



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 27, 2022

Department of State Corrects Misinformation About “Unverified Ballots”

There are not 240,000+ “unverified ballots,” as certain lawmakers are claiming. That is misinformation. Any mail-in or absentee ballot from a voter whose identification cannot be verified by the sixth day after the election is not counted.

It’s important to note that this discussion about “verification” relates to ballot applications; we are not talking about ballots. This misinformation incorrectly conflates an application for a mail ballot and an approved mail ballot.

For your understanding, according to the requirements of the Election Code, county election offices are required to provide a mail-in or absentee ballot to any registered voter who requests one regardless of whether they provide proper ID at the time they request their ballot. It’s important to know that the vast majority of voters do provide proper ID at that time. In the event a voter’s ID cannot be verified during the application process, the voter has the ability to submit proper ID for their ballot until the sixth day after the election.

Within the system counties use to process mail-in and absentee ballot applications, some applications are marked as “NV,” meaning “not verified,” which tell the system the voter’s identification needs to be verified. This security feature ensures that the system will require these applications to be submitted for verification before the ballot can be approved by the county. In other words, the NV designation in the application type field is a systematic assurance that before county users are able to approve them these applications will go through the ID verification process. After the verification process occurs, only those voters whose identification could not be verified will be required to submit valid ID before the sixth day after the election. Currently, that number of voters stands at approximately 7,600.

For example, a ballot application would be marked with NV if it is a new application that comes in and the provided ID was not able to be immediately verified. Or, for another example, a ballot application would be marked as NV if it is from a voter on the permanent mail-in or absentee list who requested a mail ballot for both the primary and general elections, and their ID needs to be verified again for the general election.

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