



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2000 Plainfield Pike, Suite A, Cranston, RI 02921
phone: 401-222-2345 | fax: 401-222-3135 | web: www.elections.ri.gov

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DIRECTIVE

The State Board of Elections ("Board") hereby issues this Directive to the local boards of canvassers for each city and town, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-7-5(c). The Directive provides guidance relating to the implementation and use of secure receptacles for the deposit of mail ballots by voters for Title 17 elections including the Statewide Primary to be held on September 13, 2022 and the General Election on November 8, 2022. Every receptacle shall be deemed to be the property of the Board of Elections.

The local boards of canvassers are hereby directed to make available a receptacle at each polling place ("Official Polling Place Receptacle") for the deposit of any mail ballots cast by voters under chapter 20 of title 17 of the General Laws. Each Official Polling Place Receptacle shall be available for use by any voter during the period that the polling place remains open, from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m. (except for New Shoreham which shall be available from 9 a.m. through 8 p.m.). Any person who is standing in line for the purpose of depositing a mail ballot into the Official Polling Place Receptacle at 8 p.m. shall be permitted to do so. The voter is not required to use the receptacle located at their designated precinct polling location. The voter may deposit the mail ballot in any Official Polling Place Receptacle located at any polling location.

The Official Polling Place Receptacle shall be used exclusively for the receipt of any mail ballot that is enclosed within a sealed certification envelope. Any ballot that is not enclosed within a sealed certification envelope shall not be tabulated for the election.

The Official Polling Place Receptacles shall be under the supervision of a designated polling place official and shall be monitored to ensure that it is safe and being properly used for the receipt of mail and emergency ballots within a sealed certification envelope. Each receptacle shall be labeled as an Official Polling Place Receptacle and will further be labeled to indicate that it is only for the deposit of mail and emergency ballots contained within a sealed certification envelope. The receptacle shall also include the notation that: Any ballot that is not contained within a sealed certification envelope shall not be tabulated for the election.

Each Official Polling Place Receptacle shall be tamper-proof and shall use a slot opening that is capable of receiving mail ballots. The receptacles shall be placed in a visible but protected location that is readily accessible to the voter for the deposit of mail ballots. The receptacle shall be located no more than 10 feet before the poll worker tables that are used to process or check-in voters at the polling place. The location of the Official Polling Place Receptacle must comply with the requirements of subtitle A of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12134, as amended. The location of the Official Polling Place Receptacle must be accessible to any person with a disability and be in a location that provides access for any disabled person and is at a height that permits the deposit of mail ballots from the height of a wheelchair.

At 8 p.m. on election day, upon the last mail ballot deposited by any person in line to do so, the designated polling official shall seal the Official Polling Place Receptacle to prevent any additional mail ballots being deposited after the close of the election.

Immediately upon the close of the polls and the sealing of the Official Polling Place Receptacle, the local board of canvassers or its designated polling official shall transport each Official Polling Place Receptacle to its respective city or town hall. The Official Polling Place Receptacles shall be stored in a locked and secure location. Before 12 p.m. on the day following any election, each Official Polling Place Receptacle shall be delivered by a designated agent of the local board of canvassers to the Board of Elections located at its offices 2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston, Rhode Island, and shall be accompanied by a completed manifest form provided by the Board. The manifest shall set forth the date and time of the transmittal of the Official Polling Place Receptacle to the city or town hall. Only persons designated by the local boards of canvassers, including assigned law enforcement officers, shall be authorized to transport the sealed Official Polling Place Receptacle to the Board of Elections. The Board shall record the date and time that the Official Polling Place Receptacle is received.

The Board or the designated Election Official shall be responsible for the opening of each Official Polling Place Receptacle. No receptacle shall be unlocked or opened by any other person, including any official of the local boards of canvassers. The Board staff shall open each sealed Official Polling Place Receptacle, count and document the number of mail ballots contained therein, and continue with the processing and certification of the sealed certification envelopes in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 20 of Title 17 of the General Laws.

The Board and the local boards of canvassers shall provide public notice of the availability of the Official Polling Place Receptacle for election day and said notice shall be posted on the websites of the Board of Elections as well as the official website for each city and town.

This Directive may remain in full force and effect until further order or directive of the Board. Provided, however, that if less than five percent of all mail ballots outstanding for the November 8, 2022 election are cast from mail ballots deposited in an Official Polling Place Receptacles for the General Election, this Directive may be withdrawn by the Board.

As voted upon and issued by the Board of Elections on this ^{24th} day of August, 2022.



Diane C. Mederos
Chairwoman