing false information on an absentee ballot application or ballot is an election crime.
- All absentee ballots require a witness signature.
- Witnesses and those assisting a voter, if needed, can only witness or assist one absentee ballot except for immediate family members.
- Individuals may only return one non-immediate family member's absentee ballot in addition to their own.
- Ballot harvesting is illegal and constitutes an election crime.
- Ballots must be returned by 4:30 p.m. the day before the election.
- Registrars track the number of sent and received ballots, verify that there is only one ballot per voter, and clearly mark any replacement ballots.
- Rejected ballots are tracked and the tally turnout is compared to the expected total of ballots after all ballots have been scanned. If the numbers do not match, the Parish Board of Election Supervisors conducts an audit until the matter is resolved.
- Zero proof reports are printed to verify that there is no vote tally on equipment prior to the start of tabulation.
- Secretary of State staff perform logic and accuracy testing on the vote tally equipment in a public meeting.
- Parish Board of Election Supervisors adjudicates all absentee ballots in a public meeting. Secretary of State staff conduct post election audits on all absentee ballots.
- For more information, visit:  
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>

**Louisiana Secretary of State  
Nancy Landry**



## **How Louisiana Keeps Early Voting Safe**

- Equipment is programmed only by qualified staff of the Secretary of State's office.
- Equipment programming is tested and verified by Secretary of State staff prior to being hand delivered to parish Registrars of Voters.
- Equipment is hand delivered to parish Registrars of Voters by Secretary of State staff.
- Equipment is tested and sealed by the Parish Board of Election Supervisors. This process is open to the public.
- Public and protective counters are documented and verified by the Parish Board of Election Supervisors. This process is open to the public.
- All ports on all voting equipment are covered and sealed with a tamper evident seal and random seal number that is documented by the Parish Board of Election Supervisors.
- Live, real-time check-in ensures that a voter is only voting once.
- Voters must show a photo ID.
- Voter card deactivate after a voter begins their voting session to prevent the voter from voting more than once.
- Registrars of Voters employees keep watch at each site.
- At the end of each day of early voting, Registrars of Voters employees verify that the number of signatures in the poll book and the public and protective counters match.
- Every morning of early voting, Registrars of Voters employees again verify the public and protective counters and analyze each tamper-evident seal for any tampering or breaks.
- On the night of the election, after early voting has concluded, the Parish Board of Election Supervisors verify early voting equipment public and protective counters and verify that the seals have not been tampered with. They then verify the seal numbers.

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## **How Louisiana Keeps Election Day Voting Safe**

- Programming and program testing is done only by certified staff of the Secretary of State's office.
- Programming is hand delivered to the Secretary of State election machine warehouses.
- Secretary of State staff loads election files onto equipment.
- Secretary of State staff test and seal equipment. This process is open to the public.
- Secretary of State staff and the Parish Board of Election Supervisors verify the public and protective counters on each machine.
- Secretary of State staff run zero reports on the equipment used to read machine cartridges on election night. This equipment is air-gapped (not connected to the internet).
- Trained commissioners keep watch at each polling location.
- At the conclusion of the election, results at each polling place are printed and posted for the public. A second copy of the results tape is delivered to the Clerk of Court.
- Results are transferred over a secure, private, monitored network to the Secretary of State's office.
- After each transfer of results, the Clerk of Court verifies the correct results were posted to the Secretary of State's website.
- The unofficial results that are posted to the Secretary of State's website are replicated to prevent manipulation of the original, unofficial results.
- Voters must show a photo ID.
- At the end of each election, an audit is performed. The number of signatures in each poll book at each polling location is compared with the public and protective counters.

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