
Room Descriptions

Bay Area: Teams of sworn election workers pick up ballots from the post office and Official Ballot Drop Sites and bring them to the Duniway-Lovejoy Elections Building. They initially enter the building through the Bay Area. USPS trays come from the post office, red boxes come from stand-alone drop boxes, and blue boxes come from drop boxes in libraries. When ballots are delivered they are oriented the same direction (“faced”) in trays by election workers and then delivered to the Blue Room.

Blue Room: High speed envelope sorters scan the unique barcode on every envelope, capturing images of the signature on the ballot return envelope, then Automatic Signature Verification (ASV) software verifies signatures that are definitely a match to the voter’s registration record. Any signature that can not be verified by the ASV software is verified by trained elections workers in the Purple Room. Once signatures are verified, ballot envelopes are sorted into accepted or challenged groups by colored tray. Ballots that are accepted and ready to count are placed in green trays and then moved to the Green Room. Ballots that have challenged signatures are placed in black trays so that the voter can be contacted. Challenged ballots stay in the Blue Room until the challenge has been resolved.

Purple Room: Signatures that cannot be verified by the ASV software move on to be evaluated and verified by trained elections workers. Two common reasons why a voter’s signature is challenged is that there is no signature on the ballot return envelope at all or the signature on the envelope does not match the signature on the voter registration record. All voters whose signature is challenged or who did not sign their ballot are sent a letter and the voter has up to 21 days after Election Day to provide a valid signature, sign their ballot envelope, or cure the challenged signature. Voters who sign up for the Track Your Ballot service receive a notification via text, phone, and/or email that their ballot has been accepted and processed, or that there is a signature challenge.

Green Room: After signature verification, verified ballots are moved to and stored in the secure Green Room until they are ready to be opened and prepared for counting and tabulation.

Basement Area: Ballots are extracted from the ballot return envelopes using automated envelope extractors that slice open the envelope and allow election workers to extract the ballots from the ballot envelope. Opening Board teams of election workers from different party affiliations then prepare ballots for counting by flattening them and putting them by batches in transport carrier boxes to be moved to the Red Room for counting and tabulation.

Red Room: After ballots are ready for counting, election workers begin scanning ballots for tabulation each day up through Election Day. Unofficial election results are released beginning at 8:00 p.m.

election night. Additional updates of results continue until the election is certified which happens no later than 27 days after Election Day. Ballots are counted digitally using high-speed scanners with software that tallies the votes cast on every ballot. For those votes where voter intent is not clear by the software, a bipartisan team of election workers adjudicates the ballot, determining voter intent, using the digital image of the ballot. The ballot counting system is not connected to the internet or any county network. The ballot counting system is part of an air-gapped network that is only accessible from inside the Red Room. There are many additional physical and cyber security measures employed in this room to ensure the integrity of the vote count.

Mocha Room: Observation area where signature verification and ballot adjudication processes can be observed by Election observers. Video monitors show signature verification that is happening at work stations in the Purple Room and ballot adjudication that is happening at workstations in the Red Room.

Orange Room: Voter Assistance room where a bipartisan team of election workers provides voter assistance to any voter who requests it. Voter Assistance teams can also provide assistance off site by appointment to any voter who requests assistance.

Second Floor: Ballot assembly area where replacement ballots are prepared and the phone bank area where election workers answer voter questions. The phone number for all election questions is 503-988-VOTE (8683).

Main Floor Front Office: Customer service area where voters can get assistance with voter registration, receive a replacement ballot, vote in person, receive assistance in a preferred language or get assistance with voting if they have a disability. There are voting booths and Independent Voting Units (IVUs) that allow voters to use assistive technology to vote independently.

Voting Center Express: The Gresham Voting Center Express provides the same voter services as the main elections office. The Voting Center Express opens in the weeks before each Election Day and provides the same open hours as the main elections office during each election cycle. Voters can get assistance with voter registration, get a replacement ballot, vote in person, receive assistance in a preferred language or get assistance with voting if they have a disability. There are voting booths and an IVU for use on site.