

VBM Processing November 2026 General Election

The **four step process** we plan to use to intercept all returned Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots that were affected by the ballot error: **A total of six (6) election judges, 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans will hand check each inbound vote by mail ballot prior to the ballot going through its normal process. We are working with our vote by mail vendor to program our mail sorting machine to also reject the incorrect ballots.**

Steps:

- 1) Two election judges, a Democrat and a Republican, will hand check all returned envelopes/ballots. The process will begin with one judge reading aloud the last seven digits of the barcode located on the back of the return envelope. The second judge will check that number against the list of identified ballot styles provided to them by the Clerk's staff. If there is a match, the judges will confer and place the affected envelope/ballot into a transfer case. That transfer case will be sealed and sequestered until the end of the election.
- 2) Two different election judges (**not the two judges from step one**), a Republican and a Democrat will repeat step 1 as a second layer of searching for the affected ballots and prevent them from being processed and cast.
- 3) As a third layer of searching and preventing the affected ballots from being processed, we will use our VBM mail sorting machine to reject the affected ballots as well.

Only after the steps outlined above will the ballot move to the stage of signature verification.

- 4) The final step before any outstanding VBM ballots can be processed will be yet another search done by two election judges. These election judges will repeat steps one and two as the fourth layer of searching and prevent any affected ballots from being processed.

After the fourth and final search for the affected ballots, the envelopes will be opened, the ballots will be initialed and cast by an election judge.

The vote by mail ballots that are not part of the incorrect styles will be processed normally by Democratic and Republican Election Judges.