

**BAY AREA
ELECTION OFFICIALS**

ALAMEDA
Tim Dupuis
Registrar of Voters



CONTRA COSTA
Kristin B. Connelly
Clerk-Recorder-Registrar



MARIN
Lynda Roberts
Registrar of Voters



MONTEREY
Gina Martinez
Registrar of Voters



NAPA
John Tuteur
Assessor-Recorder-Clerk



SAN BENITO
Francisco Diaz
Clerk-Auditor-Recorder



SAN MATEO
Mark Church
Assessor-Clerk-Recorder-
Chief Elections Officer



SANTA CLARA
Shannon Bushey
Registrar of Voters



SANTA CRUZ
Tricia Webber
County Clerk



SOLANO
Tim Flanagan
CIO/Registrar of Voters



SONOMA
Deva Proto
Clerk-Recorder-Assessor



COALITION OF BAY AREA ELECTION OFFICIALS

Website: bayareavotes.org
Facebook: [Bay Area Votes](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaVotes)

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 3/4/2024
FROM: Bay Area Election Officials

Counting Votes Takes Time

After Election Day, it takes time for County Elections Officials to count all the votes and make sure that all the votes have been counted. Counties have 28 days to complete the official canvass of an election. There are many steps that must be completed to ensure the integrity of the election, and in its essence, the purpose of the canvass accomplishes the following critical tasks:

- Ensure every eligible ballot is counted
- Ensure voters only voted once
- Ensure proper procedures were followed on Election Day
- Ensure the vote tabulation system is properly counting ballots

Processing Vote by Mail ballots takes time. Each signature is verified prior to preparing the ballot for counting. Vote by Mail ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received up to seven days after Election Day must go through this process as well.

During the canvass, voting records are updated based on whether a registered voter voted by mail or in person. During this process, the number of voters is reconciled to the number of ballots cast for each voting location. This is a critical step in ensuring that all ballots are accounted for from each voting location. The statewide voter registration database linking up all 58 counties helps staff ensure voters only voted once.

During the canvass, counties are required to conduct audits of the ballot counting system, by performing the One Percent Manual Tally. This involves randomly selecting at least one percent of the precincts of ballots cast in person, as well as Vote by Mail ballots, and performing a manual hand count of each set of ballots, then comparing them to the machine count results.

“Canvassing votes involves more than just scanning ballots and tallying results,” said Kristin B. Connelly, Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters. “There are many steps to ensure that ballots are counted properly, the equipment is counting correctly, and the integrity of the election is intact.”

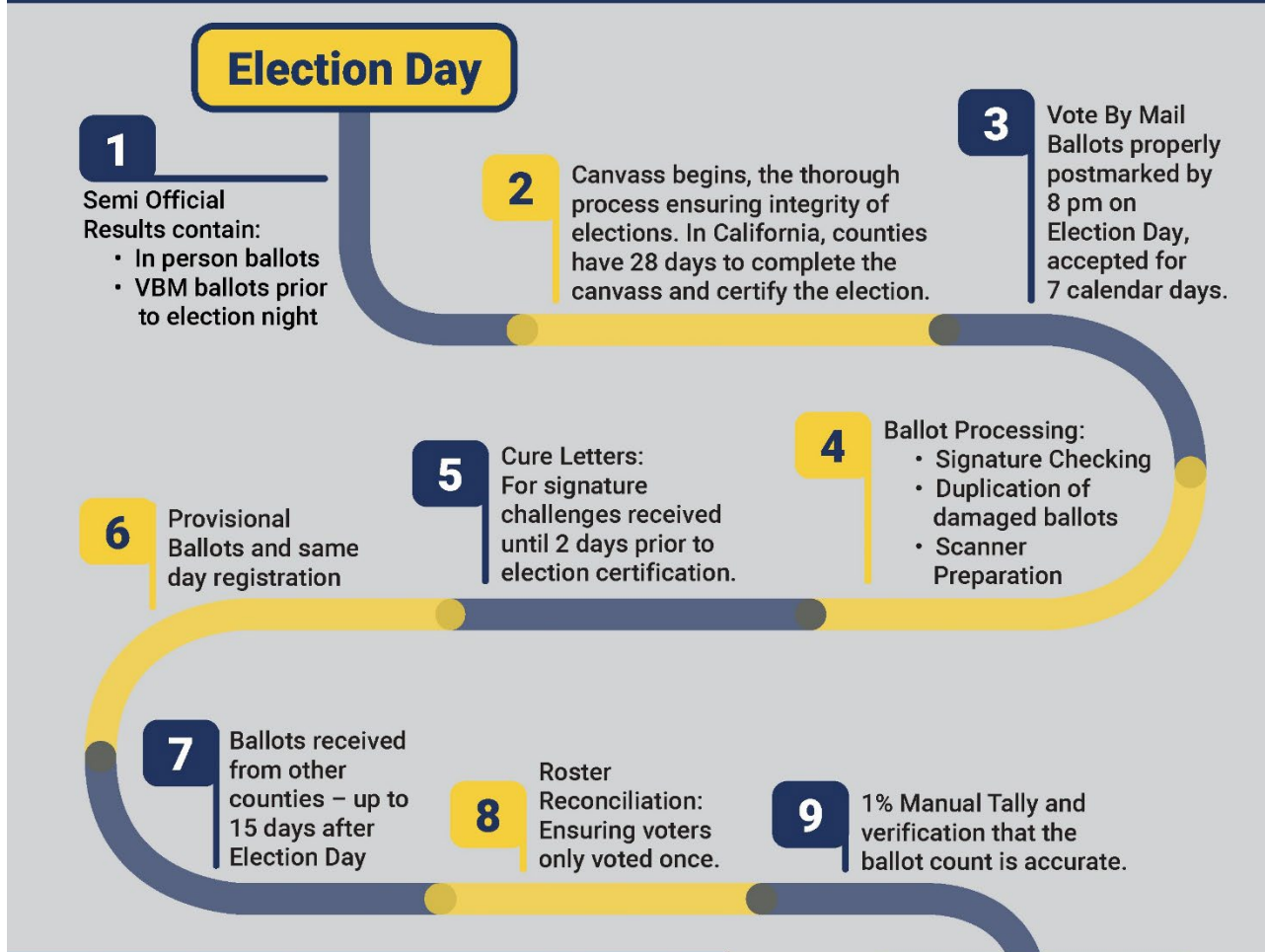
As with all activities related to an election, the canvass is open to the public for observation. Please contact your county elections office for more details on how to observe election activities. Information on this topic as well as direct links to local elections offices can be found on our website, BayAreaVotes.org, or our Facebook page, [Bay Area Votes](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaVotes).

WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG TO COUNT THE VOTES?



Coalition of Bay Area Election Officials
bayareavotes.org

Counting votes includes more than just scanning ballots and tallying results. The roadmap below shows what happens from the time polls close until the election is certified in the Bay Area.



Did you know?

All processes are open to the public for observation



Certification of Election



Coalition of Bay Area Election Officials

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