

## **Understanding Provisional Voting**

### **What is a Provisional Ballot?**

A provisional ballot is a regular ballot that is placed in a special envelope. It is used when a voter's registration cannot be determined at the poll site. Provisional ballots are put through a detailed verification process before being counted.

### **Reasons why you would receive a Provisional Ballot.**

1. You are not listed on the Voter Roster. *(You are not a registered voter)*
2. You are a Vote-by-Mail voter and you did not bring your ballot and envelope with you to turn in to the poll site.
3. You went to the wrong poll site.
4. You believe you are registered with a different political party than the one shown in the roster.

### **How are Provisional Ballots counted?**

Election Officials must check each provisional envelope to determine the voter's registration status. This process starts after election day and takes 2-3 weeks to complete. If the voter's registration cannot be verified or it is determined the voter already voted, the ballot will not be counted.

### **Will the Provisional Ballot have the same races as my Vote-by-Mail Ballot?**

Where you live determines the races you vote. If you go to your assigned poll site, the provisional ballot will have the same races as your Vote-by-Mail ballot.

If you go to the wrong poll site, the provisional ballot may be missing some of the races you are entitled to vote. *For this reason, we encourage voters to go to their assigned poll site.*

### **The process of voting a Provisional Ballot.**

1. You will be asked to sign the provisional log.
2. You will be given a pink provisional envelope and a new voter registration form to complete before you are given a ballot.
3. You must fill out the pink provisional envelope and registration form completely and legibly. Follow the instructions given by the Poll Worker.
4. Mark your ballot, place it inside the pink provisional envelope, and seal it.
5. Place your registration form in the back flap of the pink envelope and drop the envelope in the ballot drop box.

### **How to avoid voting a Provisional Ballot.**

1. Make sure you are registered with your current information by the 15-day registration deadline.
2. If you Vote-by-Mail and want to go to a poll site, take your Vote-by-Mail ballot and envelope with you and give it to the Poll Worker when you sign in.
3. Make sure you go to your assigned poll site. *(The location is listed on the back of your sample ballot booklet or you can call the Elections Office)*

### **Provisional voting tips:**

1. Be sure to provide all requested information on the pink ballot envelope. It is important that the Election Officials can read your information.
2. You must sign the pink envelope if we can't verify your signature we can't count your ballot.
3. Be patient. Provisional voting takes longer because there are more steps to complete.

### **Important things to know:**

- The deadline to register to vote is 15 days before each election. If you miss that deadline you can still register and vote, but only at the Elections Office.
- You must re-register every time you move, your name changes, or you wish to change your political party.
- Vote-by-Mail voting begins 29 days before each election, so you have plenty of time to return your voted ballot.
- If you lose, damage or never receive your Vote-by-Mail ballot you can call our office and request a replacement ballot.
- Vote-by-Mail ballots are the first ones counted on election night.
- To check the status of your Vote-by-Mail or Provisional Ballot visit: [www.kernvote.com](http://www.kernvote.com)
- Our office hours are:
  - Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Election Day 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.