

## Vote by Mail Facts

### What happened?

- **Supreme Court Action (Monday, September 14):** The Supreme Court declined to grant the Trump administration's request to stay lower court decisions that blocked proposed USPS ballot-handling regulations. These regulations will not take effect for the 2026 election, and USPS ballot processing operations will remain unchanged from previous election cycles.
- **Key Takeaway: No new limitations on mail-in voting are in effect.**

### Does this change how we will vote in November?

- **Voting by mail remains a safe and reliable option.** Voters can expect to receive their ballots by mail as usual and can return them to any [Multnomah County Official Ballot Drop Site](#) or via the USPS.
- **Currently, nothing changes for voters.**
- The Multnomah County Elections Division remains focused on administering the November 3, 2026 General Election in accordance with Oregon law and ensuring every eligible voter can confidently cast their ballot.

### What's next?

- **Nothing is changing for Oregon voters for the November 3, 2026 election.**
- Ongoing court cases related to the March 2026 executive order still need to be decided. We are closely tracking developments and will provide updates as we learn more.

### Can I still trust vote-by-mail?

- **Oregon's gold standard vote-by-mail elections are secure, accurate, fair.**
- We've been perfecting this system for decades and use many different methods to protect the integrity of our elections, including:
  - Barcodes to track ballots and make sure no one votes more than once.
  - Signature verification of every returned ballot envelope..
  - Paper ballots that can't be hacked.
  - Vote-tallying machines that are thoroughly and publicly tested before and after the election are never connected to the internet or any other network.
- **Claims about widespread voter fraud have been debunked time and time again.** In Oregon, a study determined there were 38 cases of improper voting over two decades and more than 60 million ballots cast.

### How can I prepare for the election?

- **Make a plan to vote!** Being prepared is the first step.
- **Check and update your voter registration information at [OregonVotes.gov](https://OregonVotes.gov).** Making sure your registration information is up to date leads to faster ballot delivery. The voter registration deadline for this election is Tuesday, October 13.
- **Be ready to vote and return your ballot as soon as possible.** Voters' pamphlets will be mailed to every household the week of October 5. Ballots will be mailed to voters starting Wednesday, October 14.
- **Decide how you want to return your ballot.** Multnomah County has more than 30 Official Ballot Drop Sites, including all 19 Multnomah County Libraries. **If you wish to mail your ballot, Elections recommends doing so no later than Tuesday, October 27 — one week before Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.**

### What are you doing to prepare for a move to in-person voting?

- **Again, no mail-in voting restrictions are in place in Multnomah County or Oregon.**
- On August 25, Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read issued [a directive](#) that requires all Oregon counties to continue to adhere to all ballot issuance timelines, mailing deadlines, and USPS delivery requirements outlined in Oregon law.
- In accordance with this directive, **we are adhering to Oregon law, which requires that ballots be mailed to voters by specific dates** (outlined below).
- If any future judicial decisions require changes, the Oregon Secretary of State will provide additional direction to counties. The Multnomah County Elections Division is prepared to promptly implement any new rules or procedures.

### Key Statutory Dates for Mailing Ballots

- **September 19, 2026** - Deadline to mail ballots to military and overseas voters (ORS 253.065)
- **October 5, 2026** - First day to mail ballots to voters with a non-Oregon mailing address who are not military or overseas voters (ORS 253.065; ORS 254.470)
- **October 14, 2026** - First day to mail ballots to all other voters, including voters without daily mail service (ORS 254.470)
- **October 20, 2026** - Last day to mail ballots to all voters (ORS 254.470)
- **October 29, 2026** - Last day Multnomah County will mail absentee, reissued, or replacement ballots (ORS 247.307; ORS 253.545; ORS 254.470)

### *References:*

[Secretary Read's August 25 Directive](#), [Public Rights Project Guidance on the March 2026 Executive Order](#)