
CHAPTER 4

ELECTION BASICS

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ELECTION BASICS

Election Calendar

The Nevada Elections [Calendar](#) contains due dates, legal authority, events, and descriptions for filings, plans and reports that are due throughout each election cycle.

Types of Elections

Nevada holds both primary and general elections for all federal, state, and local offices. The State will hold a presidential preference primary election for major political parties, if more than one candidate of the same party files for the office of United States President. If only one candidate of a major political party files for candidacy, no presidential primary will be held for that party.

Separately, the Democratic and Republican major parties hold their own caucuses to help determine presidential nominees. The Secretary of State's Office does not oversee or play a role in the major party caucuses.

Presidential Preference Primary

Nevada's first Presidential Preference Primary election was held in the 2024 Election.

The Presidential Preference Primary election is held for major party qualified candidates running for the Office of the United States President and takes place on the first Tuesday in February of each presidential election year.

The Secretary of State will compile the abstract of returns from each county, certifying the total number of votes received for each qualified candidate of the major party and forward to the party's central or national committee for consideration.

If more than one major political party candidate, who qualifies for the partisan office of the United States Presidency and files a declaration of candidacy, a Presidential Preference Primary must be held. The State of Nevada is not required to have a Presidential Preference Primary, if only one qualified candidate or no qualified candidates of a major political party file a declaration of candidacy. If only one qualified candidate of the major political party files a declaration of candidacy, the Secretary of State's office must certify the name of the qualified candidate and notify the state central committee and the national committee of the major political party [NRS 298.650](#).

Each major political party must provide the names of the party's respective candidates for President and Vice President of the United States to the Secretary of State by not later than 5 p.m. on the first business day of September of the year of a presidential election [NAC 298](#).

A minor political party that wishes to place its candidates for partisan office of the United States Presidency on the ballot for a general election must file a certificate of nomination with the Secretary of State's office no later than the last Tuesday in August, prior to the election [NRS 293.1275](#).

The State of Nevada allows those who wish to run for a partisan office as a candidate with no political affiliation to run as an independent candidate. An independent candidate is a candidate "who has been nominated for a partisan office but who is registered with no political affiliation" [NRS 293.063](#). An independent candidate for partisan office must be nominated in the manner provided in [NRS 293.200](#).

An independent candidate for the partisan office of the United States Presidency may qualify to appear on the general election ballot by completing the petition process and complying with all other candidate filing requirements, such as submitting a Declaration of Candidacy and paying the appropriate filing fee. A person may not file as an independent candidate if he/she is proposing to run as a candidate of a political party or is registered to vote as a member of a political party.

Primary Election

Primary elections are held to nominate candidates to run in the general election and are either:

- Partisan offices where a political party is required to be listed on the primary ballot and for holding office, or
- Nonpartisan offices where a political party is not listed on the ballot where the office being elected does not require a political party as part of the job.

The type of primary also determines which voters can cast ballots.

General Elections

The general election is open to all voters. Winners in the general election are elected to their office. Minor party candidates nominated by their party and qualified independent candidates appear on the general election ballot.

Ballot initiatives, referendums, and constitutional amendments that have qualified for the ballot are also voted on during the general election. Certain judicial positions are required by law to be elected at the general election, so it is not uncommon for these races to have only one candidate.

Nevada allows voters to select "None of These Candidates" for all statewide offices; Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, President / Vice- President of the United States, and U.S. Senate contests. "None of These Candidates" cannot win the election. If "None of These Candidates" does receive the most votes, the actual candidate with the highest number of votes is elected.

Special Elections

Special elections may be held when a recall or vacancy occurs in an elected office. The authority to call a special election is determined by either the Governor, county commission, or city council, depending on the position, timing, and cost. Rather than hold an election, the deciding authority may appoint a person to fill the vacated position pursuant to [NRS 293](#).

If being filled by appointment, the person appointed must be from the same political party as the former office holder if the position is partisan. Whether elected by special election or appointed, the person's term of office ends at the next regularly scheduled election.

Recall Elections

The Nevada Constitution allows for the recall of any elected official. The Nevada Constitution does not specify what can trigger a recall. A recall petition can be initiated for any reason. To initiate a recall, a person or group must file their Notice of Intent with the Secretary of State for statewide or state legislative recalls or with the county clerk/registrar of voters for county or city offices.

To view additional information about initiating a Recall visit the Nevada Secretary of States website [here](#).

Partisan Offices

Currently, Nevada uses a closed partisan primary for primary elections for federal, state, and county partisan offices, Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, State Legislators, County Commissioners. Not all political parties hold a primary election. Under state law, a political party must have at least 10 percent of registered voters identify as members of that party to be able to hold a nominating primary.

Qualifying parties are called "major political parties." Currently, only the Democratic and Republican Party are major political parties. Other political parties, those with less than 10 percent of registered voters, are called minor political parties. Minor political parties may nominate a candidate to appear on the general election ballot, however, they must meet certain requirements.

The state pays for the partisan primary election for major political parties. Minor political parties pay for their nominating requirements. To vote in a partisan primary election, a voter must be registered to vote as a member of the major political party whose primary they wish to vote in.

The candidate who gets the most votes of party members voting in the primary advances to the general election.

If only one major political party has candidates for a partisan closed primary and no minor party or independent candidate has filed to run in the general election, the major political party candidate who won their primary will appear on the general election ballot unopposed— meaning they were essentially elected in the primary.

Nonpartisan Offices

All voters may vote in the primary elections for nonpartisan officers, judges, mayors, city council, school boards, and special districts. All candidates for nonpartisan offices must file a certificate of candidacy to be placed on the primary election ballot.

The two candidates with the highest number of votes in the primary will advance to the general election unless one of the candidates receives more than 50 percent of the vote. If that happens, that candidate is considered elected and there is no general election for that office. There is an exception to this rule for certain judicial and nonpartisan races. Cities in Nevada might have a Charter that specifies other rules.

The partisan and nonpartisan primaries are held on the same day. Voters participating in a partisan primary will also be given the nonpartisan primary ballot. Voters eligible to vote only in the nonpartisan primary (those registered to vote as nonpartisan or in a minor political party) will only be given the nonpartisan primary ballot. How primary elections are structured is up to each state.

Currently, 15 states conduct closed primaries to include Nevada. Because of this, voters from other states moving into Nevada may assume Nevada is the same as their previous state.

This can lead to voters showing up to vote in the primary election and being surprised when they are given a primary election ballot with candidate names for only their registered party and eligible nonpartisan contests, or just eligible nonpartisan contests if the voter is registered as nonpartisan or has no party affiliation.

Election Precincts

According to Nevada law, “precinct,” is defined as the smallest voting area in a political subdivision. Election precincts are based on the number of registered voters therein, with a maximum of 5,000 voters allowed in a single precinct.

The county clerk or registrar of votes is responsible for creating the precincts within their jurisdiction and submitted to the local Board of County Commissioners, the Secretary of States Office and the Legislative Counsel Bureau [NRS 293.207](#).

Creation, Modification, and Nonconformance

The county clerk or registrar of voters must establish, define the boundaries, abolish, alter, or consolidate precincts on or before the third Wednesday in March of every even-numbered year pursuant to [NRS 293.206](#).

The boundaries must follow visible ground features (street, river, railroad, etc.) or coincide with the official boundary of a State, county, or city. The boundaries of each precinct must be submitted to the Secretary of State and Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau no later than the last day in March of an election year.

If the Secretary of State determines that the boundaries of an election precinct do not comply with the provisions of [NRS 293.205](#), the Secretary of State must provide the county clerk with a written statement of noncompliance setting forth the reasons the precinct is not in compliance. Within 15 days after receiving the notice of noncompliance, the county clerk shall make any adjustments to the boundaries of the precinct which are required to bring the precinct into compliance and shall submit a corrected copy or electronic file of the precinct map to the Secretary of State and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

If the initial or corrected election precinct map is not filed as required or the county clerk fails to make the necessary changes to the boundaries, the Secretary of State may establish appropriate precinct boundaries in compliance with the provisions of [NRS 293.205](#) to [NRS 293.213](#). If the Secretary of State revises the map pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary of State shall submit a copy or electronic file of the revised map to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the appropriate county clerk.

If there is a proposal to combine two contiguous election precincts into a single voting district to conduct a particular election for public convenience, necessity, and economy may require, notice shall be provided 14 days before consolidation. The notice must be posted like that of a regular county commissioner meeting, as well as mailing each Assemblyman, Assemblywoman, State Senator, county commissioner and, if applicable, member of the governing body of a city who represents residents of a precinct affected by the consolidation. The clerk must consider any written objections filed before consolidation.

Except in certain circumstances, Nevada law prohibits the altering election precincts during the period between the third Wednesday in March of any year whose last digit is 6 and the time when the Legislature has been redistricted in a year whose last digit is 1.

Exceptions to the prohibition during the period include:

- If ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- If required to meet objections to a precinct by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- If required by the incorporation of a new city.
- If required by the creation of or change in the boundaries of a special district (general improvement district or any other quasi-municipal corporation organized under the local improvement and service district laws).
- If a city annexes an unincorporated area located in the same county as the city and adjacent to the corporate boundary, the annexed area may be included in an election precinct immediately adjacent to it.
- A new election precinct may be established at any time if it lies entirely within the boundaries of any existing precinct.

If a change in the boundaries of an election precinct during the time specified the county clerk, within 15 days after the change, send to the Secretary of State and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and a copy or electronic file of a map and maintain a description of the changes.

A political subdivision shall not create, divide, change the boundaries of, abolish or consolidate an election district after the first day of filing by candidates for nonjudicial office during any year in which a general election or general city election is held for that election district. This does not prohibit a political subdivision from annexing territory in a year in which a general election or general city election is held for that election district.

A new precinct may be established upon petition of 10 or more registered voters, permanently residing in the area sought to be constituted a precinct, stating that they reside more than 10 miles from any polling place in the county. If it appears to the satisfaction of the county clerk that not less than 50 registered voters reside in the area, the precinct may be established without regard to the distance which the registered voters reside from another polling place or precinct.

Reapportionment and Redistricting

The goal of the reapportionment and redistricting is to ensure equal representation for voters as district populations shift over time. Redistricting information to include plans and maps can be found by visiting the Nevada Legislature's website at:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Districts/Reapp/2021/>.

The updated county precinct maps can also be found on the Secretary of State's website at: <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/county-precinct-maps>.

Every ten years, following the United States Census, the Nevada Legislature is charged with reapportioning and redistricting the state's districts for:

- The U.S. House of Representatives
- The Nevada State Senate
- The Nevada State Assembly
- The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada

Redistricting was last completed in November 2021, using data from the 2020 Census which revised the boundaries of Nevada's four Congressional Districts, 21 Senate districts, and 42 Assembly Districts. Additionally, the boundaries of the University of Nevada, Board of Regents thirteen (13) districts were revised at that time.

Upcoming Redistricting Changes

In 2023, the Nevada Legislature passed Assembly Bill No. 118, amending [NRS 396.040](#), revising the term length of the University of Nevada, Board of Regents members from six (6) years to four (4) years, and reducing the number of Board of Regent members from thirteen (13) to nine (9).

Beginning January 1, 2028, the reduction in membership and revision of term length for the University of Nevada, Board of Regents will consist of the following:

- At the general election in 2028, and every 4 years thereafter, one member of the Board of Regents must be elected from districts 1, 4, 6, 7 and 9; and
- At the general election in 2030, and 4 years thereafter, one member of the Board of Regents must be elected from districts 2, 3, 5 and 8.

Each member of the Board of Regents must be a resident of the district from which the member is elected.

The terms of the University of Nevada, Board of Regents who are incumbents on January 2, 2029, will expire on that date. The following revisions will take effect accordingly:

- Four members of the Board of Regents from districts 1, 4, 9 and 12 must be selected at the general election held on November 5, 2024, and take office on January 7, 2025. The terms of the members elected pursuant to this subsection expire on January 2, 2029;
- Four members of the Board of Regents from districts 2, 3, 5 and 10 must be selected at the general election held on November 3, 2026, and take office on January 5, 2027. The terms of the members elected pursuant to this subsection expire on January 2, 2029;
- Four members of the Board of Regents from districts 2, 3, 5 and 8 must be selected at the general election held on November 7, 2028, and take office on January 2, 2029. The terms of the members elected pursuant to this subsection expire on January 7, 2031; and
- Five members of the Board of Regents from districts 1, 4, 6, 7 and 9 must be selected at the general election held on November 7, 2028, and take office on January 2, 2029. The terms of the members elected pursuant to this subsection expire on January 4, 2033.

Though AB118 plans for the redistricting and revision of term lengths for the University of Nevada, Board of Regent members, it does not change the placement of candidates on future ballots or alter the requirements in [NRS 293.260](#) which addresses the omission and appearance of names on primary and general ballots and how certain candidates are declared elected at a primary election.

Election Boards

Election Boards are made up of Election Board Officers assigned to perform a specific task, such as running a polling place or tabulating ballots. The following is a list of the most common election boards, and a description of the duties performed by each. Nevada law also permits the county clerk to create additional election boards to facilitate the expeditious processing of ballots. Below is a Code of Conduct example, which clerks may create and customize to their specific counties for their Election Board Officers.

CODE OF CONDUCT

I SWEAR UNDER THE PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEVADA AND ITS LAWS. I WILL FAITHFULLY AND IMPARTIALLY DISCHARGE TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY THE DUTIES OF AN ELECTION BOARD OFFICER AS REQUIRED BY LAW AND THE LAWFUL RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS OF THE CLERK OR APPROPRIATE DESIGNEE.

I WILL ENDEAVOR TO PREVENT FRAUD, DECEIT, AND ABUSE IN CONDUCTING THIS ELECTION. I WILL NOT ENGAGE IN ANY BEHAVIOR INTENDED TO INTIMIDATE, COERCE, OR UNDULY INFLUENCE AN ELECTOR. I WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE CLERK OR APPROPRIATE DESIGNEE ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW WHICH COME TO MY ATTENTION, AND I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO INVESTIGATE OR ADJUDICATE ANY ISSUES, BUT RATHER THE CLERK.

I WILL NOT WILLFULLY GIVE INCORRECT INFORMATION NOR ALLOW OTHERS TO DO SO. I WILL NOT TRY TO DETERMINE HOW ANY ELECTOR VOTED, NOR WILL I DISCLOSE HOW AN ELECTOR VOTED IF IN THE DISCHARGE OF MY DUTIES SUCH KNOWLEDGE SHALL COME TO ME. I WILL NOT DISCLOSE THE RESULT OF THE VOTES UNTIL AFTER THE POLLS HAVE CLOSED AND THE RESULTS ARE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED BY THE DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL.

JOHN DOE

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS XXTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 20XX.

JANE SMITH

XXXXXXX COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

Regulations, Requirements, and Authority

Requirements for Election Boards include, but are not limited to, members not being of the same political party or being a candidate or relative of the candidate within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity. Additionally, an Election Board Officer is required to be a registered voter or appointed as a student trainee.

Except as otherwise provided, the county clerk may determine the number of members to constitute any board. The county clerk shall make any appointments from among competent persons who are registered voters in this State. The members of each board must represent all political parties as equally as possible. The same person may be appointed to more than one board but must meet the particular qualifications for each board to which he or she is appointed. All persons appointed pursuant to this section serve at the pleasure of the county clerk.

Members of election boards continue as such from the day before the day of the election, until the time for filing contests of the election has expired. Each member of an election board is subject to be called on by the board of county commissioners or city council to correct any errors discovered during the canvass of votes by the board of county commissioners or city council. Reserve election board officers must be appointed by the county or city clerk, if practicable, to fill any vacancy which occurs on the day of the election, and the reserve officers must be compensated if they serve at the polls. If a vacancy occurs in any election board on the day of the election and no reserves are available, the election board may appoint, at the polling place, any registered voter who is willing to serve and satisfies the election board that he or she possesses the qualifications required to perform the services required.

Each election board must have one member designated as the chair by the county or city clerk. The election boards shall make the records of election required by this chapter. The appointment of a trainee as set forth in [NRS 293.2175](#) and [293C.222](#) may be used to determine the number of members on the election board, but under no circumstances may a trainee serve as chair of the election board. The county or city clerk shall conduct or cause to be conducted a school to acquaint the members of an election board with the election laws, duties of election boards, regulations of the Secretary of State and with the procedure for making the records of election and using the register for election boards. The board of county commissioners of any county or the city council of any city may reimburse the members of an election board who attend the school for their travel expenses at a rate not exceeding 10 cents per mile.

Mail Ballot Central Counting Board

The county clerk shall appoint a mail ballot central counting board for the election. The mail ballot central counting board may begin counting the received mail ballots 15 days before the day of the election. The board must complete the count of all mail ballots on or before the seventh day following the election. The counting procedure must be public.

Except as otherwise provided in [NRS 293D.200](#), each mail ballot central counting board shall process the mail ballots in the following manner:

- The name of the voter, as shown on the return envelope, must be checked as if the voter were voting in person;
- An election board officer shall indicate in the roster “Received” by the name of the voter;
- If the board determines the voter is entitled to cast a mail ballot and all other processing steps have been completed, the return envelope must be opened, and the mail ballot counted;
- An election board officer shall indicate “Voted” by the name of the voter; and
- When all mail ballots delivered to the board have been voted or rejected, except as otherwise provided in [NRS 293D.200](#), the empty envelopes and the envelopes containing rejected mail ballots must be returned to the clerk.

Additionally, [NAC 293.322](#) expands on the above by requiring the following procedures:

- The county clerk shall, not earlier than 15 days before the day of the election, deliver the mail ballots to the mail ballot central counting board for counting. When the mail ballots are received, the mail ballot central counting board shall.
 - Sort the mail ballots by precinct or, for those precincts that have been consolidated into a single voting district, by voting district, unless the system for counting the mail ballots produces an accounting of the mail ballots by precinct or voting district;
 - Count the number of mail ballots by precinct or, for those precincts that have been consolidated into a single voting district, by voting district;
 - Account for all mail ballots on the record of mail ballots; and
 - Place all the mail ballots and the record of mail ballots into the container provided by the county clerk.
- Not later than 2 days before the date of delivery of the mail ballots to the mail ballot central counting board for counting, the county clerk must post a statement in his or her office that notifies the public that the mail ballot central counting board will begin performing the actions set forth in subsection 1 and the time at which the mail ballot central counting board is expected to begin.
- Any mail ballots received by the county clerk after he or she delivers the mail ballots pursuant to subsection 1, and until the deadline for the receipt of mail ballots, must be delivered to the mail ballot central counting board for counting.
- The county clerk shall allow members of the general public to observe the handling of the mail ballots conducted pursuant to subsection 1 if those members do not interfere with the handling of the mail ballots.

Signature Audit Election Board Officers

The county clerk must perform daily audits of each electronic device during the processing of mail ballots for the election. The daily audit must include a review of a sample of at least 1 percent of the signatures verified each day. The county clerk shall appoint election board officers who must not all be of the same political party to manually review the signatures. The county clerk must prepare a report of each daily audit in compliance with [NAC 293.339](#), [NRS 293.124](#), [293.247](#), and [293.269925](#).

Polling Place Board

The county clerk of each county shall appoint and notify registered voters to act as election board officers for the various polling places in the county as provided in [NRS 293.220](#) to [293.243](#), [293.227](#), inclusive, and [293.384](#). The county clerk may appoint a trainee for the position of election board officer as set forth in [NRS 293.2175](#).

Immediately after election board officers are appointed, if requested by the county clerk, the sheriff shall:

- Appoint a deputy sheriff for each polling place in the county and for the central election board or the mail ballot central counting board; or
- Deputize as a deputy sheriff for the election an election board officer of each polling place in the county and for the central election board or the mail ballot central counting board. The deputized officer shall receive no additional compensation for services rendered as a deputy sheriff during the election for which the officer is deputized. Deputy sheriffs so appointed and deputized shall preserve order during hours of voting and attend closing of the polls.

Accuracy and Certification Board

Before conducting the test required pursuant to the provisions of [NRS 293B.150](#), the county or city clerk shall appoint three persons, not more than two of whom are of the same political party, to serve as an accuracy certification board. No more than two of the people appointed to the board may be employees of the county or city. The accuracy certification board shall observe the conduct of the tests prescribed by [NRS 293B.150](#) and [293B.165](#).

In addition to the duties prescribed in [NRS 293B.145](#), [293B.155](#), [293B.165](#) and [293C.615](#), the accuracy certification board shall certify as to whether in their judgment the ballots were accurately counted. If they determine an inaccuracy exists, they shall furnish a written explanation for their determination.

Computer Program and Processing Accuracy Board

To facilitate the processing of votes cast under a mechanical voting system, the county clerk appoint members no later than 7 days before the election in which they will serve. The board shall verify that:

- Any invalid voting of a ballot will cause it to be rejected.
- Votes can be counted for each candidate and proposition.
- Any overvote for an office or proposition will cause a rejection of the vote for that office or proposition.
- Where multiple votes may be cast, the maximum number of votes permitted a voter cannot be exceeded without rejecting the vote for that selection, but any undervote will be counted.
- Neither a voter's omission to vote nor the voter's irregular vote on any particular office or proposition will prevent the counting of his or her vote as to any other office or proposition on the ballot.

Creation of Special Election Boards

The county clerk may appoint additional boards or election board officers necessary for the expeditious processing of ballots. For example, a county clerk may create:

- A central ballot inspection board;
- A mail ballot inspection board;
- A ballot duplicating board;
- A ballot processing and packaging board;
- A Vote Adjudication Board; and
- Additional boards or appointing such officers as the county clerk deems necessary for the expeditious processing of ballots.

Central Ballot Inspection Board

The central ballot inspection board shall:

- Receive the ballots in sealed containers.
- Inspect the containers, record the number indicated on each container and its seal pursuant to [NRS 293.462](#) and remove the storage devices which store the ballots voted on mechanical recording devices which directly record votes electronically.
- Register the numbers of ballots by precinct.
- Deliver any damaged paper ballots to the ballot duplicating board.
- Receive duplicates of damaged paper ballots from the ballot duplicating board and place the duplicates with the voted ballots of the appropriate precinct.
- Place each damaged original paper ballot in a separate envelope and note on the outside of the envelope the appropriate number of the precinct.
- Reject any paper ballot that has been marked in a way that identifies the voter.
- Place each rejected paper ballot in a separate envelope and note on the outside of the envelope the appropriate number of the precinct and the reason for the board's rejection of the ballot.

Mail Ballot Inspection Board

The mail ballot inspection board shall:

- Perform functions similar to those of the central ballot inspection board and the ballot duplicating board as those functions are applicable to mail ballots.
- Bundle the empty mail ballot return envelopes according to ballot type or precinct and deliver the bundles to the county clerk.
Treat any mail ballot return envelope found not to contain a ballot as a rejected ballot and place each such envelope in a separate larger envelope on which must be written the ballot code or precinct and the reason for the rejection.

Ballot Duplicating Board

If the county clerk creates a ballot duplicating board, the county clerk shall appoint to the board at least two members. The members of the ballot duplicating board must not all be of the same political party. The same person may be appointed to more than one board or perform additional functions as an election board officer.

The ballot duplicating board must duplicate a ballot and the duplicate ballot must be counted in place of the ballot if:

- The ballot is damaged or defective such that it cannot be read by a mechanical recording device or other electronic means; or
- The ballot is received through the system of approved electronic transmission established pursuant to [NRS 293D.200](#).

The ballot duplicating board shall:

- Ensure that the correct precinct and ballot style is used to create the duplicate ballot;
- Mark the duplicate ballot so that the duplicate is identical to the original ballot;
- After finishing marking the duplicate ballot, verify that the duplicate ballot is identical to the original ballot, including, without limitation, any overvotes or undervotes;
- Affix a unique serial number on the ballot and log the duplicate ballot and the serial number of the duplicate ballot in the ballot duplication log;
- If any errors are made while marking the duplicate ballot, mark the duplicate ballot as “SPOILED” and repeat the procedures set forth in preceding four paragraphs, inclusive, to create a new duplicate ballot.

Each county shall establish a procedure for duplicating ballots that must be approved by the Secretary of State before being used in the county.

Ballot Processing and Packaging Board

The ballot processing and packaging board must be composed of persons who are qualified in the use of the data processing equipment to be operated for the voting count. The board shall:

- Allow members of the general public to observe the counting area where the computers are located during the period when ballots are being processed if those members do not interfere with the processing of the ballots.
- Receive ballots and maintain groupings of them by precinct.
- Before each counting of the ballots or computer run begins, validate the testing material with the counting program.
- Maintain a log showing the sequence in which the ballots of each precinct are processed, as a measure to ensure that the ballots of all precincts are processed.
- After each counting of the ballots, again verify the testing material with the counting program to substantiate that there has been no substitution or irregularity.
- Record an explanation of any irregularity that occurs in the processing.
- If the election is a primary election held in an even-numbered year or a general election, ensure that a list is compiled indicating the total votes, other than absentee votes and votes in a mailing precinct, which each candidate accumulated in each precinct.
- Collect all returns, programs, testing materials, ballots and other items used in the election at the computer center and package and deliver the items to the county clerk for sealing and storage.

Vote Adjudication Board

The county clerk may create a vote adjudication board and appoint its members. If practicable, the members must be of different political parties. The same person may be appointed to more than one board or perform additional functions as an election board officer. The board shall:

- Resolve the intent of a voter in casting his or her ballot if the voter's selection is related to a particular race or ballot question cannot be determined using a mechanical device or other electronic means.

Common Manual Terminology

Abstract of Votes: means a compilation of votes cast for a particular candidate by office and precinct.

Active Registration: a current registration of a voter in the statewide voter registration list, entitling such voter to vote in the manner provided by this title.

Adjudication: a term in elections referring to the check or review of a ballot that has been flagged for a possible error or a question of voter intent. This process is completed by a bipartisan board.

Administrators: Election administrators are the public servants who oversee and carry out the overall election process. They ensure compliance with laws, coordinate logistics, hire poll workers and oversee the counting of ballots.

Advocating: includes, without limitation, speaking, displaying or disseminating written material identifying clothing, buttons, or other paraphernalia.

Automatic Voter Registration Agency: a designated voter registration agency.

Ballot: the record of a voter's preference of candidates and questions voted upon at an election. The term includes, without limitation, votes cast by paper or by electronic means.

Ballot comparison: means a technique used in a risk-limiting audit in which the results of the ballot polling are compared to the results of the mechanical voting system as set forth in the record of votes cast on the system.

Ballot Drop Box: a ballot drop box is the name for the receptacle provided by a local election office to receive mail ballots throughout the county, whether in an election office, polling place or outside.

Ballot Polling: means a technique used in a risk-limiting audit in which individual paper ballots are randomly selected and the ballot markings are examined and interpreted manually until the sampling of selected paper ballots indicates a sufficient majority for the reported winner of the election.

Ballot Stock: the paper upon which a ballot is printed on which a voter directly indicates his or her vote and the materials included with a mail ballot, including, without limitation, the mail ballot, return envelope, envelope, or sleeve into which the mail ballot is inserted to ensure its secrecy and voter instructions.

Canvass: means a review of the election results by the board of county commissioners or the mayor and city council or the justices of the Supreme Court, by which any errors within the election results are officially noted and the official results are declared.

Central Counting Place: the location designated by the county or city clerk for the compilation of election returns.

Certificate of Election: a certificate prepared by the county or city clerk or Governor, for the person having the highest number of votes for any district, county, township, city, state or statewide office as official recognition of the person's election to office.

Clerk: election board officer designated or assigned to make the record of the election in the roster, tally list and challenge in the precinct, district or polling place in which such officer is appointed.

Contest: an adversary proceeding between a candidate for public office who has received the greatest number of votes and any other candidate for that office or, in certain cases, any registered voter of the appropriate political subdivision, for the purpose of determining the validity of an election.

Cost of Recount: commencement and completion of recount; limitation on additional recount.

Countywide office: means an elected county office whose candidates are voted upon in the election by the registered voters of the entire county.

Covered Voter: a uniformed-service voter, overseas voter or a spouse or dependent of a uniformed-service voter.

Declaration of Candidacy: a form a person must file with the appropriate filing officer to be named as a candidate on an official ballot at an election.

Digital Signature: an electronic signature that transforms a message by using an asymmetric cryptosystem.

Duplicate: means the process of preparing a new ballot to replace a ballot received through the system of approved electronic transmission or a damaged or defective ballot, including, without limitation, ballots that have been torn, bent or mutilated.

Duplicate Ballot: means the ballot prepared by a ballot duplicating board to replace a ballot through a system of approved electronic transmission or a damaged ballot.

Election Board: term in NRS to describe a group of Election Board Officers with a specific function or task, such as operating a polling place, central counting board, recount board, ballot adjudication board, etc.

Election Board Officer: the most common term in NRS to refer to a poll worker, election worker, polling place judge, and other variations created by local election officials.

Election Computer Program: means the tape, firmware, source code, executable computer code or computer software and the tables created for an election to count correctly votes cast through the use of a mechanical voting system. The source code or executable computer code for an election must remain on file with the Secretary of State until amended.

Electronic Roster: electronic rosters, also known as electronic poll books or E-pollbooks, are an electronic version of the paper polling place roster which contains the list of names of registered voters or cancelled records.

Electronic Signature: An electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign a record.

Filing Officer: the Secretary of State, county or city clerk or any other officer authorized by law to receive designations and declarations of candidacy, certificates and acceptances of nomination or any other nomination papers.

Hand Count: means the process of determining the results of an election where the primary method of counting the votes cast for each candidate or ballot question does not involve the use of a mechanical voting system.

Mail Ballot: means a paper ballot distributed by mail to active registered voters.

Meaningful Observation: the observation of the recount of votes, including, without limitation, the counting and inspection of ballots, including rejected ballots. This does not include, viewing the personal information of a voter, a voter's ballot, selections on a ballot, or listening to conversations between election board officers.

Mechanical Recording Device: the device which mechanically or electronically compiles a total of the number of votes cast.

Mechanical Voting System: a system whereby a voter may cast a vote either on an electronic device or paper ballot, which is subsequently counted on an electronic tabulator, counting device, or computer.

Observer: any member of the general public or representative of a political party who are allowed to observe the conduct of voting at a polling place, the processing of ballots, pre- and post- election logic and accuracy testing and the certification of post-election audits. Observers are not affiliated with, employed by or representatives of any local election office.

Overseas Voter: a United States citizen who is outside the United States and qualifies as a covered voter.

Personal Knowledge: firsthand knowledge through experience or observation of the facts upon each ground that the challenge is based.

Personal Use: means any use of contributions to fulfill a commitment, obligation or expense of a candidate that would exist irrespective of his or her campaign, and/or a public officer that would exist irrespective of the duties of his or her public office.

Polling Place: the most common term in NRS to describe the location or building where people go to vote in an election. Other synonymous terms include Poll, Polling Location, Early Voting Location and Vote Center. The term is intended to mean any place that is designated by the county clerk for voting by personal appearance.

Polling Place Supplies: Critical – supplies critical to the operation of a polling place, such as supplies that must be tracked, securely stored, and or returned to the county election office daily.

Polling Place Supplies: Non-Critical – supplies that are mandatory but not critical to the operation of a polling place. Such items do not require tracking, secure storage, or daily return to the county election office.

Poll workers: Poll workers are trained as part of a large, temporary workforce to staff polling places during early voting and on Election Day. Although most poll workers are paid, most are not employed full time by a board of elections, county clerk's office. Poll workers perform many different tasks at their assigned polling places, including: helping voters check in, managing voter lines, troubleshooting equipment issues, providing directions and assistance to voters, coordinating the transmission of election results to central counting facilities, and/or reconciling the number of ballots received with the number of voters who checked in.

Precinct: a subdivision of the boundaries of election districts and must be of contiguous territory. Election precincts must be established on the basis of the number of active registered voters therein, with a maximum of 5,000 registered per precinct.

Recount Board: where a county/city clerk employs a recount board to conduct the recount in the county or city and shall act as chair of the recount board unless the recount is for the office of county/city clerk, in which case the registrar of voters/mayor of the city, if the registrar of voters/mayor is not a candidate on the ballot, shall act as a chair of the recount board.

Recount of Vote: a candidate defeated at any election may demand and receive a recount of the vote for the office for which he or she is a candidate to determine the number of votes received for the candidate and the number of votes received for the person who won the election.

Results Cartridge: means an elections media cartridge or memory device which contains the electronically recorded ballots cast during the election and from which the ballots are tabulated.

Risk-Limiting Audit: means an audit protocol that uses statistical principles and methods designed to limit the risk of certifying an incorrect election outcome.

Sample Ballot: an informational document distributed by a county or city clerk that includes a list of the offices, candidates, and ballot questions that will appear on a ballot in an election. Sample ballots also include general information regarding an election such as polling locations, explanations of ballot questions, and information on voting devices used at the polling location.

Signature Stamp: a person with a physical disability who, by reason of the physical disability, is unable to write may use a signature stamp to affix his or her signature to a document or writing any time that a signature is required by law and person, government, governmental agency and any political subdivision of a government must treat each signature affixed by a person described in paragraph through the use of a signature stamp in the same manner as it treats a signature made in writing.

Statement of Contest: a candidate at any election, or any registered voter of the appropriate political subdivision, may contest the election of any candidate, except for the office of United States Senator or Representative of Congress.

Statewide Office: means an elected state office whose candidates are voted upon in the election by the registered voters of the entire State.

Statewide Voter Registration List: the official statewide list of registered voters established and maintained by the Secretary of State, in consultation with each county and city clerk.

Tie Vote: Determination of winner in certain elections; determination of nominees in certain primary elections; right to recount.

Tribal identification Card: An identification card issued by an Indian tribe located in whole or in part in this State

Vote Center: means a polling place established by the county or city clerk, where any person entitled to vote by personal appearance in the county or city, as applicable, may do so on the day of the election. Although not included in the Nevada law definition, the term “vote center” sometimes refers to a polling location for early voting or on election day.

VVPAT: Voter verifiable paper audit trail printer or VVPAT - means the device attached to a mechanical recording device and the paper it prints to record all votes cast by a voter for any and all candidates and for or against any and all measures, enabling that voter to visually verify that the mechanical voting system has accurately recorded the votes of the voter.

Voting Booth: means any place or compartment used to screen a voter from the observation of others.

Vote Center: a polling place established by the county or city clerk where any person entitled to vote by personal appearance in the county or city, as applicable, may do so on the day of the election.

Voting Device: “device” is the term the NRS uses to describe the item/machine voters cast their vote on, which is part of a mechanical voting system.

Voter Verifiable Paper and Trail Audit: Voter verifiable paper audit trail printer” or “VVPAT” means the device attached to a mechanical recording device and the paper it prints to record all votes cast by a voter for any and all candidates and for or against any and all measures, enabling that voter to visually verify that the mechanical voting system has accurately recorded the votes of the voter.

Uniformed-Service Voter: an elector who is a member of the active or reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard of the United States who is on active duty; a member of the Merchant Marine, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States; a member of the National Guard or state militia unit who is on activated status; or a spouse or dependent of a person who qualifies as a uniformed-service voter.