



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO OFFICE OF THE CLERK-RECORDER

November 3, 2020 Presidential Election Vote By Mail (VBM) Instructions

1. Mark Your Ballot

- Mark your ballot using a dark ballpoint pen (No red ink)
- Completely fill in ovals like this: 
- You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.
- **Made a mistake?** Contact Clerk-Recorder Staff at 805-781-5228 for instructions.

2. Seal and Sign your VBM Return Envelope

- Crease and tear off ballot stub, fold the ballot, seal it in the VBM Return Envelope, read Declaration of Voter and sign your name in the space provided - your signature must look similar to the original signature on your Affidavit of Registration - **DO NOT PRINT YOUR NAME.**

BE SURE TO SIGN YOUR VBM RETURN ENVELOPE OR YOUR BALLOT CANNOT BE COUNTED

- If you are unable to sign, you must mark an “X” and have it witnessed by one other person. No one else may sign for you. Election law allows for the use of a signature stamp if it was used on your Affidavit of Registration. Contact the Clerk-Recorder Office for more information.
- If your residence address is different than what is printed on your envelope, please provide your updated address on the line provided.

3. Return Your VBM Ballot (There are multiple ways to return your VBM Ballot)

- Return your ballot by mail. The postage for your return envelope is paid for by the County. The USPS recommends that you mail your ballot by **October 27, 2020**, or sooner, if you want your ballot to arrive by Election Day – **November 3, 2020**.

Important Note: Mailed ballots received up to 17 days after Election Day will be accepted and counted by the County Clerk-Recorder Office if postmarked on or before Election Day.

- Return your ballot in person to the County Clerk-Recorder’s Office, at either: 1055 Monterey Street, #D120, San Luis Obispo (8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday - Friday) or 6565 Capistrano Ave, 2nd Floor, Atascadero (7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday-Friday).
- Return your ballot to any VBM Ballot Drop Box located in the County (see back for locations and hours)
- Return your ballot to any Voter Service Center between October 31-November 3rd (see back for locations and hours)

You may vote and return your ballot as soon as you receive it - you do not have to wait until Election Day. However once your voted ballot is returned to the Elections Office, either in person or by mail, it is considered **“in the ballot box”** and may not be retrieved or changed.

Unable to return your ballot? If you are unable to return your ballot, you may designate someone to return it for you. They must print and sign their name on the back of the Return Envelope.

If you desire a Voter Information Guide, contact Clerk-Recorder Staff at 805-781-5228

County of San Luis Obispo Clerk-Recorder

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